



September 15, 2023

Dear Honorable Tribal Leader:

The Digital Equity Act (DEA), which was enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, appropriated \$2.75 billion to establish three grant programs to promote digital equity and inclusion. These three programs are: (1) the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program (SDEPG); (2) the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program; and (3) the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program. On behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Commerce, which administers these programs, we are initiating additional Tribal Consultations for the DEA Programs. These consultations will provide NTIA with valuable feedback to inform future Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for Tribal participation in the DEA Programs.

The SDEPG is a \$60 million formula grant program for States, Territories, and Eligible Tribal Entities to develop digital equity plans. The State Digital Equity Capacity Program is a \$1.44 billion grant program for States, Territories and Eligible Tribal Entities to fund implementation of their digital equity plans. The Digital Equity Competitive Program is a \$1.25 billion competitive grant program for eligible entities to implement digital equity projects. The DEA requires that NTIA set aside 5% (five percent) of these grant funds for Eligible Tribal Entities.

Note: Following the Dear Tribal Leader Letter sent on July 24, 2023, NTIA intends to utilize these consultations to offer additional information around the adjusted timeline and approach for the SDEPG and State Digital Equity Capacity Program, as they pertain to Eligible Tribal Entities.

To seek your input regarding its Digital Equity Act Programs, NTIA invites you and/or a Tribal representative to participate in the virtual National Tribal Consultation to provide your advice and insights as NTIA staff work through the critical issues related to these programs.

We respectfully request your participation at one of two virtual Tribal Consultation sessions:

Date	Tuesday, October 17, 2023
Time	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm EDT / 11:00 am – 2:00 pm PDT
Zoom Registration Link	https://ntia.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_LISkfi0NQtg3c7QOBY6CRw
Dial-in	Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 or +1 646 964 1167 or +1 551 285 1373 or +1 669 216 1590 or +1 415 449 4000 Webinar ID: 160 209 5390

Date	Thursday, October 19, 2023
Time	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm EDT / 11:00 am – 2:00 pm PDT
Zoom Registration Link	https://ntia.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_ZFOl-axxRE-mCfuUYQhlgv
Dial-in	Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 964 1167 or +1 646 828 7666 or +1 669 216 1590 or +1 415 449 4000 or +1 551 285 1373 Webinar ID: 160 881 2425

NTIA will summarize the Digital Equity Act Programs and cover the following question topics during the consultation sessions.

Topics of Consultation:

- Application Requirements
- Funded Activities
- Technical Assistance and Support
- Evaluation and Award Methodology

Following the Tribal Consultation sessions (as on the above-specified dates), written comments to the question topics can be submitted until Thursday, November 16 at 8:00 pm EST / 5:00pm PST to digitalequity@ntia.gov with the Subject Line: NTIA Digital Equity Tribal Program.

For more information on the Digital Equity Act Programs, please visit the Internet For All website, or by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions regarding these programs or consultations, please contact Angela Thi Bennett, Digital Equity Director, by phone at (202) 482-2048 or by email at digitalequity@ntia.gov. We look forward to the consultations and nation-to-nation coordination with Tribal leaders who continue to bring high-speed internet to Indian Country.

Sincerely,

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

Angela Thi Bennett, Digital Equity Director
Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth

Margaret Gutierrez, Division Chief (Acting), Tribal Connectivity and Nation to Nation Coordination
Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth