



December 28, 2021

Dear Honorable Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Commerce, I am initiating Tribal Consultation on the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) and considerations for the additional \$2 billion appropriated for the TBCP by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58 (IIJA). The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (Act), created the TBCP, providing new sources of Tribal broadband funding to assist in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating the digital divide across Indian Country. As you may know, NTIA received applications requesting significantly more in funding than the \$980 million available for grants under the Act. Of the additional \$2 billion in funding appropriated for the TBCP by the IIJA, a portion may be used to fund TBCP applications submitted in response to the June 3, 2021, TBCP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The Department of Commerce and NTIA are dedicated to expanding broadband deployment in unserved areas and promoting digital inclusion.

NTIA is committed to holding consultation expeditiously to ensure that your input informs the use and timing of additional funding from the IIJA. In accordance with the Department of Commerce's Tribal consultation policy, I am inviting you and/or a Tribal representative with your delegation of authority to participate in the virtual National Tribal Consultation to provide your advice and insights as NTIA staff are working through the critical issues related to the program.

I respectfully request your participation at the virtual Tribal Consultation session:

Date	Friday, January 14, 2022
Time	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET
GoToWebinar Registration Link	https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8231250129633671439
Dial-In	Dial-In Number: (562) 247-8422 Attendee Code: 714-523-950

The current \$980 million NTIA TCBP provides funding for the following:

- Broadband infrastructure deployment, including support for the establishment of carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations;
- Affordable broadband programs, including:
 - providing free or reduced-cost broadband service;
 - preventing disconnection of existing broadband service;
- Distance learning;
- Telehealth;
- Digital inclusion efforts; and
- Broadband adoption activities.

The IJA did not change these eligible uses of funds for the program. Below are the questions on which NTIA seeks your input during this first consultation:

- Should NTIA make available any of the additional TBCP funding appropriated by the IJA for the applications submitted in response to the June 2021 TBCP NOFO?
- If so, what percentage of the additional funding should NTIA make available for this purpose?
- If NTIA were to issue a second TBCP NOFO for the remaining funds appropriated by the IJA, when would be the most accommodating time for Tribes to be able to submit applications?

Written comments can also be submitted to broadbandusa@ntia.gov with the subject line: “Tribal Broadband Grant Program IJA,” by January 14, 2022, at 6:00 pm Eastern Standard Time.

If you have any questions regarding the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program or these consultation sessions, you may contact Adam Geisler, (202) 494-7820, or ageisler@ntia.gov. I look forward to our continued consultation and government-to-government engagement with Tribal leaders who are working to close the digital divide in Indian Country. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Douglas W. Kinkoph
Associate Administrator
Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth