



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

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**Date: October 18, 2024**

**Title: FCC Native News Digest-October 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 does include items that might be important to the communities that you serve.

Please visit the FCC's website at <https://www.fcc.gov/>, go to "Proposed FCC Rulemakings" at <https://www.fcc.gov/proposed-rulemakings> for more information, or reach out to ONAP at [Native@fcc.gov](mailto:Native@fcc.gov) with any questions. A copy of this news digest is available at [www.fcc.gov/Native](http://www.fcc.gov/Native).

### **NEWS AND REMINDERS**

#### **Office of Native Affairs and Policy Welcomes New Team Members**

ONAP is pleased to welcome two new Policy Advisors to expand the Commission's outreach and engagement efforts on issues critical to Tribal communities. With their extensive experience in public service on behalf of native people, they will bring valuable perspectives to the Commission's work.

- Kraynal Alfred joins ONAP after 15 years of experience working in our nation's capital on issues impacting Indian Country, including serving as the Tribal Liaison for the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) during the COVID-19 pandemic. She holds a master's degree in policy from the Harvard Kennedy School and has notably worked for the Navajo Nation, the Department of the Interior's Office of Public Affairs, and two national Indian organizations. Kraynal is a member of the Navajo Nation.
- Jack Jackson, Jr., also a member of the Navajo Nation, brings over 30 years of public service on behalf of Tribal Nations. He has worked for the Navajo Nation, the National Indian Education Association, and the National Congress of American Indians. Mr. Jackson served in the Arizona State Legislature in both the House of Representatives and Senate representing diverse communities, including several Tribal Nations. He has served as the Senior Advisor and Liaison for Native American Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, and most recently as the Tribal Liaison at the U.S. Department of Labor.

### **Lifeline Benefit Available to Individuals Impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton**

- The FCC will temporarily waive certain Lifeline program eligibility rules to ensure that consumers receiving federal disaster assistance can easily apply for and enroll in the Lifeline program. Households are also eligible for the Lifeline program if they receive emergency food assistance from the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) in the areas affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Any qualifying survivors of similar natural disasters can access this support to stay connected. To obtain information about Lifeline, or apply under the waiver once USAC has completed implementation, visit <https://www.lifelinesupport.org>.

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### **New Planning Resources for Cybersecurity Pilot Program Applicants**

- The application filing window for the FCC's Cybersecurity Pilot Program for Schools and libraries closes on Friday, November 1, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. E.T. The FCC has published a [Cybersecurity Resource Recommendations](#) document in consultation with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Department of Education. This resource is meant to highlight free and low-cost cybersecurity options and to provide first steps for schools and libraries looking to implement cybersecurity measures. Applicants to the Pilot Program may wish to consult this information as they develop their cybersecurity plans. For more information about the Pilot Program, visit the [Cybersecurity Pilot Program Website](#).

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### **Broadband Data Task Force to Host Webinar on Mobile Challenge Process**

- The FCC's Broadband Data Task Force will host a virtual webinar on Thursday, October 24, 2024, starting at 3 p.m. E.T. to provide information about how to challenge the mobile coverage data that is reflected on the National Broadband Map. To participate in the webinar, interested parties should register to attend [HERE](#). Questions about the mobile challenge process may be submitted in advance of the workshop to [BDCWebinar@fcc.gov](mailto:BDCWebinar@fcc.gov), or during the workshop using the Q&A function. The webinar will be recorded and made available on the FCC's website following the event.

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### **Reminder: October 10, 2024, Compliance Date for Broadband Labels**

- The FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau released a public notice reminding broadband service providers of the October 10, 2024, deadline to display, at the point of sale, a broadband consumer label with information about their service

offerings, including pricing, introductory rates, data allowances, and performance metrics.

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### **FCC Accepting Applications for 2025 Attorney Honors Program**

- The FCC has begun accepting applications from graduating law students, recent law school graduates, and current judicial clerks for its Fall 2025 Attorney Honors Program. The application window opened on Friday, October 11, 2024, and closes on Thursday, November 21, 2024. The Attorney Honors Program is the FCC's primary vehicle for hiring entry-level attorneys. Participants selected for the Attorney Honors Program will serve in a two-year employment and training program designed to introduce them to the field of communications law and policy and to provide a wide variety of learning experiences.

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### **OPEN COMMENT PERIODS**

*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.*

### **FCC Seeks Comment on Tribal Consent Requirement as Part of 5G Fund Proceeding (GN Docket No. 20-32)**

- Through a [Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), the FCC is requesting public comment on whether winning bidders in the 5G Fund Phase I auction must demonstrate, when submitting information needed to demonstrate their qualifications to meet the program's requirements during the post-bidding long-form application process, and prior to any authorization of support, that they have obtained consent of the relevant Tribal government to deploy network facilities using 5G Fund support on Tribal Lands. Comments are due on or before October 17, 2024; reply comments are due on or before November 1, 2024.

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### **FCC Seeks Further Comment on Implementation of E-Rate Funding for Off-Premises Hotspots (WC Docket No 21-31)**

- The FCC seeks further comment on how to maximize use of E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi hotspots and services and ensure E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi hotspots do not introduce

additional cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Comments were due on or before October 4, 2024, and reply comments are due on or before November 4, 2024.

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**FCC Extends Comment Period on Enhancing the National Broadband Map (WC Docket No. 19-195, WC Docket No. 11-10)**

- The FCC is seeking comments on a Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding modifications to enhance the precision of National Broadband Map. The FCC originally established deadlines as September 16, 2024, for comments and October 15, 2024, for reply comments. The dates to file comments and reply comments in this proceeding were extended to October 7, 2024, and November 5, 2024, respectively.

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**UPCOMING TRIBAL ENGAGEMENTS**

**NCAI Annual Convention and Marketplace: October 28 - November 1**

- FCC staff from the Office of Native Affairs and Policy will be presenting and exhibiting at the National Congress of American Indians 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention and Marketplace at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

>>> More About this Event

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