



February 2, 2021

Dear Honorable Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Commerce, I am initiating a Tribal Consultation on the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP). The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (Act), provides new sources of tribal broadband funding that can assist in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating the digital divide across Indian Country. The Department of Commerce and NTIA are dedicated to expanding broadband deployment in unserved areas and promoting digital inclusion.

The Act directs NTIA to make grants available to eligible entities within short time frames. NTIA is committed to holding consultation sessions expeditiously to ensure that your input informs the new grant program prior to the application process. In accordance with Commerce's tribal consultation policy, I am inviting you and/or a tribal representative 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 one of the virtual Tribal Consultation sessions:

Date	Friday, February 5, 2021
Time	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET
GoToWebinar Registration Link	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4485171125613889552
Dial-In	+1 (213) 929-4212 Attendee code: 651-925-190

Date	Wednesday, February 10, 2021
Time	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET
GoToWebinar Registration Link	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3758822749188813328
Dial-In	+1 (562) 247-8321 Attendee code: 470-923-858

Date	Friday, February 12, 2021
Time	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET
GoToWebinar Registration Link	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2742411110728533264
Dial-In	+1 (562) 247-8422 Attendee code: 564-371-049

The \$1 billion Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program provides funding for the following:

- Broadband infrastructure deployment, including support for the establishment of carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations
- 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

Enclosed is the agenda for these consultation sessions and the questions NTIA seeks input on. Written comments can be submitted to broadbandusa@ntia.gov with the subject line: Tribal Broadband Grant Program, by February 11, 2021 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 Jean Rice, 703-655-4614, or jrice@ntia.gov. Thank you for your attention to this matter. 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.

Sincerely,

Douglas Kinkoph

Douglas W. Kinkoph
Associate Administrator
Office of Telecommunications and
Information Applications