

# **Broadband Policy & Deployment in Indian Country**

American Indian Policy Institute  
Arizona State University

May 2022

# Agenda



Intro

AIPI Broadband Work

Broadband Programs &  
Implementation

Q & A

# American Indian Policy Institute

Arizona State University



 **American Indian  
Policy Institute**  
**Arizona State University**

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**Leading the discourse on Tribally-driven, informed policymaking.****Mission**

Leading the discourse for Tribally-driven, informed policy-making.

We accomplish our mission by translating research and policy analysis into applied knowledge, creating partnerships between academia and Indian Country, serving communities via innovative capacity-building initiatives and driving change through community embeddedness

**Vision**

We are fully committed to Tribally-driven participatory research in which tribal governments identify their own research needs and seek out collaborations with the university. As part of Tribally-driven participatory research, the Policy Institute responds to Tribal research direction and empowers Tribal Nations, tribal communities and American Indian students through projects that support self-determination and build Tribal capacity.

**Values**

We strive to provide thought leadership on American Indian policy in order to enhance our local impact and social embeddedness serving Native Nations. By providing progressive policy analysis, research, and executive education. We seek to elevate Native Nations in local, regional, national and global communities while creating a dynamic dialogue through multiple communication modalities.

# Traci Morris

Ph.D. (Chickasaw)

Executive Director,  
American Indian Policy Institute

Dr. Morris, the executive director of the American Indian Policy (AIPI) Institute at Arizona State University is a member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. Under her leadership, the AIPI has grown and diversified its service to Indian Country providing policy analysis, Tribally driven research, and economic development capacity building and working with such Indian Country partners as [NCAI](#), [NAFOA](#), and [AISES](#).



# EJ John

## J.D. (Navajo)

### Policy & Research Analyst, American Indian Policy Institute

AIPI's Policy & Research Analyst and is a member of the Navajo Nation from Vanderwagen, New Mexico. He received his J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2016 with a concentration in Indian Law. Prior to that, E.J. received his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of New Mexico in 2013. Before joining AIPI, He worked for the Navajo Nation as a Policy Analyst in the Office of Navajo Government Development.

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# **AIPI Broadband Work**

# Research & Policy

Tribal Technology Assessment

Policy Briefs & Recommendations

EBB/ACP maps & data

Data collection analysis



# Tribal Broadband Resources Page

Tribal Broadband Policy Priorities 2022

Tribal Technology Assessment: The State of Internet Service on Tribal Lands

Policy briefs

Blog

Collection of resources (i.e. ILSR “Indigenous Future Zones” Report on Tribal Broadband, ISOC broadband policy priorities)

Source: [AIPI Tribal broadband resources page](#)

# Broadband Programs & Implementation

# Key Legislation

Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act (Infrastructure Act, IIJA)

# Key Funding Programs

- Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program
- Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program (BEAD)
- Digital Equity Act Programs
  - State Planning Grant Program
  - State Capacity Grant Program
  - The Competitive Grant Program

# Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP)

- \$980 million + \$2 billion
- 280 applications totaling over \$5 billion in requests as of 9/1/21
- 14 projects awarded totaling \$6 million

Source: [NTIA TBCP Website](#), [NTIA Tribal Nations Website](#)

# Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program (BEAD)

- \$42.45 billion
- To close the availability gap, as Congress finds that "access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband is essential to full participation in modern life in the United States."
- Priorities
  - Unserved locations (No access to 25/3 Mbps<sup>3</sup> )
  - Underserved locations (No access to 100/20 Mbps<sup>3</sup> )
  - Community anchor institutions (Without gigabit connections)
  - persistent poverty / high-poverty areas, speed of proposed
  - network, build time and demonstrated records on compliance with federal labor & employment
  - Laws
- States must develop broadband plans to be approved by NTIA

Source: IIJA Div. F, Tit. I, Sec. 60101(1), [NTIA BEAD Website](#)

# Digital Equity Act Programs

- State Planning Grant Program - \$60 million
- State Capacity Grant Program - \$1.44 billion
- The Competitive Grant Program - \$1.25 billion

Source: [NTIA Digital Equity Programs Website](#)

# Digital Equity Act Programs cont.

- Objective: Support the closure of the digital divide & promote equity and digital inclusion, so that "individuals and communities have the information technology capacity that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States."
- State Governors must appoint an 'administering entity,' which can be one, or a partnership of multiple entities including Tribes.

Source: [NTIA Digital Equity Programs Website](#)



# Q & A

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