



Native Entities Grant Program NOFO Primer

This document is intended solely to assist applicants in better understanding the Native Entities Grant Program and the requirements set forth in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this program. This document does not and is not intended to supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, the terms and conditions of the award, or the specific application requirements set forth in the NOFO. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, the terms and conditions of the award, the requirements set forth in the NOFO, and follow-on policies and guidance, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in this document.



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW | NOFO I.A

NTIA is soliciting applications for funds through the Native Entities Grant Program (NEGP). The Digital Equity Act of 2021 authorized NTIA to set aside funds specifically for Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations (collectively “Native Entities”) under both the “State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program” and the “Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program.” To reduce administrative burden and cost, NTIA is releasing funds from both set-asides through a single application process.



The purpose of NEGP is to advance the Use and Adoption (U&A) of broadband within native communities.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS | NOFO III.A



The following entities are eligible to apply for grants under NEGP: (1) an **Indian Tribe**, an **Alaska Native entity**, or a **Native Hawaiian organization**; or (2) a **partnership between Eligible Entities** (Consortium).

AWARD ALLOCATIONS AND AMOUNT | NOFO II and III.B



NEGP Total Funding Available: In total, approximately **\$250M** of funding will be available for Native Entities.



Award Amounts: Funds will be awarded through a competitive process. NTIA expects to make individual awards within a range of **\$500,000 to \$2,500,000**.



Match Requirement: An Eligible Entity must contribute at least ten (10) percent matching funds as part of its application. However, applicants may submit a petition, demonstrating financial need, to the Assistant Secretary to waive some or all of the required 10% match.

Note: This funding range is not a required minimum or maximum, but applicants requesting funding for projects outside of this range must provide an explanation for why their application falls below or above this range and provide a compelling justification for deviating from this range.

NTIA

Learn more at [Native Entities Grant Program | BroadbandUSA](#)

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APPLICATION PRIORITIZATION | NOFO V.C.1

To maximize the reach and effectiveness of federal dollars, NTIA will prioritize proposals along the following criteria. NTIA will move applications from Criterion 1 through the Merit Review process. If funds remain, NTIA will move applications from Criterion 2 through the Merit Review process.

- 1 Applications proposing projects from a Tribal Government or its designee that has issued a Tribal Resolution approving deployment of BEAD services on its lands, including Consortium applications.
- 2 All other projects.

ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDING | NOFO II.B and IV.B

Grant recipients may only use award funds to pay for **allowable costs**¹ under the NEGP. Eligible Applicants must use award funds to support **one or more** of the following activities:

- a) Develop and implement broadband use and adoption activities;
- b) Facilitate educational and employment opportunities through broadband;
- c) Implement training programs that cover basic, advanced, and applied skills or other workforce development programs
- d) Make available equipment, instrumentation, networking capability hardware and software or digital network technology for broadband services at low or no cost (including broadband service subsidies);
- e) Construct, upgrade, expand, or operate new or existing public access computing centers through community anchor institutions; and
- f) Undertake any other project or activity that the Assistant Secretary finds to be consistent with the purposes for which the Program is established.²



Spending Caps: Administrative costs are **capped at 10%** of the grant amount, and program evaluation costs are **capped at 10%** of the grant amount.



Period of Performance: Funds must be expended within **four years**. Recipients may be approved for an **additional fifth year** to measure and evaluate their award activities.

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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS | NOFO IV.A

Applicants are **allowed to submit one NEGP application only**, whether as a single applicant or as part of a consortium. Applicants may also submit an application to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) 3.

All applications *must* include:

- U&A Project Narrative
- Project Information Form
- Funded and Unfunded Entity Form
- U&A Consolidated Budget Form
- Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement with a Cognizant Federal Agency (if applicable)
- Resumes of Key Personnel
- A Tribal Government Resolution or equivalent formal authorization providing express authority to file an application
- A Tribal Resolution, approving deployment of BEAD services on the applicant's land consistent with the State Broadband Office's Final Proposal under the BEAD program (if applicable)
- All required certifications
- Federal Financial Assistance Forms: SF-424, SF 424-B, CD-511, SF-LLL

KEY MILESTONES AND DEADLINES | NOFO Section G and IV.G



Application Due Date: The application window for Native Entities opened on June 17, 2026. Applications must be received by Grants.gov or email, or, if submitted by mail or courier, postmarked or show clear evidence of mailing, no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on **September 17, 2026**.



Issuing Awards: NTIA expects to begin making awards in Spring 2027 on a rolling basis.



Application Submission: Native Entities are **encouraged** to submit their applications through Grants.gov using opportunity number #2026-NTIA-NEGP. However, applications may be submitted one of the following ways:



By Grants.gov:
www.grants.gov



By Mail or Courier to:

Angela Thi Bennett
Director, Digital Equity Act of 2021
Office of Internet Connectivity & Growth
National Telecommunications & Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 4878
Washington, DC, 20230



By Email:
broadbandusa@ntia.gov