



Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021



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Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Overview

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

How Much	\$1 Billion
Who Can Apply	Tribal Governments, Tribal Colleges or Universities, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community, including Native Hawaiian Education Programs, Tribal organizations, or Alaskan Native Corporations
For What	Deployment and adoption of broadband service on Tribal Land and programs that promote the use of broadband to access remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources during the COVID-19 pandemic.
When	NTIA is now accepting applications for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program until September 1, 2021 . NTIA cannot extend this deadline.

Tribal Grant Program | Eligible Lands

Eligible Lands

Section 905(a)(13) of the Act defines Tribal Land that can be served as:

- Any land located within the boundaries of (i) an Indian reservation, Pueblo, or Rancheria; or (ii) a former reservation within Oklahoma;
- Any land not located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, Pueblo, or Rancheria, the title to which is held—
 - (i) in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian;
 - (ii) by an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian, subject to restriction against alienation under laws of the United States; or
 - (iii) by a dependent Indian community;
- Any land located within a region established pursuant to section 7(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1606(a));
- Hawaiian Home Lands, as defined in section 801 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221); or
- Those areas or communities designated by the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior that are near, adjacent, or contiguous to reservations where financial assistance and social service programs are provided to Indians because of their status as Indians.

Broadband Adoption Defined

Defined

- **Broadband Adoption:** Includes providing affordable broadband programs, such as providing free or reduced-cost broadband service and preventing disconnection of existing broadband service.
- **Qualifying Broadband Service:** Means broadband service with: (i) a download speed of not less than 25 Megabits per second; (ii) an upload speed of not less than 3 Megabits per second; and (iii) a latency sufficient to support real time, interactive applications.

Tribal Grant Program | Eligible Entities

More than one eligible entity

- **Q: CAN A TRIBE AND A TRIBAL ENTITY FROM THE SAME TRIBE BOTH APPLY?**

- **A: Yes, with the appropriate coordination.** There are several instances where applicants will need to obtain a Tribal Government Resolution. See Section C.3.c in the NOFO for more information about this requirement. Each eligible entity must coordinate internally (which includes all departments, subsidiaries, etc.) in submitting its single application. In an instance where one eligible entity is a subsidiary of another (e.g., a Tribal Government and a subsidiary Tribal College or University), this shall not affect the subsidiary's eligibility to submit its own application, so long as it includes the requisite Tribal Government Resolution.

- **Q: ARE CONSORTIUMS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**

- **A:** Yes, see Section C.3.b, Encouragement of Consortiums and Regional Applicants, in the NOFO for more details.

Note: NO DUPLICATION ALLOWED.

Submitting an Application: Grants.gov

Funding Opportunity Number: NTIA-TBC-TBCPO-2021-2006948

Important Application Windows to Note

- Register on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
 - 30-day window to obtain AOR (Authorized Organizational Representative)
- Obtaining SAM (System of Award Management)
 - 30-day window to obtain SAM

Submitting an Application: Alternate Methods

Funding Opportunity Number: NTIA-TBC-TBCPO-2021-2006948

NTIA prefers that applicants use Grants.gov to submit their applications; however, applicants can alternatively submit complete application packages through the following:

- Email: broadbandusa@ntia.gov
- Postal Mail Address: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4887, Attn: Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator, Washington, DC, 20230

Notes:

- Applicants must submit complete application packages using only one methods (Grants.gov, through electronic mail, or postal mail or courier) and may not submit partial or duplicate applications using multiple methods of transmission.

- Applicants without Internet access may request a copy of the application materials by contacting

Application Timelines

Application Window:

- **90 days: June 3, 2021 through September 1, 2021**

Application Deadline Key Dates:

- **Applications submitted through Grants.gov:** Must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) on September 1, 2021.
- **Applications submitted by postal mail or by courier service:** must be postmarked (for postal mail) or show clear evidence of mailing (for courier submissions) no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) on September 1, 2021.
- **Applications submitted by electronic mail:** Must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) on September 1, 2021.

Key Requirements of the Act

- Section 905(c)(4)(A)(i) of the Act requires an eligible entity to commit the funds in accordance with its approved application not later than 180 days after receiving grant funds under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.
- Section 905(c)(6) of the Act prohibits an eligible entity from using more than two percent (2%) of grants funds received under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program for administrative expenses.
- 1 year completion deadline for broadband use and adoption projects
- 1 year completion deadline for broadband infrastructure projects, with extensions that can be requested under certain conditions

Eligible entities receiving awards for new construction of broadband infrastructure must prioritize projects deploying to unserved households

Clarifications

Timeline for TBCP grant projects

The Act requires eligible entities to complete their projects within one year of their receipt of grant funds.

Extensions for Infrastructure Projects: The Assistant Secretary may extend the award period for broadband infrastructure construction projects if the eligible entity certifies that:

- i. It has a plan for use of the grant funds;
- ii. The construction project is underway; or
- iii. Extenuating circumstances require an extension of time to allow the project to be completed.

Extensions are not available for Broadband Use and Adoption Projects.

Clarifications

No Match or Cost-Sharing Required



Eligible vs Ineligible Costs

Eligible	Ineligible
<p>Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Activities Ex: Deploying new or upgrading broadband infrastructure on Tribal lands (25/3 Mbps)</p>	<p>No Supplanting Ex: Any activity previously budgeted</p>
<p>Broadband Adoption & Use Activities Ex: adoption of broadband services on Tribal lands, enable Tribal anchor institutions to provide affordable broadband programs, workforce development, remote learning, telework or telehealth</p>	<p>Any Pre-Development Costs Incurred Prior to the NOFO Release Ex: Engineering completed prior to NOFO release</p>
	<p>Duplicative Activities Ex: Last mile deployment to the same building or Redundant Networks</p>

Call for Merit Reviewers

NTIA is seeking qualified volunteers with expertise and experience in at least one of the following areas:

- ✓ Broadband use and adoption
- ✓ Broadband infrastructure deployment

To volunteer as a reviewer, please email a resume containing the information below to grantreviewer@ntia.gov:

- Name
- Residence (city and state)
- Email/phone number
- Employer(s) including states you were employed in
- Position/Title
- Years and types of experience and positions in fields related to broadband activities

Although you will not be compensated for your time and expertise, you will be making a significant contribution to enhancing broadband services and utilization throughout the United States. We appreciate the valuable contribution you will be making to the success of the programs and look forward to working with you as a reviewer.

Contact Us

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