



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program 3 and Native Entities Grant Program

This document is intended solely to assist applicants for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program 3 and the Native Entities Grant Program and the requirements set forth in the Notices of Funding Opportunity for these programs. 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 NOFOs. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, the terms and conditions of the award, the requirements set forth in each program's respective NOFO, and follow-on policies and guidance, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in this document.



C O N T E N T S

1	Frequently Asked Questions	3
1.1	Overview and Eligibility	3
1.2	How to Apply	7
1.3	Application Review.....	9
1.4	Programmatic Differences	9

1 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The purpose of this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section is to help applicants understand Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) 3 and Native Entities Grant Program (NEGP). It provides explanations for common questions and highlights key steps you need to know as you prepare a strong application.

1.1 OVERVIEW AND ELIGIBILITY

Question (Q): Who is eligible to apply?

Answer (A): **TBCP 3** Eligible Entities are:

- Tribal Governments as defined by the list published in the Federal Register by the Secretary of the Interior (including parentheses), available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/01/30/2026-01899/indian-entities-recognized-by-and-eligible-to-receive-services-from-the-united-states-bureau-of>
- Tribal Colleges or Universities
- The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community, including Native Hawaiian Education Programs
- Tribal Organizations
- Alaska Native Corporations

NEGP Eligible Entities are:

- Indian Tribes
- Alaska Native entities
- Native Hawaiian organizations

For NEGP, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations that appear on one of the following lists prior to the closing of the application window, or that meet the criteria set forth below, satisfy the definition of an Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native entity, or a Native Hawaiian organization for purposes of this NOFO:

- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible to Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, 91 Fed. Reg. 4102 (Jan. 30, 2026), available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/01/30/2026-01899/indian-entities-recognized-by-and-eligible-to-receive-services-from-the-united-states-bureau-of>;
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water, Index of Regional Native Corporations, available at: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/paad/17b-easements/search/>;
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, Native Hawaiian Organization Notification List, available at: <https://www.doi.gov/hawaiian/nhol>;
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, Homestead & Beneficiary Associations List, available at: <https://www.doi.gov/hawaiian/homestead-beneficiary-associations-list>; and
- The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.



See Section III. Eligibility Information of the applicable NOFO for additional eligibility information.

Q: Are consortia eligible to apply for either program?

A: Yes, consortium applicants are permitted for both programs.

Q: Is each member of a consortium required to submit a Tribal Government Resolution or equivalent formal authorization?

A: Yes, all members of a consortium are required to submit a Tribal Government Resolution or equivalent formal authorizing documentation expressing authority to apply for TBCP and/or NEGP funds.

Applications without either a Tribal Government Resolution or equivalent formal authorization from all consortium members will be disqualified.

Additionally, Eligible Entities applying for TBCP Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Projects are required to submit a Resolution of Consent from each Tribal Government and/or from the Tribal Council of the appropriate governing body upon whose Tribal Lands the broadband infrastructure will be deployed. Please note that in the case of TBCP Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Projects, a Tribal Resolution may include both the authority to apply for TBCP funding as well as consent for infrastructure on their lands.

Q: What are accepted forms of equivalent formal authorization in lieu of a Tribal Government Resolution?

A: An equivalent formal authorization from the governing authority of the Eligible Entity on organizational letterhead

For example, if an Eligible Entity's governing documents expressly authorize a specific official (such as a Governor, President, Chairperson, Chief Executive, or similar authorized representative) to apply for and accept grant funding on behalf of the Eligible Entity without further action by the governing body, a letter or other written authorization signed by that official may satisfy the Formal Authorizing Documentation requirement.

***Reminder for Consortium Applicants:** Each member of a consortium is required to submit formal authorizing documentation. Consortium applications submitted without resolutions from each Tribe named in the application will be considered incomplete

Q: Can an Eligible Entity submit a Tribal Authority Letter or other letter of authorization instead of a Tribal Resolution to satisfy the equivalent formal authorization requirement?

A: Yes, in certain circumstances. The purpose of the equivalent formal authorization requirement is to demonstrate that the Eligible Entity has authorized the submission of the application through its governing authority.

A Tribal Resolution or similar action of the governing body is required when the Eligible Entity's constitution, bylaws, charter, or other governing documents require approval by the governing body before an application may be submitted.



However, if the Eligible Entity's governing documents expressly authorize a specific official (such as a Governor, President, Chairperson, Chief Executive, or similar authorized representative) to apply for and accept grant funding on behalf of the Eligible Entity without further action by the governing body, a letter or other written authorization signed by that official may satisfy the equivalent formal authorization requirement.

Applicants relying on a letter or similar authorization should ensure that the authority of the signatory is established by the Eligible Entity's governing documents. NTIA may request supporting documentation, such as relevant provisions of the constitution, charter, bylaws, or other governing documents, demonstrating that the signatory has authority to authorize and submit the application on behalf of the Eligible Entity.

Regardless of the form of the documentation, the authorization must clearly demonstrate that the Eligible Entity has approved the submission of the application and that the individual providing the authorization has authority to act on behalf of the Eligible Entity.

Please note for TBCP 3 Broadband Infrastructure Deployment applications only: This requirement for Tribal authorization is separate and distinct from the requirement under TBCP 3 for Tribal Governments to submit a Tribal Resolution of Consent for Broadband Infrastructure Deployment applications. For TBCP 3 Broadband Infrastructure Deployment projects, a Tribal Resolution of Consent is required from each Tribal Government and/or from the Tribal Council of the appropriate governing body upon whose Tribal Lands the broadband infrastructure will be deployed.

Q: Can I apply to both TBCP 3 and NEGP?

A: Yes. If you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for both TBCP 3 and NEGP. However, you may only submit one application per NOFO (including consortium applications).

Q: Under TBCP 3, can I apply for both Use and Adoption funding and Infrastructure Deployment funding?

A: No. Under TBCP 3, you can apply for either Use and Adoption **OR** Infrastructure Deployment funding, **NOT** both.

Q: Is there a guaranteed funding amount for Tribal Governments?

A: Under TBCP 3 only, the NOFO includes a set aside of up to \$500,000 for every qualifying Federally Recognized Tribe to ensure equitable distribution of funding. To qualify for equitable distribution, a Tribe must (1) earn a passing merit review score and (2) have not already received any TBCP funding in previous rounds, either on its own or as part of a consortium that used its Resolution of Consent.

The \$500,000 allocation is not a funding cap for Federally Recognized Tribes but rather is intended to ensure that TBCP funding is equitably distributed by NTIA to all Eligible Entities.

For NEGP, funding is **not** guaranteed. All NEGP awards are competitive and will be made based on the criteria listed in Section V of the NEGP NOFO.



Q: How will NTIA prioritize application review and funding?

A: NTIA will prioritize the review of applications and award funding to the highest priority projects as follows:

For NEGP:

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.

For TBCP 3:

1. Applications proposing standalone Broadband **Use and Adoption** 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. Applications proposing standalone Broadband **Infrastructure Deployment** projects to Unserved Households, including Consortium applications.
3. All other projects, aside from Equitable Distribution awards, including connections to Community Anchor Institutions.

Q: Is there a match requirement for NEGP and/or TBCP 3?

A: The match requirements are as follows:

For NEGP:

Yes, an Eligible Entity is required to provide a minimum of **ten (10) percent** matching funds with its application. However, the Eligible Entity may submit a petition to the Assistant Secretary requesting a waiver for part or all of the mandatory 10% match. The petition must clearly demonstrate the entity's financial need as justification for the requested waiver.

Additionally, if an Eligible Entity includes more than 10% in matching funds as part of its application, it will receive additional consideration during the selection process. **See Section III.B of the NEGP NOFO for more information pertaining to the cost sharing requirements for this program.**

For TBCP 3:

No, NTIA will not require an Eligible Entity applying for a grant under TBCP to provide a non-federal cost contribution.

The inclusion of matching funds as part of an application will not be considered during Merit Review but is a selection factor during the OICG Associate Administrator Review and the Assistant Secretary Final Selection. **See Section III.B of the TBCP NOFO for more information pertaining to the cost sharing requirements for this program.**



1.2 HOW TO APPLY

Q: When is the deadline to apply?

A: For both programs, a complete application from Eligible Entities must be received no later than **11:59p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on September 17, 2026**. Applications submitted by postal mail or courier service must be postmarked or show clear evidence of mailing by the same date and time.

Q: What required accounts do I need?

A: Ensure your entity has an active account on these required platforms:

- **SAM.gov**: You must register in SAM.gov first to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) to register in Grants.gov. Note that the free annual registration process in SAM.gov generally takes between three (3) and five (5) business days but can take more than three (3) weeks. Please note that Entities without an active SAM.gov registration and/or UEI at the time of application submission and award may be deemed ineligible for a grant award.
- **Grants.gov**: Your entity must create or confirm an active account.
- **eRA Commons (eRA)**: Your entity must complete a one-time registration on this new platform.

Note: Please complete registration **as soon as possible** to prevent potential delays with account creation.

Q: What required roles are needed to coordinate the registration process?

A: Required roles for each platform are as follows:

- **SAM.gov**: An **Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC)**, assigned during registration.
- **Grants.gov**: **Authorized Organizational Representatives (AOR)**, assigned to coordinate application submission.
- **eRA**: A **Signing Official (SO)** is delegated to complete registration.

The general responsibilities for these roles are expanded upon in the three questions below.

Q: What are the responsibilities of the EBiz POC?

A: The **EBiz POC** is assigned during **SAM.gov registration**, and their responsibilities include, but are not limited to, completing registration in Grants.gov; creating the Organization Applicant Profile; managing Grants.gov access for the organization; and assigning and authorizing applicant roles (including AORs).

Q: What are the responsibilities of the SO?

A: The **SO must be the individual to complete registration in eRA** and has signature authority for the organization. The SO's responsibility includes, but is not limited to, creating additional accounts for users within the organization.



The SO must be the **same person** as the AOR assigned in Grants.gov for the final submission of a grant application.

Q: What are the responsibilities of the AOR?

A: The AOR is assigned by the EBiz POC in Grants.gov and carries the legal authority to bind an applicant's organization. Their responsibilities include but are not limited to, submitting the application for funding; accepting award terms and conditions; and completing required administrative actions throughout the period of performance (including amendments, prior approvals, and required reporting).

Note: Given the time-sensitive nature of these responsibilities, the individual(s) designated as the AOR **must** have the availability, system access, and administrative capacity to complete actions in federal systems in a timely manner.

Q: What federal financial assistance forms do I need?

A: Every applicant is required to submit **three (3)** federal financial assistance forms with their application. Each form must be signed and dated by the AOR.

- **Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)**
- **Certification Regarding Lobbying (CD-511)**
- **Disclosure Of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)**

Note: Depending on the program applied to, an additional set of forms may be needed. Please review the respective program NOFO for a complete list of required forms. If submitting through Grants.gov, these forms should be completed within the **Grants.gov Workspace**.

Q: What are the formatting guidelines for an application sent to NTIA if not submitted via Grants.gov?

A: Applications submitted by mail may be in hard copy (paper) or electronic (e.g., CD-ROM, disc, or thumb drive). Applications submitted by email must be machine-readable and must not be copy-protected. The following are formatting requirements:

- **Facsimile (fax) submissions:** Fax submissions will not be accepted for the complete application packets.
- **Required forms:** Applicants must use the provided required forms including the Project Narrative Form, Consolidated Budget Form, Funded and Unfunded Entity Form, and Project Information Form.
- **Page limit:** Project Narrative Form responses must adhere to the word and page limits noted in the form. If resumes of key personnel are included, they must be a maximum of one (1) page each and for a maximum of five (5) key personnel.
- **Application language:** Applications must be submitted in English.

Additionally, we have provided suggested formatting guidelines to take into consideration when preparing documentation:

- **Figures, graphs, images, and pictures:** Graphics must be presented at an easily readable size.
- **Font:** Text should be a readable size (11 point at minimum). Smaller text may be used in figures and tables but must be clearly legible.
- **Margins:** Applicants should use standard one-inch margins on all sides of the page.

- **Page size:** Applications should use the standard 8½ inches by 11 inches page size, excluding maps or network or system diagrams.

Q: When will awards be issued?

A: Awards will be made on a rolling basis, subject to the availability of funds. NTIA expects the earliest start date for awards under respective program NOFOs to be **Spring 2027**.

1.3 APPLICATION REVIEW

Q: How will applications be reviewed?

A: NTIA will conduct a **three-stage review process** to evaluate applications received under this grant program for an award, consisting of an **Initial Administrative and Eligibility Review, Merit Review, and Programmatic Review**. NTIA will evaluate applications submitted by Eligible Entities against objective evaluation criteria to determine whether the proposal merits an award. For information around the review process, please review **Section V** of each program’s respective NOFO as needed.

Q: What score is required to advance my application through the evaluation process?

A: Applications must score **65 points** or higher during Merit Review to qualify for consideration to move forward in the application review process.

1.4 PROGRAMMATIC DIFFERENCES

Q: What are the key similarities and differences between the NEGP Program and the TBCP 3 Program?

A: As TBCP 3 and NEGP each originate from different legislative authorities, they have specific requirements established in law. The chart below provides a breakdown of key similarities and differences. Please refer to each program’s respective NOFO for detailed requirements as needed.

Description	Program Element	TBCP 3	NEGP
Allowable Uses of Funding	Use and Adoption Funding	✓	✓
	Infrastructure Deployment Funding	✓	-
	Equitable Distribution Funding for Tribal Governments that have not received previous TBCP funding	✓	-
Application Details	Matching Funds	Encouraged	Required (10% Minimum)
	Consortium Applications	✓	✓

Description	Program Element	TBCP 3	NEGP
	Period of Performance	4 Years	4 Years + 1 optional year for continued evaluation
Spending Caps	Administrative cap	2%	10%
	Evaluation cap	-	10%