



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554
Office of Native Affairs and Policy

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Title: FCC Native News Digest -- November 2024

Greetings from the Federal Communications Commission.

To make it easy for Tribal Communities to engage with the FCC, the Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP) publishes a monthly digest with updates and reminders that may be of interest to Tribal leaders, governments, businesses and other organizations. This list is not comprehensive of all FCC deadlines, programs, and initiatives, but includes certain items that might be important to the communities that you serve.

Please reach out to Native@fcc.gov with any questions.

NEWS AND REMINDERS

New Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program

- On October 28, 2024, the FCC announced the launch of the Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program (T-LEAP). Building on the Tribal Library Pilot Program from the past two years, T-LEAP is a permanent program providing one-on-one assistance for Tribal library applicants in all aspects of preparing, applying, and receiving E-Rate support throughout a funding year. The E-Rate program, part of the FCC's Universal Service Fund, provides discounts of up to 90 percent of the costs for broadband connections and internal connections (e.g., Wi-Fi access points, routers, cabling, etc....). Tribal libraries interested in T-LEAP can review the [E-Rate FAQ Two Pager for Tribal Libraries](#), [Informational Brochure](#), and [sign up](#) for T-LEAP year-round.

[>>> Read More Here](#)

FCC Announces Alaska Connect Fund and Seeks Further Comment

- On November 1, 2024, the FCC adopted an Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking establishing the Alaska Connect Fund program (the "Alaska Connect Fund" or "ACF") for fixed and mobile providers in Alaska. The ACF Order adopts an increase in funding to existing USF-funded service providers beginning in 2025 and provides for continued support for fixed and mobile services through 2034. For fixed services, the Commission established a framework, starting January 1, 2029, to support the operations and maintenance of network infrastructure funded by federal and state deployment programs. The Further Notice seeks comment on the implementation of ACF Mobile Phase II, including a competitive bidding process in duplicate-support areas.

The Further Notice also asks about Tribal Consent requirements and advancing digital equity for both fixed and mobile ACF support carriers in Alaska.

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FCC Encourages Tribes to Become IPAWS Alerting Authorities

- The FCC is encouraging Tribes to participate in the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) as alerting authorities so that they can issue alerts and warnings such as Missing Persons or Public Health and Safety alerts, to their jurisdiction. IPAWS is the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency and public safety information to the public through mobile phones using Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), to radio and television via the Emergency Alert System (EAS), and on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Radio. See FEMA's fact sheet on IPAWS: [How Tribal Nations Can Use IPAWS](#).

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FCC Adopts Georouting for 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Calls

- The FCC adopted rules that will require all U.S. wireless providers to implement georouting for calls to the 988 Lifeline. The rules require wireless providers to implement georouting solutions for 988 calls to route wireless calls to local crisis centers based on the geographic area associated with the origin of a 988 call rather than by area code and exchange, while protecting the privacy needs of the caller. Compliance with the 988 call georouting rules is required for nationwide providers by January 13, 2024, and non-nationwide providers by December 14, 2026. The Commission also announced that it is seeking comment on a proposal to require covered text providers to provide georouting data for 988 text messages. Comments are due December 20, 2024, and reply comments are due January 9, 2025.

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OPEN COMMENT PERIODS

The FCC's seeks comment from the public in its rulemakings, typically through a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Visit the FCC's website at <https://www.fcc.gov/>, or go to "Proposed FCC Rulemakings" at <https://www.fcc.gov/proposed-rulemakings> for more information on open proceedings.

Alaska Connect Fund - FCC Seeks Comment on Tribal Consent and Other Issues (WC Docket No. 23-328)

- In the Further Notice to the Alaska Connect Fund order, the FCC seeks comment on Tribal Consent requirements for the Alaska Connect Fund, as well as on service level goals for ACF Mobile Phase II, the methodology to determine support amounts for duplicate support areas, and the competitive or alternative mechanism to distribute support for duplicate support areas. ONAP will provide information about comment deadlines when the deadlines become available.

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Broadband Data Caps Notice of Inquiry (WC Docket No. 23-199)

- On October 15, 2024, the Federal Communications Commission released a Notice of Inquiry to hear more about how data caps impact consumers. Reply Comments are due on December 2, 2024.

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Interested parties may file comments and reply comments on FCC proceedings through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>. Please check the docket number for the proceeding and refer to it in your submission.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention

- FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel [delivered remarks](#) at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, to announce that the FCC will make the Tribal Libraries Pilot Program a permanent effort through a program called the Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program (T-LEAP) and to highlight the new Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP) alert code.

FEMA IPAWS Event

- On December 12, 2024, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will host an **IPAWS Users Conference: Year-in-Review and Trends for Tomorrow**. The new Missing and Endangered Persons Event Code is among the topics to be covered at this virtual event. More information on this event is available on FEMA's website here: <https://www.fema.gov/event/ipaws-users-conference-year-review-and-trends-tomorrow>. For more information, please contact: FEMA-IPAWS-Stakeholder-Engagement@fema.dhs.gov.

Broadband Data Task Force Announces Mobile Challenge Office Hours

- The FCC will host two Office Hours sessions in December on topics related to submitting bulk mobile challenges. Each Office Hours includes a Q&A session and is designed as a follow up to the FCC's [recent webinar](#) on how to challenge the mobile broadband coverage data reflected on the National Broadband Map.
 - **Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 3-4:30 p.m. ET** – Mobile challenge thresholds and other things to keep in mind when conducting a test.
 - **Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 3-4:30 p.m. ET** – Collecting and submitting bulk challenge data in accordance with Broadband Data Collection (BDC) Data Specifications,

Register the Office Hours session(s) in the link provided in the FCC's November 19th Public Notice: [November 19th Notice](#). Registrants may participate in one or both sessions using the same Zoom link. Questions may be submitted in advance to BDCWebinar@fcc.gov or during the sessions.

[>>> Read More Here](#)

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