



**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Native Affairs and Policy**

FCC Tribal Workshop

Department of the Interior Building
2021 4th Ave N, Billings, MT
Medicine Wheel Room
August 20-21, 2019

*USAC representatives are available both days to answer questions
and review USF program requirements*

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

- 8:30 am – 9:00 am** **Doors Open – Registration**
- 9:00 am – 9:15 am** **Opening Prayer**
- 9:15 am – 9:30 am** **Chairman Pai Welcome Video**
- 9:30 am – 10:00 am** **Opening Remarks and Overview of Agenda and Logistics**
Matthew Duchesne, Chief, FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy
- 10:00 am – 10:30 am** **Introduction to the Federal Communications Commission**
Matthew Duchesne, Chief, FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy
- This session introduces the FCC and discusses its relevance to Tribal Nations. It provides background on how the Commission operates, including how the FCC handles licensing, rulemaking, subsidies and public comment in creating communications programs and policy.
- 10:30 am – 10:45 am** **Break**
- 10:45 am – 11:15 am** **Filing Comments at the FCC**
Janet Sievert, Senior Legal Advisor, FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy
- This session provides an overview of why Tribal Nations and inter-Tribal organizations should file comments in open proceedings where the FCC considers policies and rules, the different types of filings involved, the timing and substance of these filings, and the mechanics of how to submit comments.

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Public Safety and FirstNet

Jeannette Kennedy, First Responder Network Authority

This session provides an overview of the FirstNet public-safety network designed to provide first responders with a reliable communications network.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch Break – lunch on your own

1:30 pm – 2:15 pm

Universal Service Fund Programs

Sayuri Rajapakse, Deputy Chief, FCC Office of Native Affairs & Policy; Jaymie Gustafson, Director of Communications, Universal Service Administrative Company

This session provides an overview of the FCC’s Universal Service Fund and its four subsidy programs: (1) the High Cost program, including the new Rural Digital Opportunity Fund; (2) the Schools and Libraries program, also known as E-rate; (3) the Low-Income program, also known as Lifeline and Link Up; and (4) the Rural Health Care program. This session will also discuss the Commission’s recently released Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on a Connected Care pilot program, which would support the delivery of telehealth services to low-income Americans.

2:15 pm – 3:00 pm

Lifeline Program National Verifier

Leah Sorini, Lifeline Communications Associate, Universal Service Administrative Company

This session will provide an overview of the National Verifier system rollout, which will be used nationwide to certify consumers are eligible to participate in the Lifeline program.

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 pm – 4:00 pm

Department of Agriculture Funding Opportunities

Charles Robinson, State Director, Montana State Office Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture

This session provides an overview of various USDA funding programs available to rural and Tribal areas that can support communications and broadband infrastructure buildout.

4:00 pm

Wrap-up – Workshop Concludes for the Day

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

9:00 am – 9:30 am

Doors Open

9:30 am – 10:15 am

FCC's Tribal Radio Priority

*Janet Sievert, Senior Legal Advisor, FCC Office of Native Affairs & Policy;
Thomas Eagle Staff, Manager KIPI Radio Station*

This session provides an opportunity to learn about the Commission's Tribal Radio Priority, which allows Tribes or Tribally owned or controlled entities to more easily obtain broadcast radio licenses. Thomas Eagle Staff, KIPI station manager, will share his experiences in qualifying for the Tribal Radio Priority and setting up a Tribally owned FM radio station in Eagle Bluff, SD.

10:15 am – 11:00 am

Spectrum Opportunities – 2.5 GHz Report and Order

Catherine Schroeder, Attorney-Advisor, FCC Wireless Bureau, Broadband Division

This session will discuss steps the Commission has taken to transform the way Educational Broadband Service (EBS) spectrum in the 2.5 GHz band is licensed and used. The discussion will look at the new rural Tribal priority filing window and key eligibility and buildout requirements that will govern the issuance of new licenses in this band over rural Tribal lands.

11:00 am – 11:15 am

Break

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Tribal Success Stories Panel

Sayuri Rajapakse, Deputy Chief, FCC Office of Native Affairs & Policy, Moderator; Mona Thompson, General Manager, Cheyenne River Sioux Telephone Authority; Fred McLaughlin, General Manager, Standing Rock Telecom, Inc.

This moderated session will provide an opportunity to hear first-hand from Tribal government leaders and officials about success stories for deployment of communications infrastructure and services on their lands.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch Break – lunch on your own

1:30 pm – 1:45 pm

Tribal Engagement

Janet Sievert, Senior Legal Advisor, FCC Office of Native Affairs & Policy

This session provides an overview of the FCC's Tribal engagement obligation imposed on carriers that receive USF High Cost funds. This session will also have an open discussion on attendees' experiences with

their carriers' Tribal engagement efforts, how helpful the *2012 Further Guidance Public Notice* has been and whether the guidance should be clarified.

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm

MEMBERS AND APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES OF TRIBAL NATIONS ONLY

This session provides another opportunity for Tribal members and appointed representatives of Tribal Nations to discuss, in an open forum, with FCC staff, any matters of interest to Workshop attendees in a collaborative and constructive environment.

3:00 pm

Closing Prayer - Workshop Concludes

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