



United States Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
1401 Constitution Ave., NW Washington, DC 20230
www.ntia.gov

Dear Honorable Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Commerce, I am initiating a Tribal Consultation on the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) and the Digital Equity Act of 2021 set aside for Native Entities (NE). The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (Act) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Section 60201, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (Nov. 15, 2021) (IIJA) provided new sources of tribal broadband funding to expand connectivity across Indian Country. Consistent with those statutes, the Department of Commerce and NTIA continue to be dedicated to ensuring universal broadband availability and promoting digital access.

Since the TBCP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was issued in 2021, the second TBCP NOFO in 2023, and the NE NOFOs in 2024, the status of broadband deployment has changed substantially. Most notably, the related and much larger Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program, also authorized through the IIJA, was substantially restructured and accelerated to ensure that broadband grants were implemented in an expeditious, cost-effective, and technology-neutral manner, consistent with the law. These changes have resulted in the need to reconsider the most appropriate use of remaining unobligated TBCP and NE funding.

NTIA is committed to holding consultation to ensure that your input informs the restructuring of the TBCP and NE programs prior to issuing new funding guidance. In accordance with Commerce's tribal consultation policy, I am inviting you and/or a tribal representative to participate in the virtual National Tribal Consultation to provide your advice and insights as NTIA staff are working through the critical issues related to the programs.

I respectfully request your participation at one of the virtual Tribal Consultation sessions:



Date	Tuesday, January 13, 2026
Time	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET
Zoom Registration Link	https://ntia-gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_6VsXSQtBTNOju1Yiz-HLsg
Dial-in Information	Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 669-254-5252 or +1 646-828-7666 or +1 646-964-1167 or +1 669-216-1590 or +1 415-449-4000 or +1 551-285-1373 Webinar ID: 161 582 6140

Date	Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Time	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET
Zoom Registration Link	https://ntia-gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_Nzm-ZYz5Tli52EvKEUTq1g
Dial-in Information	Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 669-254-5252 or +1 646-828-7666 or +1 646-964-1167 or +1 415-449-4000 or +1 551-285-1373 or +1 669-216-1590 Webinar ID: 161 645 5002

Below are the questions on which NTIA seeks your input during this consultation:

- How can NTIA reform its TBCP and NE programs to better serve Tribal connectivity?
- How can NTIA adapt its TBCP and NE programs to be aligned with, complementary to, and non-duplicative of BEAD? What activities should be the focus of the TBCP and NE programs given the progress of the BEAD Program?
- What steps should NTIA take to stretch every dollar as far as possible and maximize the impact of TBCP and NE with respect to broadband connectivity on Tribal lands?
- What steps can NTIA take to reduce administrative burdens and red tape for Tribal governments?



- How have recent advancements in low earth orbit satellite and fixed wireless broadband technologies, impacted broadband connectivity in Indian Country?
- Would additional information on the latest advancements and improvements in satellite and/or wireless technologies assist in evaluating broadband technology options?
- What challenges exist with respect to broadband adoption on Tribal lands?
- What types of projects or initiatives –either public or private– have been most effective in advancing broadband access in Indian Country?

Written comments can be submitted to broadbandusa@ntia.gov with the subject line:

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant Program/Digital Equity Native Entities Program, by February 13, 2026, at 6:00 pm Eastern Standard Time.

If you have any questions regarding the TBCP or NE programs or these consultation sessions, you may contact tbcp@ntia.gov.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to our continued consultation and government-to-government engagement with tribal leaders who are working to close the connectivity gaps in Indian Country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Douglas W. Kinkoph". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Douglas" being the most prominent part.

Douglas W. Kinkoph



