

FCC Seeks Comment On Access To Spectrum And Related Data

SUSAN MORT

DEPUTY CHIEF, WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU

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Tribal Broadband Connectivity

- We recognize that Tribal Nations and the Native Hawaiian Community continue to face connectivity challenges, and the Commission remains committed to addressing this digital divide.
- As the Commission looks at ways to increase broadband connectivity in Tribal communities, one of key issues is the extent to which Tribes or Tribally-controlled entities currently have access to wireless spectrum.
- In order to assess current and future policy efforts designed to achieve this goal, we seek additional information about how Tribal Nations and the Native Hawaiian Community are accessing spectrum, whether it be through direct licensing or other means (for example, leasing).

Public Notice

- On August 4, 2023, ONAP and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau released a [Public Notice](#) (Notice) seeking comment on how and the extent to which Tribal Nations and Native Hawaiian Community are able to access wireless spectrum.
- The Commission's current wireless licensing application forms do not collect information to identify Tribal or Native Hawaiian applications, thus, we are seeking comment on the potential addition of legal entity categories or demographic questions to better identify Tribal applicants seeking to obtain or currently holding spectrum licenses.

Current FCC Form 601 Questions

Question 14:

<p>14) Applicant/Licensee Legal Entity Type: (Select One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Unincorporated Association <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Government Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Liability Company</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> General Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Liability Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Consortium</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>

Question 27:

27) Demographics (Optional)		
<p>Race:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> White</p>	<p>Ethnicity:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino</p>	<p>Gender:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Male</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Female</p>

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The Public Notice seeks comment on the following issues:

- What are appropriate legal entity categories, demographic questions, and/or terminology that will recognize both the sovereign status of Tribal Nations, as well as the broad diversity of Tribal Nations and the Native Hawaiian Community?
- If legal entity categories or demographic questions are added to the Commission's wireless licensing forms to more readily identify Tribal or Native Hawaiian applicants, should this additional information be mandatory or optional?
- Should the forms collect responses only from Tribal Nations or Tribal government entities, or should they also collect responses from non-governmental Tribal entities, such as businesses, or individual Tribal citizens?

FCC Seeks Comment On Access To Spectrum And Related Data (continued)

- To what extent have Tribal Nations and the Native Hawaiian Community been able to successfully access licensed spectrum through secondary market transactions in the recent past (for example, leasing arrangements and the partitioning or disaggregation of licenses held by carriers or other non-Tribal entities)?
- Are there ways in which the Commission can expand awareness among Tribal Nations and the Native Hawaiian Community about how they can access spectrum without applying for a license (for example, General Authorized Access Tier of the Citizen's Broadband Radio Service, unlicensed use in White Spaces, and the 5 GHz band)?

Tribal Input is Important

- We encourage Tribal interests to file comments in response to the Public Notice.
- Comments to the Public Notice must be filed by November 30, 2023.
- [Submit a Standard Filing](#) through the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System, enter the docket number "23-265" in the "Proceeding(s)" field.