

# Alaska Federation of Natives

Statewide Briefing



**Week of August 30—September 3, 2021**

---

## **In This Briefing...**

- **AFN FILES STOP-GAP MEASURE TO PREVENT LOSS OF BROADBAND FUNDING**
  - **INTERIOR DEPARTMENT TO HOST TRIBAL BROADBAND SUMMIT**
  - **COVID-19 UPDATE - STATE REMAINS ON HIGH ALERT**
  - **ALASKA CHAMBER LAUNCHES VACCINE INCENTIVE PROGRAM**
- 

## **AFN Files Stop-Gap Measure to Prevent Loss of Broadband Funding**

With the September 1, 2021 deadline fast approaching to apply for \$1 billion in Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) funds, AFN quickly formed a consortium in mid-August and invited 'eligible entities'—including federally recognized Alaska Native tribes, regional and village for-profit Native corporations, and non-profit regional and other tribal organizations—to join together in submitting one application for use and adoption projects.

TBCP, launched by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make progress on one of rural Alaska's most pressing roadblocks to economic development: high-speed broadband.

The Alaska Federation of Natives-Broadband Use and Adoption Consortium (AFN-BUAC) requested \$35 million in TCBP funds for broadband use and adoption projects throughout the state to provide free or reduced-cost broadband service and prevent the disconnection of existing broadband service, with a special focus on distance learning, telehealth, and digital inclusion during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In preparation for the September 1 deadline, AFN hosted four virtual workshops and conducted statewide outreach on the funding opportunity, where it became clear that many eligible entities were unaware of the TBCP or were unable to apply individually due to their respective financial constraints or legal and technical capacities.

NTIA expects to announce TBCP awards in November 2021.

AFN-BUAC members include:

- 26 federally recognized Alaska Native tribes;
- 28 village for-profit Native corporations;
- 6 regional non-profit tribal organizations (serving 157 tribes); and
- 4 Tribally Designated Housing Entities (serving 30 tribes).

---

## Interior Department to Host Tribal Broadband Summit

The U.S. Department of the Interior will host a three-day National Tribal Broadband Summit, to take place virtually on Sept 17, Sept 24, and Oct 1. You can find more information and register here: <https://www.doi.gov/tribalbroadband>



This conference is FREE and the highlighted topics are:

- Implementing the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant
- Planning for long term success and developing a local tribal workforce
- Technical Solutions for middle mile
- Broadband Use and Adoption

---

## COVID-19 UPDATE – STATE REMAINS ON HIGH ALERT

### September Begins with Pandemic Seriously Threatening Alaska's Health and Hospital System

Misinformation about vaccinations and how well they work and the downplaying of the seriousness of COVID-19 continues to be a big factor in why so many Alaskans remain unvaccinated. There is a lot of misinformation out there, particularly on social media. Click [here](#) for CDC's helpful page for [mythbusting](#). For facts, guidance, and data at the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services' main COVID page, click [here](#).

**YOU CAN TAKE ACTION** – Choosing to get vaccinated is the single most important action you can take to protect yourself and your community and to reopen our economy. Check with your local health care provider to get the facts about vaccines, wearing masks and protecting your families. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, [find a vaccine](#).

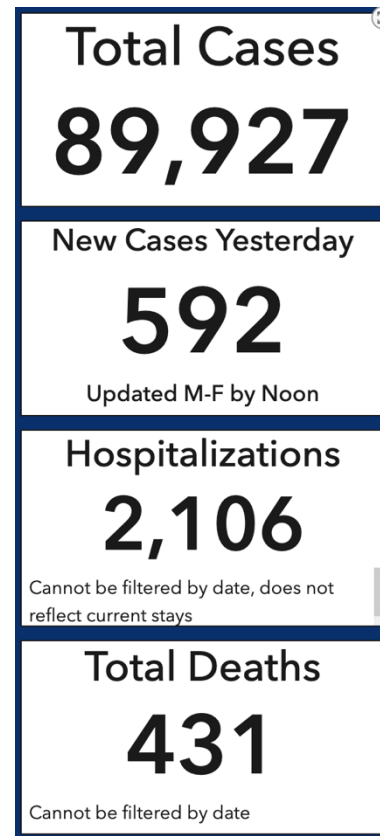
For more information about vaccines, visit [covidvax.alaska.gov](https://covidvax.alaska.gov).

CDC's new guidelines on safer activities for you and your family:

- [If you are fully vaccinated](#), you can participate in many of the activities that you did before the pandemic.
- To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area [of substantial or high transmission](#).

- Wearing a mask is most important if you have a weakened immune system or if, because of your age or an underlying medical condition, you are at [increased risk for severe disease](#), or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated. If this applies to you or your household, you might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission in your area.
- You should continue to wear a mask where required by laws, rules, regulations, or local guidance.
- Learn more about the CDC's recommendations for fully vaccinated people at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html).

**Alaska [DHSS COVID Data Dashboard](#) Summary as of September 3, 2021:**





The banner features a yellow background on the left with two prize categories: '49K Cash Prize For Alaskans 18+' and '49K Scholarship For Alaskans 12-17'. In the center is a map of Alaska with the text 'GIVE AK A SHOT' and 'win \$49K'. On the right is the Alaska Chamber logo and a dark blue box with white text: 'Enter today for your shot to win the weekly 49K giveaway'.

## Alaska Chamber Launches Vaccine Incentive Program

Healthy people are the foundation of a healthy economy, and our economy is suffering. The Alaska Chamber firmly believes that one of the most important tools in realizing economic recovery is vaccinating for COVID-19. It is the single easiest and safe thing that individual Alaskans can do to help get our economy back on track. Why? Because [recent studies](#) show that vaccinating for COVID-19 is highly effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalizations, and death.

This is why the Alaska Chamber is launching the Give AK a Shot Sweepstakes set to give out nearly a million dollars to vaccinated Alaskans. Now through Oct. 30, Alaskans vaccinated for COVID-19 are eligible to enter the Alaska Chamber's "Give AK a Shot" drawing for a chance to win \$49,000. A total of 18 prize drawings split between two categories (Alaskans aged 18 and older and Alaskans aged 12-17) will be awarded.

Winners will be selected randomly and announced each week. Winners in the 18 and older category will receive a \$49,000 cash prize. Winners in the 12-17 category will receive a \$49,000 scholarship presented as an Alaska 529 education savings plan plus \$10,000 cash for their parent or guardian if their parent or guardian is also vaccinated.

We're asking Alaskans to get vaccinated for COVID-19 to protect our economy and give Alaska a shot at recovery. The COVID-19 vaccine protects lives and jobs, which is why we're presenting rewards to Alaskans who get vaccinated. All Alaskans can protect themselves, their families and Alaska businesses to get our economy back on track, all while being entered to win \$49,000.

To enter, participants are asked to provide their basic information at [GiveAKaShot.com](https://GiveAKaShot.com), this includes name, date, COVID-19 vaccination date, COVID-19 vaccination location, and if the entrant is an Alaska resident. 18 drawing pools will be created during the eight-week sweepstakes period. Two drawing pools will be created per week for those newly vaccinated for COVID-19, and two drawing pools total for those vaccinated for COVID-19

prior to Sept. 2, 2021. To be clear, Alaskans vaccinated before the effective date are eligible only for the one drawing specific to previously vaccinated people; two winners will be selected from this pool. All entrants will be placed into the drawing pools according to their date of vaccination and age at the time of entry.

The first drawing entries are due by Sept. 11. It is incumbent upon the individual to enter timely so as not to miss the weekly drawing for which they are eligible; entries are accepted and valid only for the week in which they received their COVID-19 vaccine.

Eligibility requirements include:

Entrant must be an Alaska resident age 12 or older.

Must be in receipt of the first dose of any COVID-19 vaccine at any time before or during the promotion period.

Must have received a vaccination in Alaska.

Give our businesses a shot at recovery.

Entries accepted and official rules are available at [www.GiveAKaShot.com](http://www.GiveAKaShot.com).