

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET FOR TRIBAL SCHOOLS & LIBRARIES

AGENDA

- Connectivity
 - Tribal communities
 - Schools
 - Libraries
- Affordability
- Stories
- Getting Started

HIGH SPEED INTERNET FOR TRIBAL SCHOOLS & LIBRARIES

WHY IS BROADBAND IMPORTANT?

- Prepares students with the skills they need for a 21st century economy
 - Improves educational outcomes
 - Broadband skills are essential to succeed in college and careers
- Connects your community to the rest of the country, and the world
 - High-speed connections at schools can support broader plans to increase broadband access in Tribal Lands
- Make sure your school or library is **future ready**



CONNECTIVITY IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

TRIBAL CONNECTIVITY

Historically, Tribal communities have lacked meaningful access to communications services.

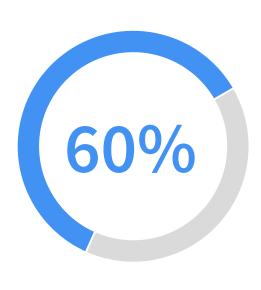
"It is critical that Native American students have the same opportunity as their non-Native counterparts to access high capacity broadband Internet technologies.

Otherwise, Native children will be **left behind** as education tools increasingly become digital."

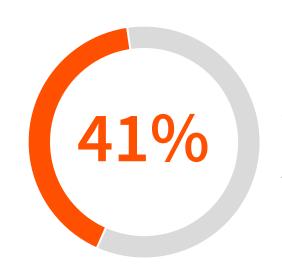
- The Benton Foundation

TRIBAL CONNECTIVITY

TRIBAL CONNECTIVITY VS. NATIONWIDE



of Bureau of Indian
Education (BIE) schools
don't have adequate digital
broadband access to be
aligned with college-andcareer-readiness standards



of Americans living on Tribal lands lack access to 25 Mbps / 3 Mbps broadband

Compare to 10% of all Americans and 4% of urban Americans

FCC short-term benchmark of 100 mbps per 1,000 students

And 68% of Americans living in rural areas of tribal lands lands lack access



BROADBAND IN SCHOOLS & LIBRARIES

STUDENTS NEED FAST INTERNET!

- Prepares students with the skills they need for a 21st century economy
 - Improves educational outcomes
 - Broadband skills are essential to succeed in college and careers
 - Filling the homework gap
- Upgraded college/career-ready standards for grades 3-12
 - Engage in learning beyond textbooks
 - Greater use of technology for research and homework
 - Standards for technology research and media skills

From the NIEA one-pager: State Standards and E-rate in Tribal Communities

WITH BROADBAND, YOU CAN...

- Have an interactive, personalized learning experience
- Use blended learning
 - Digital and face-to-face activities
- Have better access to Native language-learning resources
- Take advanced placement (AP) classes remotely
- Practice and take online testing and lectures
- Connect teachers, students, and parents
- Assess students, do lesson planning, and complete administrative tasks
- Connects your community to the rest of the country, and the world
 - High-speed connections at schools can support broader plans to increase broadband access in Tribal Lands

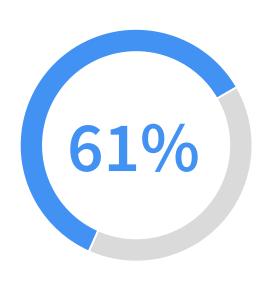


THE IMPORTANCE OF TRIBAL LIBRARIES

- 38% of Tribal libraries are the only source of free public Internet access in their communities*
- Tribal libraries serve as a communication lifeline
 - Preserve language, sacred materials, acting as cultural guardians
 - Serve large and geographically diverse areas
 - Offer a connection to higher education
 - Provide Digitized content, eBooks, online catalogs, the opportunity for research, job applications, homework space, and more

TRIBAL CONNECTIVITY

CONNECTIVITY IN TRIBAL LIBRARIES VS. NATIONWIDE



61 percent of the nation's public libraries receive E-Rate discounts



15 percent of reporting Tribal libraries receive E-Rate discounts

Over 95% offer free public Internet access

90% offer free public Internet access



CHALLENGES

CHALLENGES FOR TRIBAL LIBRARIES

- Tribal libraries do not have the same funding sources as public libraries
 - Solution: E-rate funds can help
- On average, 50% of Tribal Libraries are unaware of the E-rate Program
 - **Solution:** Attendance at conferences such as ATALM
 - **Solution:** Help us spread the word!
- Of the libraries that are aware, almost 30% find it too complicated or don't have the time to apply
 - **Solution:** Having access to the Tribal Liaison and our resources can help

AFFORDABILITY

BROADBAND EXPENSES

- FCC goal of **100 Mbps per 1,000 students** (short-term)
 - Average \$5.07/Mbps for districts meeting the FCC's goals
 - Average \$12.33/Mbps for districts not meeting the goals
 - Long-term goal of 1 Gbps per 1,000 students
- Affordability remains a primary roadblock to high-speed connections for schools
 - Tribal schools and libraries do not have the same funding sources as public entities

AFFORDABILITY

PAY THE EDUCATION RATE (E-RATE)!

E-rate funds can help. The FCC's Schools and Libraries (E-rate) Program provides discounts on broadband to schools and libraries. The program is designed to connect our nation's schools and libraries Discounts range from

20% to 90%

Tribal schools and libraries typically receive a **80 to 90%** discount

AFFORDABILITY

DISCOUNTS ON HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

Discounts for **schools and libraries**

Broadband service for elementary schools, secondary schools, and libraries

\$3.9B in funding

is available per year through the FCC's Schools and Libraries (Erate) Program



STORIES

STORY: LETCHER COUNTY SCHOOLS (KY)

Letcher County is very rural, with 3,100 students and an 85% E-rate discount.

They used a **\$409,010** funding commitment for a complete refresh of internal building wiring, wireless access Points and switches.

The district can now implement BYOD for the first time.

These upgrades will give us the capacity to allow students to use the devices they already own in the BYOD environment. The upgrades also give us the capacity to consider one-to-one solutions in the future. The benefits are endless. I honestly cannot imagine where we would be without the E-rate program."

– Randy Bailey, *Director of Tech*



STORIES

STORY: QUAPAW TRIBAL LIBRARY (OK)

The Quapaw Tribe is located on the northeast tip of Oklahoma.

They have been committed **\$44,000** since 2012 to increase their library's bandwidth and upgrade from DSL to T-1 lines.

Because of the E-Rate funding we are able to offer a faster Internet connection to our patrons (T-1 line). Before we started receiving E-Rate funding, our Internet connection was DSL, which is much slower. Not having to pay for internet service means we are able to spend more on library materials.

Patty Billings, Librarian, Quapaw Tribe of OK



QUESTIONS?



GETTING STARTED

RESOURCES & HELP

TRIBAL TRAINING

- Tribal Training is designed to promote awareness and successful participation in the E-rate Program
 - Goal: reduce the digital divide and promote high-speed broadband connectivity to Tribal schools and libraries
- The E-rate **Tribal Liaison** is dedicated to helping applicants from schools and libraries on Tribal lands
 - Contact me for assistance: mhoward@usac.org (202) 772-4535

RESOURCES & HELP

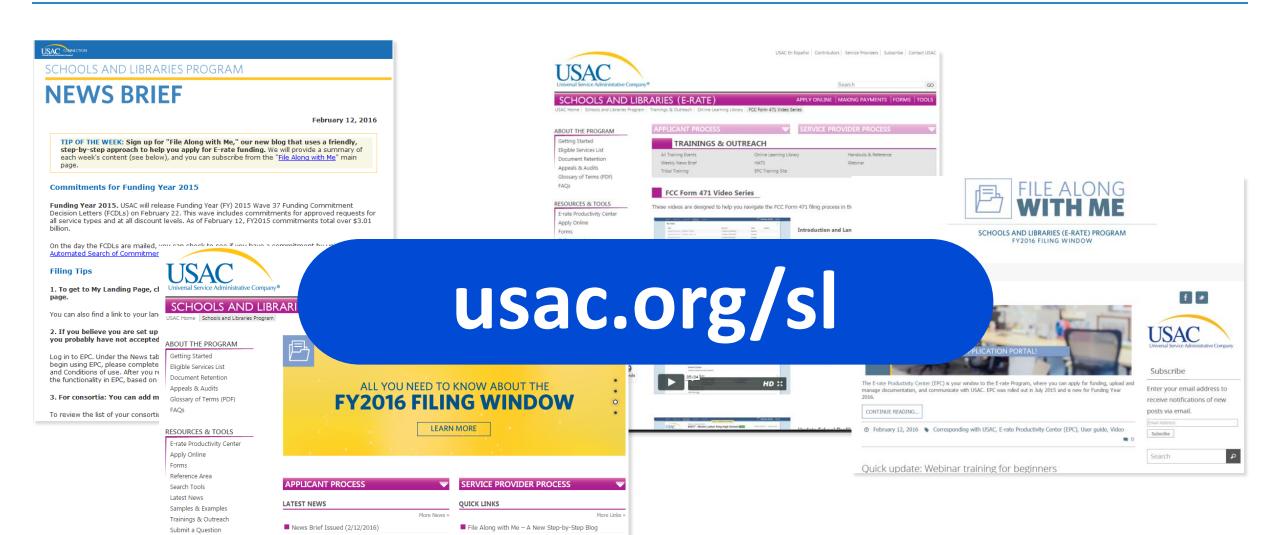
TRIBAL TRAINING RESOURCES

http://www.usac.org/sl/about/outreach/tribal.aspx

The Tribal Training Page (above) contains information on resources:

- 1) Monthly conference call (hosted by E-rate Tribal Liaison)
 - Guidance, tips, reminders and Q&A
- 2) Live training events:
 - In-depth training for Tribes on how to apply for E-rate Program funds
- 3) One on one training:
 - Contact me directly with your program questions or issues

OTHER RESOURCES



■ Join us for a Webinar — ECC Form 471 Walkthrough or

■ Wehinar Registration Open! FCC Form 471



THANK YOU!

NEXT PRESENTATION: E-RATE 101

usac.org/sl • TribalTraining@usac.org • (888) 203-8100