



June 3, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Commerce, we are pleased to announce the release of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and to provide additional information on the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP). The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (Act), provided federal funding to assist in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that exacerbated the digital divide for Native Americans, Native Hawaiians and Alaska Natives.

In February, NTIA held three Tribal Consultation sessions seeking input from tribal leaders on the TBCP. The Tribal Consultation sessions had a total attendance of 844, with approximately 165 tribes represented. NTIA also received written comments from 58 tribes and/or tribal organizations. We appreciate your participation and thoughtful insights about important issues for developing the program. The recordings, written comments, and other materials from the Tribal Consultation sessions are available on the BroadbandUSA website at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/tribal-nations>.

With the release of the NOFO, NTIA will make up to \$980,000,000 available for federal assistance under the TBCP. In accordance with the Act, NTIA will allocate not less than \$30,000,000 for the benefit of Native Hawaiians. TBCP provides funding for the following:

1. Broadband infrastructure deployment, including support for the establishment of carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations
2. Affordable broadband programs, including:
 - a. providing free or reduced-cost broadband service
 - b. preventing disconnection of existing broadband service
 - c. distance learning
 - d. telehealth
 - e. digital inclusion efforts
 - f. broadband adoption activities

The ninety (90) day application window opens today, June 3, 2021, with the release of the NOFO. NTIA will be accepting applications for this program through September 1, 2021.

NTIA will be hosting webinars during the application window designed to help prospective applicants understand the program and assist applicants in preparing high quality grant applications. More information and registration can be found on the BroadbandUSA website at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events>.

We thank you for your engagement to date and look forward to continuing to strengthen the relationship between NTIA and tribal governments to close the digital divide for all indigenous peoples.

We sincerely value your support and robust input, as we work together on a significantly accelerated timeline. We will continue to work in partnership with you to distribute these critical funds. If you have any questions regarding the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, contact Laura Spining, Deputy Associate Administrator, at 202-615-3600 or lspining@ntia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evelyn Remaley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "R".

Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of
Commerce for Communications and
Information