



Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Native Affairs and Policy  
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau

**FCC Tribal Broadband, Telecom, and Broadcast**  
**Training and Consultation Workshop**  
Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls, MT  
May 31 – June 2, 2016

**AGENDA**

**Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**

- 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm**      **Introduction to Broadband and Telecom – Orientation & Training Session for Tribal Representatives**  
This introduction and orientation session provides an overview of communications technologies, terminology, and key concepts. The session is for Tribal Nation representatives only and includes regional networking among participants. This informal workshop is ideally suited for Tribal officials, Tribal government program and project managers, and Tribal representatives who are new to the subjects of telecommunications, broadband, and broadcast media. Attendees will learn and discuss key subjects and issue areas to prepare for the rest of the event and for work with the FCC, with communications carriers, and within their Tribal Nations.

**Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

- 8:30 am – 9:00 am**      **Doors Open - Registration**
- 9:00 am – 9:30 am**      **Welcome, Overview of Agenda, Logistics of Event**
- 9:30 am – 10:00 am**      **Introduction to the Federal Communications Commission. What does the FCC do in Indian Country and why does the FCC matter to Tribal Nations?**  
This session introduces the FCC and explains 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. This session provides a brief introduction to the FCC Native Learning Lab, an on-site computer-

based mobile resource lab that can be tailored to individual needs, and FCC.gov. This session will also introduce the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and discuss how the FCC has partnered with USDA to develop and implement outreach and training for Tribal Nations.

- 10:00 am – 10:30 am** **Overview of the Federal Universal Service Fund Programs**  
This session provides an overview of the FCC's Universal Service Fund and its four subsidy programs: (1) the High Cost program, including the Connect America 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 also includes an overview of how these programs operate, their application processes, and what it means to be an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC), including the Tribal government engagement obligation.
- 10:00 am – 5:00 pm** **FCC Native Learning Lab Open – Please See an ONAP Staff Member to Schedule Learning Lab Consultation Time**
- 10:00 am – 10:30 am** **Learning Lab Open House – Introduction to the FCC's Native Learning Lab**
- 10:30 am – 10:45 am** **Break**
- 10:45 am – 11:30 am** **Introduction to the USDA and Overview of Rural Utilities Service Programs**  
 This session will explain the USDA's role in providing leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues. Specifics will be provided in regards to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), which administers programs that provide much-needed infrastructure or infrastructure improvements to rural communities. These include water and waste treatment, electric power and telecommunications services.
- 11:30 am – 12:15 pm** **E-rate: The Schools and Libraries Universal Service Program**  
This session provides a detailed look at the E-rate program, also known as the Schools and Libraries program. As the nation's largest educational technology program, E-rate provides \$3.9 billion annually in discounts to assist schools and libraries in obtaining the high-speed broadband service that schools need for digital learning technologies and testing, and that libraries need to provide high-speed online access and research tools. This session will provide training and information on how to apply for the E-rate program, and will preview additional upcoming training opportunities designed specifically for Tribal schools and libraries.
- 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm** **Lunch Break – lunch on your own**
- 1:15 pm – 2:00 pm** **Community Connect Grant Program (USDA)**  
 Details will be provided on this program, which helps fund broadband deployment into rural communities where it is not yet economically viable for private sector providers to deliver service. These grants cover the costs to construct broadband networks in rural communities of 20,000 or less.
- 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm** **Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program (USDA)**  
 The USDA's 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. For example, this program can link teachers and medical service providers in one area to students and patients in another.

- 2:45 pm – 3:30 pm**      **The High-Cost Program – Rate-of-Return** (includes call with HQ)  
 The Commission recently adopted changes to the USF High Cost rules which govern how Rate-of-Return carriers recoup certain costs. As part of that document, the Commission also set forth a proposal and seeks comment on whether it should adopt a Tribal Broadband Factor – a multiplier giving extra reimbursement for Rate-of-Return carriers serving Tribal lands with wired broadband service. This session will explore that proposal along with the questions the Commission seeks answers to and will provide attendees with an understanding of how these carriers function and how the Universal Service Fund supports their operations.
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- 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm**      **Break**
- 3:45 pm – 4:30 pm**      **The Low-Income Program: The Universal Service Lifeline and Link Up Programs**  
 This session provides a detailed look at the Low-Income Universal Service program, comprised of the Lifeline and Link Up programs. Lifeline provides a monthly discount on phone service to qualifying low-income customers, while Link Up provides a one-time discount on initial installation charges. Enhanced Tribal Lifeline provides a higher subsidy amount for eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands. Learn about recent reforms to update the Low-Income program for broadband, and about changes that affect enhanced Tribal support.

**Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- 8:45 am**                      **Doors Open**
- 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**      **FCC Native Learning Lab Open**
- 9:00 am – 10:30 am**      **Tribal Radio is Backbone Technology and the Voice of the Community: How to Obtain a Radio Broadcast License with the FCC’s Tribal Priority, and How to Run a Tribal Radio Station**  
 Distinct new regulations for Tribal Nations now make it easier to obtain an FM radio broadcast license for services over Tribal lands. Learn how to get a radio station licensed and running from the perspectives of Tribal radio station management. Learn the licensing mechanisms at the FCC available to Tribal Nations. Hear practical legal and engineering advice. In addition to expert panelists, this session will present video information from the Native station perspective on starting up a broadcast facility, as well as materials on the licensing procedures at the FCC.
- 10:30 am – 10:45 am**      **Break**
- 10:45 am – 12:00 pm**      **Starting Up and Running a Tribal Communications Company: The Perspectives of Tribal Telecom and Project Managers on How to Build Capacity and Deploy Services**  
 This session will provide an opportunity to hear the perspectives and experiences on telecom and broadband deployment from Tribal communications general managers and directors from across the region. This will include an overview of Tribal needs in communications services and detailed discussions of specific methods used to build business models and to develop critical telecom and broadband communications infrastructures. Tribal managers will also provide insights on how to increase internal capacities and knowledge within Tribal Nations. Led by Tribal communications service providers, this session will provide an opportunity to learn from the experience of others and develop knowledge and resource networks for coordination.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch Break – lunch on your own**

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm



**A Review of Options Under Substantially Under Served Trust Areas (SUTA) for USDA Loan Programs**

The USDA has implemented the Substantially Underserved Trust Area ("SUTA") provisions of the Food, Conservation & Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill). The SUTA provisions give the agency new tools to finance improvements in electric, telecommunications, water and sewer infrastructure in underserved tribal communities.

1:45 pm – 2:30 pm

**The Tribal Engagement Obligation**

Eligible Telecommunications Carriers are now required to undertake meaningful engagement with Tribal governments on a variety of priorities related to broadband deployment. The rules require that ETCs demonstrate on an annual basis that they have meaningfully engaged Tribal governments in their supported areas. This session will review the rules and seek audience feedback regarding the experiences that Tribal governments have had in engaging with carriers under these rules.

2:30 pm – 3:15 pm

**Wireless Spectrum and Infrastructure** (including call with HQ)

This session highlights the Commission's wireless communications policies. It will include a discussion of Commission proposals to make licensed spectrum available to Tribal Nations to help increase wireless deployment on Tribal lands. The cultural preservation review of non-compliant wireless infrastructure will also be addressed in this session.

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

**Break**

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

**Consultation and Listening Session: THIS SESSION IS OPEN TO TRIBAL NATIONS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ONLY**

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