Tribal Broadband Funding Opportunities

Current as of Fall 2016

Opportunity	Brief Description	Application Timeline
Indian Community Development Block Grant http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/grants/icdbg	The provision of broadband is eligible under this program. Provides funds to eligible grantees for housing rehabilitation, land acquisition, community facilities, infrastructure construction, and economic development activities. Eligible applicants for assistance include any Indian tribe, band, group, or nation.	Annual NOFA announcement, usually late January with applications due 60-90 days afterward.
Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/grants/ihbg	The provision of broadband is eligible under this program. Eligible IHBG recipients are Federally recognized Indian tribes or their tribally designated housing entity (TDHE), and a limited number of state recognized tribes who were funded under the Indian Housing Program authorized by the United States Housing Act of 1937 (USHA).	Annual NOFA announcement, usually late January with applications due 60-90 days afterward.
Native American Library Services https://www.imls.gov/nofo/native-american-library-services-basic-grants-fy16-notice-funding-opportunity	Basic Grants are available to support existing library operations and to maintain core library services. Indian tribes, Alaska native villages, regional corporations, and village corporations are eligible to apply for funding under the Native American Library Services grant program. The Education/Assessment Option is supplemental to the Basic Grants.	Submit through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time on April 15, 2016
Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) PLANNING PROGRAM AND LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - FY 2016 – FY 2019 https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/	The Planning program helps support organizations, including District Organizations, Indian Tribes, and other eligible recipients, with Short Term and State Planning investments designed to guide the eventual creation and retention of high-quality jobs, particularly for the unemployed and underemployed in the Nation's most economically distressed regions.	Applications are accepted on a continuing basis and processed as received. This Planning and Local Technical Assistance opportunity will remain in effect until superseded by a future announcement.

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Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=279842	Multiple programs. Grants made under these programs will leverage regional assets to support the implementation of regional economic development strategies designed to create jobs, leverage private capital, encourage economic development, and strengthen America's ability to compete in the global marketplace. Through the EDAP FFO, EDA solicits applications from rural and urban communities to develop initiatives that advance new ideas and creative approaches to address rapidly evolving economic conditions.	There are no submission deadlines under this opportunity. Proposals and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new EDAP FFO.
US Department of Education - Promise Neighborhoods Competition. http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html	Promise Neighborhoods, established under the legislative authority of the Fund for the Improvement of Education Program (FIE), provides funding to support eligible entities, including (1) nonprofit organizations, which may include faith-based nonprofit organizations, (2) institutions of higher education, and (3) Indian tribes.	On July 8, 2016, published in the Federal Register (81 FR 44741) a notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2016 for the Promise Neighborhoods program (Promise Neighborhoods NIA). Full Application by 4:30:00 PM (DC Time) no later than September 16, 2016.The extension of the application deadline date is applicable for all applicants and is intended to help applicants impacted by severe weather-related issues across the country The official notification was published in Federal Register on September 16, 2016.

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Virginia Resources Authority http://www.virginiaresources.org/page/virginia-pooled-financing-program/	VRA provides financing to local governments for essential projects. All VRA's authorized project areas are eligible for financing in the Virginia Pooled Financing Program (VPFP). Since inception in 2003, over 100 local governments in Virginia have utilized this program to finance or refinance over $2 billion in infrastructure projects.	Twice a year, last one in Aug: http://www.virginiaresources.gov/page/virginia-pooled-financing-program/ Application deadline for participation in the Fall 2016 Virginia Pooled Financing Program is Friday, August 5, 2016. Next anticipated in late Fall (Nov.)
USDA Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/farm-bill-broadband-loans-loan-guarantees Falls under Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTA) Provisions - These provisions allow the RUS Administrator to provide special consideration—including but not limited to lower interest rates and extended loan terms—to projects serving tribal lands. http://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/initiatives/substantially-underserved-trust-area-suta	The Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program (Broadband Program) furnishes loans and loan guarantees to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide service at the broadband lending speed in eligible rural areas. These loans are for local incumbent providers.	Closed June 2016 - Opens again around April annually B39(opens and closes typically second quarter each year) Starting in January 2017, all infrastructure and broadband loan applications will need to be submitted to RUS through RD Apply.

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USDA Farm Bill Broadband Loan Program https://agriculture.house.gov/bill/agricultural-act-2014 Falls under Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTA) Provisions - These provisions allow the RUS Administrator to provide special consideration—including but not limited to lower interest rates and extended loan terms—to projects serving tribal lands. http://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/initiatives/substantially-underserved-trust-area-suta	To be eligible for a broadband loan, an applicant may be either a non-profit or for-profit organization, and must take one of the following forms: • Corporation; • Limited liability company (LLC); • Cooperative or mutual organization; • A state or local unit of government • Indian tribe or tribal organization Individuals and Partnerships are not Eligible.	Closed June 2016 - Opens again around April annually B39(opens and closes typically second quarter each year)
USDA Community Connect Grant Program http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants Eligible applicants include: Most State and local governments Federally-recognized Tribes Non-profits For-profit corporations	This program helps fund broadband deployment into rural communities where it is not yet economically viable for private sector providers to deliver service. Eligible area include rural areas that lack any existing broadband speed of at least 4 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream is eligible.	Annual NOFA or NOSA announcement, no specific time of year. Best to sign up for email alerts at: http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants

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USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program (DLT) http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UTP_DLT.html Tribal eligibility	The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program helps rural communities use the unique capabilities of telecommunications to connect to each other and to the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density. 15% match required.	The application window is announced annually (typically after the first of the year) through a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) or a Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) in the *Federal Register*.
FCC Connect America Fund (CAF II High Cost Areas) https://www.fcc.gov/general/connect-america-fund-caf	Provider funding for FCC eligible areas only. Eligible areas map: https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/connect-america-phase-ii-initial-eligible-areas-map/	NA
Virginia Telecommunication Initiative http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/ Eligible applicants: Towns, cities, Counties, EDA/IDA, Broadband/wireless authorities, PDC, etc.)	To provide financial assistance to supplement construction costs by private sector providers to extend services to areas that are presently unservedby any broadband provider. Definition of unserved; speeds <= 10 Mbps/1 Mbps	10/16/2016 DHCD conducts How to Apply webinar, DHCD releases the Request for Proposals (RFP) 11/16/2016 Application Deadline (Tentative-November 30, 2016) 12/16/2016 DHCD reviews and score applications 1/2017 Governor's Award Announcement (Tentative) DHCD conducts contract negotiations and award contracts (Tentative)
e-Rate Funding for Schools & Libraries http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/e-rate-schools-libraries-usf-program	The schools and libraries universal service support program, commonly known as the E-rate program, helps schools and libraries to obtain affordable broadband.	2016 - February 3 - May 26 (Schools) or July 21 (Libraries and Consortia)

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USAC Tribal Training http://usac.org/sl/about/outreach/tribal.aspx	The Tribal training program is designed to ensure that applicants on Tribal lands are aware of and able to participate successfully in the Schools and Libraries (E-rate) Program.	As of July 1, 2016, all E-rate Program forms must be submitted electronically. Annual filing windows appear to be from May 26th – July 21st.
USAC Lifeline Program http://usac.org/li/about/process-overview/default.aspx	Consumers apply for Lifeline Program-supported service through their local telephone telecommunications company or a designated agency. The eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) then seek reimbursement from the federal universal service fund's Lifeline Program for the revenue they forgo to provide discounted service to eligible low-income consumers.	This program is open year-round.
FCC Mobility Fund Phase II https://www.fcc.gov/mobility-fund-phase-2	The Mobility Fund is the wireless component of the Connect America Fund. It provides support for the expansion of mobile broadband networks in areas that might otherwise not be served. The Mobility Fund consists of two phases. Phase I provides immediate one-time support to accelerate the deployment of mobile broadband and voice service to unserved areas. A nationwide reverse auction held in September 2012 awarded $300 million of Phase I funds to over 30 service providers. A separate auction, called the Tribal Mobility Auction, will award up to $50 million to providers that serve Tribal lands. Phase II provides ongoing support to deploy and maintain mobile broadband and voice service in high-cost areas. Up to $500 million will be available every year; however, the FCC is studying the exact amount to be allocated for services on Tribal lands in future years.	Not yet active.

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Lifeline Support http://www.lifelinesupport.org/ls/changes-to-lifeline.aspx	After December 2, 2016, you will be able to apply your monthly Lifeline discount towards internet service. If you would like to switch to an internet plan, ask your telephone company or internet provider if a Lifeline Program cell phone data plan or home internet service is available in your area. For a list of companies in Virginia: http://www.lifelinesupport.org/ls/companies/CompanyListing.aspx?state=VA&stateName=Virginia	This program is open year-round.