

BROADBAND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



One of the biggest hurdles in broadband deployment is finding the funding to undertake the varying projects necessary for ubiquitous connectivity in a community. There are a myriad of federal funding programs available to help communities improve broadband connectivity. This document will highlight some of the existing federal funding programs, what they fund, where to apply, and important dates.

This explainer is not an exhaustive list of available funding opportunities. For a more comprehensive list of federal funding options, the National Telecommunications Information Administration (“NTIA”) has created a Federal Funding Guide that outlines broadband funding programs from a variety of federal agencies. Review NTIA’s 2021 guide [here](#). States may also make funding available for community projects. Click [here](#) for contacts and resources for state broadband programs.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration: Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program began as a \$980 million grant program for broadband use and was recently amended to include an additional \$2B. Administered by NTIA, this program will provide grants to Tribal higher education institutions, as well as Tribal governments.

Tribal educational institutions and governments can use this funding for the expansion of broadband access and adoption on Tribal lands. This funding can also be used for the expansion of telehealth, remote work, and distance learning resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, these funds can be used for site surveys, land acquisition, and requests for proposals related to a broadband project. Grant funding can also be used to purchase devices and equipment for students, public computer access, feasibility studies, data and mapping research, and other digital skills training. This is not an exhaustive list. Interested applicants should see the notice of funding opportunity for more information on eligible uses.

The NTIA expects to make awards in the following funding ranges:

- Broadband infrastructure deployment projects: \$1,000,000 to \$50,000,000
- Broadband adoption and use project: \$50,000 to \$2,500,000.

NTIA is continuing to review the over 280+ applications received during the application window, which closed on Sept. 1, 2021. The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program will announce additional awards on a rolling basis. Any information about upcoming application windows will be found [here](#).