



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 Entities

Eligible Entities

Section 905(a)(8) of the Act stipulates the following eligible entities:

- A Tribal Government;
- A Tribal College or University;
- The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community, including Native Hawaiian Education Programs;
- A Tribal organization; or
- An Alaskan Native Corporation

Link to statute: [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021](#)

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.

Infrastructure vs Non-Infrastructure

Applicable to ALL eligible entities

Infrastructure

- Require Tribal government consent that is consistent with the language in the NOFO
- Cannot duplicate another eligible entity's request
- No matter who you are, deployment of infrastructure on tribal lands requires consent that is consistent with the language in the NOFO

Non-Infrastructure

- NOFO does not require submission of Tribal government consent documentation from eligible entities
- Eligible entities are strongly encouraged to coordinate with one another to avoid competing applications

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.

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.

Funding Amounts

- \$980,000,000 available for federal assistance.
- In accordance with Section 905(c)(3)(A) of the Act, NTIA will allocate not less than 3% of the funds, or not less than \$30,000,000, for the benefit of Native Hawaiians.
- NTIA will allocate up to \$500,000 to each of the Federally Recognized Tribes delineated by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs in accordance with Section B.3 of the NOFO.
- NTIA expects to make awards under this program within the following funding ranges (*Note: These funding ranges are not required minimums and maximums, but eligible entities requesting funding for projects outside of these ranges must provide a reasonable explanation for the variance in their project size*):
 - Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Projects: \$1,000,000 to \$50,000,000
 - Broadband Adoption and Use Projects: \$50,000 to \$2,500,000

Evaluation and Scoring (Infrastructure)

For Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Projects **Project Purpose and Benefits (45 points)**

- Level of Need on the Tribal Land (35 points)
- Affordability of Services Offered (10 points)

Project Viability (30 points)

- Technical Approach and Related Network Planning, Capacity and Performance (20 points)
- Strength of Applicant's Organizational Capability (10 points)

Project Budget and Sustainability (25 points)

- Reasonableness of the Budget (10 points)
- Sustainability of the Project (15 points)

Evaluation and Scoring (Non-Infrastructure)

For Broadband Use and Adoption Projects

Project Purpose and Benefits (45 points)

- Level of impact on the Tribal Land (45 points)

Project Viability (30 points)

- Operational Approach of the Proposed Project Plan (15 points)
- Strength of Applicant's Organizational Capability (15 points)

Project Budget and Sustainability (25 points)

- Reasonableness of the Budget (10 points)
- Sustainability of the Project (15 points)

Clarifications

No Match or Cost-Sharing Required



Technical Assistance

- Technical Assistance will be offered through regional entities on a monthly basis throughout the application window
- Contact person from NTIA
 - Programmatic Inquiries: **Adam Geisler** (adam.geisler@firstnet.gov)
 - Grant Management Inquiries: **Nicola Bell** (Nicola.Bell@noaa.gov)
- Monthly Webinars
 - Upcoming webinar opportunities can be found here: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/latest-events>

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.

Other Funding for Consideration and Planning

The Treasury Department has \$20 billion in Tribal funding available under the American Rescue Plan Act. Below are the express statutory uses. See <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-fund/tribal-governments>.

- **Support public health expenditures**, by, for example, funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff
- **Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency**, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector
- **Replace lost public sector revenue**, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic
- **Provide premium pay for essential workers**, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
- **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet

Please contact tribal.consult@treasury.gov for further information.

Join again for the grants webinar series!

Broadband Infrastructure Program	Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program	Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program
April 28 Recording	April 21 Recording	May 5 Recording
April 29 Recording	April 22 Recording	May 6 Recording
June 9 & 10	June 16 & 17	June 23 & 24
July 14 & 15	July 21 & 22	July 28 & 29

Webinars start at 2:30 pm ET

Registration is required for each webinar and is limited to 1,000

broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/latest-events

Contact Us

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Q & A