

The logo for "Internet for All" features the text "INTERNET FOR ALL" in white, bold, uppercase letters inside a red rounded rectangle. To the right of the rectangle are three red curved lines representing a signal or Wi-Fi icon.

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State Digital Equity Capacity Program: Native Entities *Memorandum of Understanding*

October 2024



This document is intended solely to assist applicants in better understanding the Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program and the requirements set forth in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and follow-on policies and guidance for this program. This document does not and is not intended to supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, the terms and conditions of the award, or the specific application requirements set forth in the NOFO. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, the terms and conditions of the award, the requirements set forth in the NOFO, and follow-on policies and guidance, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in this document. This document pertains to State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program requirements as they pertain to Native Entities.

Memorandum of Understanding for Digital Equity Grant Programs: Native Entities Consortia

Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program: Native Entities

The purpose of the [State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program: Native Entities](#) is to conduct digital equity planning and carry out digital equity and inclusion activities consistent with the Digital Equity Act. **To apply as a consortium**, applications require both Formal Authorizing Documentation from all consortium members and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the lead applicant and each member.

Additional guidance on Formal Authorizing Documentation can be found [here](#).

Eligibility

Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations (collectively, “Native Entities”) are eligible for grants with NTIA and to carry out activities contemplated in this Program. Sources listing eligible Native Entities can be found in Section III.B.1 of the Digital Equity Capacity NOFO.

How to Demonstrate Eligibility: Formal Authorizing Documentation



Each Native Entity applying for State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program: Native Entities is required to submit documentation demonstrating it is authorized by the governing authority of the Native Entity to apply for (1) Capacity Grant Funds or (2) Capacity and Planning Grant Funds.

- ❑ **For Indian Tribes and Alaska Native entities**, a formal authorizing document should be in the form of a Tribal Resolution of Consent
- ❑ **For other Native Entity organizations** (such as Native Hawaiian organizations), an authorizing documentation should be an equivalent formal authorization from the governing authority of the Native Entity



Consortium Application Requirements

The NOFO requires a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), in addition to a Tribal resolution/agreement for each member of the consortium. The names of Native Entities listed in the Consortium Members Form must match the names of the Native Entities on the collected MOUs.

Memorandum of Understanding for Digital Equity Grant Programs: Native Entities Consortia



DOCUMENTS FOR CONSORTIA



A Memorandum of Understanding is a formal document that establishes the details of a consortium application between the lead applicant and the Native Entities that are a part of the consortium.

The MOU represents an agreement between the lead applicant and consortium member organization for the purposes of applying to NTIA's Digital Equity Capacity Grant.

MOU REQUIREMENTS

A signed MOU indicates acknowledgement and approval of the terms outlined in the MOU. The lead applicant is responsible for submitting a singular MOU, or multiple MOUs, with **each Native Entity in the consortium** that includes:



Clearly articulated **specific benefits and responsibilities** of each consortium member



The **approval** of the proposed projects from each member of the consortium



Commitment from the Lead Applicant to stay in regular communication with each member of the consortium regarding the status of awards and the progress of the proposed projects described

Consortium applications submitted *without a formal authorization from each Native Entity* to apply to the Program *and* an MOU between the lead applicant and each member of the consortium named in the application will be *considered incomplete*.



Utilizing Non-Profits to Administer Funds: An eligible Native Entity may appoint a non-profit corporation to administer NE Capacity & Planning Grant Program funds on behalf of the applicant. If a Native Entity intends to utilize a non-profit organization for this purpose, the Native Entity applicant should identify the organization in its application, provide an authorization in its application for the non-profit, and discuss the role and activities of such organization, in addition to the other relevant application requirements.