

TRIBAL BROADBAND

PARTNER GUIDE

TRIBAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (TBCP) ROUND 3
NATIVE ENTITIES GRANT PROGRAM (NEGP)



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For years, we have partnered with Tribal Nations across the country to help plan, fund, design, build, and support broadband networks. Our team has worked alongside Tribes on broadband feasibility studies, TBCP and ReConnect initiatives, BEAD planning, FTTH engineering and construction, project management, cybersecurity, environmental reviews, and ongoing operational support.

We understand the funding programs, permitting challenges, stakeholder coordination, and community-driven decision-making that are critical to Tribal projects. Every community goals are unique, and we approach each engagement as a long-term partnership focused on advancing tribal sovereignty, strengthening community resilience, and creating sustainable broadband networks for future generations.

CCI SYSTEMS

YOUR TRIBAL PARTNER

A Critical Moment for Tribal Broadband

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has opened the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Round 3 and Native Entities Grant Program (NEGP), making nearly \$800 million available to Tribal Nations.

Key Reality

With only **one application allowed per entity**, choosing the right strategy and the right partner is essential.

Why Partner Selection Matters

Tribal broadband projects are not standard rural deployments. They exist within a unique framework shaped by:

- Sovereign governance and decision-making processes
- Cultural preservation and community consultation
- Complex land ownership and regulatory environments
- Multi-layered funding strategies

The right partner must deliver more than infrastructure!

THE FULL SUITE OF CCI SYSTEMS SERVICES:

Consulting & Due Diligence

- Grant Application Support
- Pre-Grant and Post-Grant Award Consultations
- Grant Compliance & Reporting
- Network Assessments
- Feasibility Studies
- CapEx Planning & Scheduling
- Cybersecurity Assessments
- Due Diligence for Mergers & Acquisitions
- Easement and Right-of-Way
- Site Acquisition & Real Estate

Engineering

- Wireless Tower A/E
- Detailed Network Design
- Joint Use Management & Make-Ready
- Permitting
- Environmental Studies
- GIS & Mapping
- Digital Field Services
- Natural Disaster Recovery

Technical Field

- Fiber Splicing & Testing
- Fiber Characterization & Advanced Testing
- Fiber OPGW
- Fiber Audits
- Fiber Upgrades
- HFC Upgrades/HFC Sweep
- Field Routing/OSP Walk Out
- System Sweep & Activation

Construction Management

- Wireline
- Wireless

Network Sustainability

- Contact Center
- NOC Services
- Cybersecurity
- Network Maintenance
- Asset Management
- Expanded Sustainability Solutions



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OWNED



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YEARS
EXPERTISE



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SKILLED
WORKFORCE



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CURRENT
CLIENTS
SERVED



20+
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MEMBERS



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UNDERSTANDING TRIBAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (TBCP)



To make the most of TBCP Round 3, Tribal applicants must begin with a clear understanding of their ultimate goal because this program requires selecting one path that shapes both your application and your long-term outcomes. If your priority is to build or significantly expand broadband infrastructure, such as deploying fiber, improving middle-mile access, or creating a long-term, self-sustaining network, then the **Infrastructure Deployment (ID)** track is the right fit, offering larger funding but requiring more detailed planning, engineering, and regulatory navigation.

On the other hand, if your goal is to deliver near-term community impact, such as increasing internet adoption, enabling telehealth services, supporting workforce development, or improving affordability, then the **Use & Adoption (U&A)** track may be the better choice, with a simpler application and faster implementation timeline.

TBCP ONE APPLICATION - TWO GRANT PROGRAMS WITH DIFFERENT USE CASES



Infrastructure Deployment (ID)

- Funding: \$1M – \$25M
- Supports fiber, middle-mile, towers, interconnection
- Includes planning, engineering, and environmental review

Consideration: Higher funding, but greater complexity and regulatory requirements



Use & Adoption (U&A)

- Funding: \$500K – \$2.5M
- Supports digital literacy, telehealth, workforce development, access programs

Consideration: Faster impact, simpler application, lower funding cap



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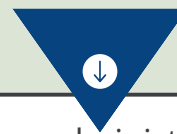
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UNDERSTANDING NATIVE ENTITIES GRANT PROGRAM (NEGP)



The Native Entities Grant Program (NEGP) is a \$250 million funding initiative administered by the NTIA designed specifically to support digital equity and inclusion efforts across Tribal communities, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

Unlike the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), NEGP does not separate applicants into Infrastructure Deployment (ID) or Use & Adoption (U&A) tracks. Instead, it is fully focused on **enabling communities to access, afford, and effectively use broadband services**, making it best suited for projects that prioritize people, *not infrastructure*.

PROGRAM PURPOSE & FOCUS

NEGP is designed to ensure that once broadband infrastructure is available, community members can fully benefit from it. This means funding is prioritized for initiatives that:

- ▶ Improve internet affordability and access
- ▶ Provide devices (laptops, tablets, etc.) to households
- ▶ Expand digital literacy and training programs
- ▶ Enable telehealth, education, and workforce development
- ▶ Support community anchor institutions and digital services

NEGP helps bridge the last mile of adoption, ensuring connectivity investments translate into real community impact.

WHEN SHOULD YOU CHOOSE NEGP?

NEGP is the right fit if your community's goal is to:

Expand Access & Affordability

If residents cannot afford service or devices, even when infrastructure exists, NEGP provides the support to close that gap.

Increase Broadband Adoption

If your network is underutilized or adoption rates are low, NEGP enables programs that drive user engagement and participation.

Deliver Immediate Community Impact

NEGP-funded programs can be implemented faster than infrastructure builds.

Complement Existing or Planned Infrastructure

If your community is already pursuing infrastructure funding (through TBCP ID, BEAD, or other programs), NEGP helps maximize the value of those investments.

If your goal is to build infrastructure → look to TBCP (ID)

If your goal is to drive access, adoption, and impact → NEGP is your path



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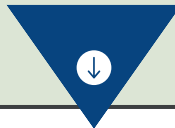
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THE IMPORTANCE OF GRANT APPLICATION SUPPORT



The structure of TBCP Round 3 places significant weight on the strength and clarity of the application itself, making the difference between simply submitting and truly competing for funding. With only one application allowed per entity, Tribal Nations must make critical decisions early, including selecting the right path (Infrastructure Deployment vs. Use & Adoption), clearly defining project scope, and addressing regulatory and compliance considerations upfront. A well-developed application not only demonstrates technical feasibility but also tells a compelling story of community impact, long-term sustainability, and readiness to execute. Without the right support, applicants risk misaligned project scopes, underestimated permitting complexities, and weaker narratives that may not fully capture the value or viability of the project.

CCI Systems brings specialized grant application support tailored to the unique realities of Tribal broadband projects. We have a proven track record in Tribal communities of combining regulatory expertise, engineering insight, and strategic planning. CCI Systems helps Tribal communities build applications that are both compliant and competitive. Our team works alongside you to align your project with NTIA requirements, integrate feasibility and sustainability planning into your submission, and proactively address risks tied to land status, cultural protections, and environmental review. This approach not only strengthens your initial application but also positions your project for smoother deployment if awarded.

The TBCP Round 3 structure places significant pressure on the application itself.

A strong partner helps you:



- Make the right strategic choice (ID vs. U&A)
- Clearly define project scope
- Address risk and compliance upfront
- Build a submission that reflects both technical strength and community impact

Without this support, common risks include:



- Misaligned project scope
- Underestimated regulatory requirements
- Weak narrative positioning
- Delays during deployment due to unaddressed constraints



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WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A BROADBAND PARTNER



Our Collaborative Approach

We support Tribal Nations in building solutions that reflect their priorities, not imposing external frameworks.

Key Areas of Support

- Grant application support and development
- Regulatory navigation and compliance alignment
- Pre-engineering and feasibility planning
- Network design and deployment support
- Operations and lifecycle management



RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY

- Proven experience working within Tribal governance structures
- Commitment to Tribal-led decision-making
- Understanding of cultural and environmental priorities



GRANT APPLICATION SUPPORT

- Align your project with NTIA requirements
- Evaluate ID vs. U&A with clarity
- Develop a strong, outcome-driven narrative
- Incorporate engineering, feasibility, and sustainability
- Address compliance considerations early



REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE KNOWLEDGE

- BIA coordination
- Environmental and cultural review processes
- Section 106 compliance
- Stakeholder mapping and approvals



DEPLOYMENT RISK REDUCTION

- Conduct pre-engineering and feasibility analysis
- Identify permitting risks early
- Map stakeholders and approval pathways
- Reduce delays before construction begins



END-TO-END SUPPORT

- Network design and engineering
- Buildout and deployment oversight
- Operations and maintenance
- Workforce development alignment
- Long-term sustainability planning



EXPERIENCE WITH TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

- Working with diverse Tribal Nations
- Building trust-based partnerships
- Delivering projects that align with Tribal priorities

KEY DATES TO PLAN AROUND

NEW DEADLINE

- APPLICATIONS OPENED: JUNE 17, 2026
- **DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 17, 2026**
- AWARDS BEGIN: SPRING 2027



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