

NTIA Broadband Programs 2022

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is rolling out new broadband funding programs that can benefit tribes. These include three programs under the Digital Equity Act; a second round of the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program; the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program; and the Middle Mile Grant Program.

Digital Equity Act (DEA) Programs – \$2.75 B

The DEA is divided into three separate programs, one of which is currently open: the State Planning Grant, which has \$15 million set-aside for Tribes in 2022. NTIA expects to allocate between \$50,000 and \$150,000 this year to each participating Tribal entity and will distribute funds evenly. Eligible activities encompass digital literacy, broadband use and adoption. However, NTIA encourages applicants to include all broadband use and adoption needs in their letters of intent (LOI). Submitting an LOI is the only task at this time.

State Planning Grant \$60 million Open For Submissions Develop State Digital Equity Plan	State Capacity Grant \$1.44 billion TBD Implement State Digital Equity Plan	Competitive Grant \$1.25 billion TBD Develop & Implement Digital Inclusion Activities
--	--	--

Next Steps:

- ✓ Tribes can apply directly. **Submit a Letter of Intent to the [NTIA Portal](#) or [via email](#) by **July 12, 2022!****
- An example LOI is attached with this document.
- ✓ The LOI should include all broadband adoption and use activities that the tribe has identified as necessary.
- Specific eligible activities are still being determined.

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) – TBD

NTIA has announced that another round of the TBCP will kick off later in 2022. Presumably, more announcements about this round will appear once the existing round has been awarded.

Next Steps:

- ✓ Stay vigilant about updates regarding another round. Little else is known about this next announcement.

NTIA Broadband Programs 2022

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program – \$42.45 B

States are eligible recipients under this program. It is their responsibility to reach out to all tribes located in the state to determine each tribe's need, and the deadline for states to submit this information is **July 18, 2022**. Tribes are considered subgrantees, meaning they do not need to submit any documentation to NTIA but are eligible to receive funds under the respective state's plan. Each state will receive a minimum of \$100 million under this program.

Next Steps:

- ✓ **Engage with your state!** If your state's point of contact has not reached out, reach out to them. If you have any issues working with the state, you can contact NTIA, and they will ensure you are included in the conversation.
- ✓ The state is tasked with assessing the subgrantee's capacity in the following areas:
 - **Financial Capability:** Certifications, audited financial statements, project pro forma analyses
 - **Managerial Capability:** Resumes for key personnel, org charts, qualification descriptions
 - **Technical Capability:** Network design, diagrams, project costs, buildout, and investment timelines
 - **Compliance with Laws:** Management engagement with worker-led health and safety committees
 - **Operational Capability:** Certification of operational capability and certification for experience
 - **Ownership:** Ownership, citizenship, & contact info, of anyone w/ >10% stock in applicant
 - **Other public funding:** Disclosure of applications for broadband projects using public funds

Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program – \$980 M

This program funds middle mile infrastructure projects ranging from \$5 million to \$100 million. It is expected to be extremely competitive. The deadline for this program is **September 30, 2022**. Non-tribal applicants must cover 30% of project costs themselves; tribal entities can get this requirement partially or fully waived. There is no tribal set-aside.

Next Steps:

- ✓ **Form partnerships!** NTIA stresses that an application without a partnership is extremely unlikely to be awarded.
- ✓ Demonstrate capabilities outlined in the BEAD Program section.