



# IOWA TRIBE OF KANSAS AND NEBRASKA

Tribal Consultation

Friday, Feb. 24, 2023 at 1pm – 3pm CST



## AGENDA

### INVOCATION

Tribal Elder – Pete Fee

### Welcome, Opening Remarks Introductions

Chairman Rhodd, Iowa Tribe  
Jancita Warrington, Jade Piros de Carvalho, NTIA

### Participants ( \*attended virtually)

<b>IOWAS TRIBE OF KANSAS &amp; NE:</b> Chairman Timothy Rhodd Lance Foster, Vice Chairman, Tribal Council Tony Fee, Secretary, Tribal Council Paul Fee, Tribal Elder Cheyenne Colborn, Member, Tribal Council Alan Kelley, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Sara Santo, Executive Assistant, Iowa Tribe, Grey Snow Management David Tam*, Grey Snow Management, CEO Jon Walton*, Grey Snow Management, CIO Missty Slater*, Chief of Staff Olivia Brien*, Director of Communications	<b>STATE OF KANSAS</b>  <b>OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS</b> Jancita Warrington, Executive Director  <b>OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT</b> Jade Piros de Carvalho, Director Joseph Le, Deputy Director Kimberlyn Jones, Digital Equity Manager Morgan Barnes, Outreach & Engagement Coordinator  <b>STATE OF NEBRASKA</b> Rachael Surmick, Public Service Commission, Outreach Coordinator Stacy Stupka, NE Dept of Transportation, Cultural Resource Manager	<b>NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS &amp; INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (NTIA)</b>  <b>TRIBAL BROADBAND TEAM:</b> Margaret Gutierrez*, Deputy Director, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP)* Isabel Lopez*, KS Tribal Federal Program Officer (FPO) (joined at end)  <b>OFFICE OF INTERNET CONNECTIVITY &amp; GROWTH:</b> Melinda Stanley, KS Federal Program Officer (FPO) Tom Rolfes, NE FPO
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### Goals of Engagement

- Grow the relationship between the Iowa Tribe and the Kansas Office of Broadband Development (KOBD) and establish a relationship between the Iowa Tribe and the Nebraska Broadband Office.
- Gain a clearer understanding of the broadband, digital equity priorities of the Iowa Tribe.
- Share upcoming state and federal program, planning opportunities.

### KS Broadband Program Updates

- *Brief update on state funding programs (CPF, Acceleration etc) – (KOBD)*

Summary of discussion: Piros de Carvalho provided an update on state broadband grant programs:

1. Kansas Capital Projects Fund awards finalized January 2023 and included a \$1.4M award for the Iowa Tribe.
2. Next Infrastructure grant program will be a \$30M infrastructure opportunity funded thru Kansas/ State & Local Recovery Funds /ARPA allocated by the state SPARK committee. Expect application to mirror CPF and launch in March 2023 with a 6 week window. Maximum project amount is \$5M.
3. Year 3 of the state's, Broadband Acceleration Grant Program expected to follow providing an additional \$5M program opportunity (50% match of total project, Maximum project amount is \$1M ).
4. Digital Equity Programs are in development.



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## Broadband Equity Access & Deployment (BEAD), Digital Equity (DE) & NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP)

- *Brief overview of the State's planning and implementation phases for BEAD & DE including program timelines & key deadlines. (KOBD)*

The State's BEAD (\$4.9M) and DE (\$692K) planning efforts launched January 19 at KS Broadband Summit in Wichita and is involving regional/community level stakeholders to garner feedback and input on local broadband access and digital equity needs across the state. The Tribe is encouraged to participate. Explicit needs include identifying unserved, underserved, and high cost service areas, as well digital equity and inclusion needs and approaches for access, affordability and adoption needs of all Kansans the Tribe. These plans are due late summer to NTIA. Once the state plans are approved, Kansas can proceed with subrecipient grant opportunities (est. 2024).

- *Tribal participation in TBCP (Iowas)*

*Summary:* The Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska's TBCP application is still in review.

- *Recent news on TBCP (NTIA)*

*Summary:* Margaret Gutierrez, NTIA TBCP provided an update on TBCP Phase 1 indicating a number of awards are still in the process. Lack of consent relative to applications received from providers intending to serve Tribal lands have been an ongoing challenge and have delayed and complicated the effort. Phase 2 is in the final stages of program approvals; anticipates \$1B in funding plus whatever funding remains from Phase 1.

## Discussion: Understanding Tribal Government's Perspective

### Infrastructure Access

- **Tribal background & update on broadband infrastructure plans**

*Summary:* The Tribe owns land in Kansas (the Iowa Tribe's headquarters), Nebraska and Missouri. Tribal leaders and the Tribe's historian provided extensive historical background regarding tribal lands, implications for members to reside on the tribal land and the allotment process which was conducted without tribal input and in a debilitating way scattering tribal members due to lack of work, housing. The Kansas Native American Affairs Director joined in sharing deep background on the Tribal history and implications. Sovereignty is a critical priority for the livelihood of the Iowa Tribe and its members. 95% of Tribal Members do not live here and may not have ever been here. The Tribe stressed that a member-based versus tribal lands based approach is critical. The Tribe expressed a critical priority commitment to a solution across states and lands will be an indicator of success. By incorporating a holistic solution driven approach to ensure all member of the Iowa tribe will have equitable access despite location to the tribal lands, recognized or not.

*The Tribal CIO outlined the Tribes broadband plans which involve a hybrid approach incorporating both wired and wireless (fixed and mobile) and the critical priority of approaching this in a strategic, Nation-focused way. The Iowas Tribe intends to expand the existing network infrastructure which it currently owns as a result of previously completed projects with ISPs. Key to this approach is the ability to construct this network in a vendor agnostic approach as the Tribe intends to incorporate multiple access points to ISPs to incorporate resiliency. Tribal consent has been a problem (arose in recent CPF award process), as Nextlink/AMG was awarded RDoF and ReConnect on Tribal land*



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*without working with the Iowa Tribe.*

- **What are the Tribes priority infrastructure access needs and challenges?**

*Tribes indicated infrastructure and digital equity are both areas of significant need for members on and off the reservation and across all state borders. Infrastructure needs identified in the discussion include robust, reliable internet access (wired and fixed wireless), mobile access is a significant concern across the area, spotty reception across all mobile provider networks, high levels of concern with residents access to 911/emergency management are cause for safety concerns which the Tribe indicated are a high priority; Tribe pursuing 2.5ghz spectrum licenses for public safety use and SmartFarm Precision Ag Initiative. Radio/FM licenses were also mentioned in efforts to support emergency preparedness, news and local cultural programming. Affordability is also a factor (see more under Digital Equity). These priorities are complicated by state borders which disrupt a cohesive approach across the Tribal lands and associated state lines. Tribal consent and state overbuild limitations associated with RDOF/ReConnect awards have complicated the Tribe's efforts.*

**Other challenges/opportunities: ISPs, Middle Mile, Transport Fees, environmental, climate or historical challenges, supply chain, buy American requirements in BEAD.**

*Summary: Tribal participants shared they are working with ISP (Rainbow), amidst the long term desire to be self-sufficient. Concerns/challenges with consent exist with AMG/NextLink. Middle mile/Transport fees were not indicated to be of concern. The team has yet to discuss environmental, climate, historical challenges, supply chain issues, buy American requirements.*

- **Did the Tribe submit FCC Mapping data challenge submissions?**

*Summary: Did not discuss. The Iowa Tribe did submit a letter to the FCC and NTIA requesting an extension to file map challenges. RELATED discussion: The Iowa Tribe agreed to work with KOBD on mapping initiatives and agreed to share GIS/Mapping data sets.*

## Digital Equity

- **Does the Tribe have a plan for addressing digital equity needs?**

- *Summary: Tribal participants shared this is an area of high priority for Tribal members. Additional conversation is needed to flush out what planning has been completed, the needs identified and what is yet to complete.*

- **What are the Tribe's priority digital equity needs for affordability, device access, digital literacy and adoption?**

- *Summary: Tribal identified all areas of access are a need: affordability, devices, digital literacy and adoption needs. The tribe indicated most have and use smartphones as primary device, recognizing the need for additional devices, digital literacy training and assistance. There is a preference to create tribal supports for these areas of assistance, and a desire to employ members to create resources, training opportunities and provide assistance. Additional detail shared with State for inclusion in state plan if desired.*

- **What is planned or being done to gauge awareness and participation in digital inclusion?**

- *Summary: Tribal communications were identified as an area to improve and acknowledged their recently hired Director of Communications. There was a recognition and affirmation that this is an area of need. State Broadband office offered support.*

- **Can you share the implications for quality of life needs relative to Education, Healthcare, Remote work etc..**

- *Summary: Tribal participants indicated a significant implication to members quality of life and that the ability for members to work remotely, attend education remotely, and seek telehealth services is lacking. There is a Tribal Health Center on the reservation but remote monitoring, remote healthcare services are lacking due to a lack of internet access and use capacity with digital literacy skills/devices.*



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- **Feedback on Affordable Connectivity Program efforts/challenges**

*Summary: Tribal participants indicated it has been a challenge to get Tribal members to apply for ACP and KOBD offered assistance. Both Tribal participants and KOBD acknowledged that the process can be confusing/cumbersome and that a lack of understanding of why those eligible should apply may exist. KOBD offered to provide support and resources to the Tribe. Tribal CIO mentioned the FCC Task Force for Tribal Broadband raised a request to the FCC to broaden Tribal benefit to all Tribal members to seek the full \$75/mo ACP stipend regardless of whether they lived on Tribal lands. No official FCC action has been identified. Current program rules/statutory language limit it to those members living on Tribal lands.*

### Workforce Opportunities

- **What are the Tribe's pressing workforce concerns?**

*Summary: Tribe indicated that workforce is a concern and a plan is in motion to bring training opportunities in partnership with a NE Community College to the reservation to train members as well as create new workforce opportunities through a variety of initiatives (Broadband, Transportation, Smart Farming, Logistics Center, etc.). Tribe indicated concern for succession planning through tribal workforce opportunities and trade positions.*

- **What Tribal workforce initiatives are planned or underway?**

*Summary: The Tribe mentioned numerous workforce training efforts were being developed in a variety of sectors including Broadband (fiber installers/technicians), transportation (CDL), agriculture, etc.*

- **How mature are these efforts are and how they are funded?**

*Summary: This was not discussed.*

### Feedback & Next Steps

- **Invitation to KOBD Roadshow Convenings:**

*Summary: Local opportunity in Hiawatha next on Tues., March 7 at the Fisher Community Center from 5:30 to 7pm. Details and registration here along with more dates/locations: [Kansas Broadband Roadshow](#)*

- **Confirm key point of contact**

*Summary: Iowa Tribe requested Olivia Brien, Director of Communications be the primary point of contact. NTIA's key point of contact for the Iowa tribe is Isabel Lopez (TBCP Phase 1) and Margaret Gutierrez (for everything else).*

- **Did we meet our goals for this consultation?**

*Summary: Consensus among the group of a willingness to partner and work together and expected follow up collaboration indicates that the meeting goals were achieved. The Iowa Tribe agreed to provide KOBD GIS and Mapping data regarding the Tribal lands to inform their mapping efforts. KOBD will follow up with ACP resources and committed to support the Tribe in the effort. KOBD will extend an invitation to Roadshow opportunities. KOBD will follow up to set the next meeting date. There was a clear excitement and a commitment to continue working together.*

- **Are there other priority topics we didn't get to today that you would like to discuss?**

*Summary: This was not discussed though a list of open follow up items are listed below.*

- **Any other suggestions for KOBD or NTIA?**

*Summary: Although there were not specific suggestions relayed at the meeting, all are encouraged to send suggestions to either KOBD or NTIA.*



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- **Follow Up for KOBD:**
  1. Consultation Summary
  2. ACP related Resources: [ACP Outreach Toolkit \(fcc.gov\)](#)
  3. Roadshow Information & Registration: [KS Broadband Roadshow Website](#)
  4. Link to Newsletter sign up: [KS Office of Broadband Development](#)
  5. Schedule follow up with lowas re: Tribal Needs for including in Kansas Plans:
    - Tribe's Infrastructure Plan: unserved and underserved locations
    - Clarity on consent issues relative to federal awards on KS Tribal lands.
    - Tribe's Digital Equity Plan: needs: devices, digital literacy training, resources
    - Explicit deadlines for each of the above: DATE June 1, 2023
  6. Connect the Iowa Tribe as desired to other colleagues or resources to advance priority needs such as emergency management, workforce, commerce, education, etc.
  
- **Follow Up for NTIA:**
  1. State introductions for BEAD Infrastructure and Digital Equity success across borders.
  2. **Pertinent Requirements** in BEAD NOFO for **PLANNING AND AWARENESS:**
    - **Requirements in Last Mile Projects** (page 38 of [BEAD NOFO](#))
    - iii. Last-Mile Broadband Deployment Projects: Item #10. As discussed further in Section IV.B.9.b, (below section clip from page 48) if an Eligible Entity's Final Proposal includes plans to deploy broadband to Unserved Service Projects or Underserved Service Projects that include any locations on Tribal Lands, the Eligible Entity must submit proof of the Tribal Government's consent to such deployment.)
    - **Form and content of Final Proposal** (begins on page 47-48 of BEAD NOFO)
      - b. Form and Content of Final ProposalItem #15. To the extent an Eligible Entity's Final Proposal includes plans to deploy broadband to Unserved Service Projects or Underserved Service Projects on Tribal Lands, the Eligible Entity must submit a Resolution of Consent from each Tribal Government, from the Tribal Council or other governing body, upon whose Tribal Lands the infrastructure will be deployed.

Source for above: Link to [NTIA BEAD PROGRAM NOFO](#)
  
- **Follow UP for lowas Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska:**
  1. Follow Up with KOBD regarding desire to participate in KS planning requirements and associated deadlines for submitting Tribal infrastructure access and digital equity plan data.
  2. Connect with KOBD on sharing Tribal GIS map/data.

**LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEXT CONVENING!  
THANK YOU!**





**Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation**  
 Tribal Consultation  
 Friday, March. 24, 2023 at 10am –12:30pm (CST)



## AGENDA

**Welcome, Opening Remarks Introductions**      Tribal Council Chairperson Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick,  
 Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe  
 Jancita Warrington, Jade Piros de Carvalho, NTIA

**Participants** (\*attended virtually)

<b>PRARIE BAND POTTAWATOMIE</b>	<b>STATE OF KANSAS</b>  <b>OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS</b> Jancita Warrington, Executive Director  <b>OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT</b> Jade Piros de Carvalho, Director Joseph Le, Deputy Director Kimberlyn Jones, Digital Equity Manager Morgan Barnes, Outreach & Engagement Coordinator Josh Edger, Program Manager	<b>NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS &amp; INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (NTIA)</b>  <b>TRIBAL BROADBAND TEAM:</b> Margaret Gutierrez*, Deputy Director, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP)* Isabel Lopez*, KS Tribal Federal Program Officer (FPO) (joined at end)  <b>OFFICE OF INTERNET CONNECTIVITY &amp; GROWTH:</b> Melinda Stanley, KS Federal Program Officer (FPO)
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**Goal(s) of Engagement**

- Grow the relationship between the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe and the Kansas Office of Broadband Development (KOBD).
- Gain a clear understanding of the broadband access and digital equity priorities of the Prairie Band Pottawatomi Nation.

**Planning Updates**  
 BEAD/Digital Equity &

- Brief overview of the State’s BEAD and DE Planning and upcoming subrecipient grant program opportunities including program timelines & key deadlines. (KOBD)
- Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (NTIA Tribal Liaison)

## Discussion Agenda

<b>Infrastructure:</b>	<p><i>Summary of Conversation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PBPN shared frustration with the lack of Sovereignty initiated for land access on their common lands. There seems to be working frustration with Jackson County regarding access to right of way. Currently there isn’t fiber beyond the administration buildings that was put in 2000’s. There is not any fiber that currently connects homes within the boundaries of the reservation. Internet is wireless only.</li> </ul>
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# Prairie Band Pottawatomí Nation

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	<p>PBPN was working with Giant was going to put an extender on the water tower but were unable to complete project due to Rural Water. There has been much frustration that the ISP’s right to dig supersedes tribal access. PBPN would like to do more work with ISP’s but with stipulations of a sunset clause and tribal members trained to continue work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PBPN would like to create their own utilities corporation with broadband being a utility located within the corporation.</li> <li>• Discussion and frustration of the FCC map was shared. PBPN advised the Map is inaccurate. Giant is saying they are serving all common lands, but PBPN advised this is not accurate.</li> <li>• PBPN does not have formal agreements with any providers beyond AT&amp;T and would challenge any maps/services indicating otherwise. PBPN indicated a desire to challenge the map moving forward. May be able to send a statement of certifications sharing who has been provided with access to tribal lands for internet disbursement.</li> <li>• PBPN indicated they would like to participate in BEAD plan and the state indicated they would follow-up on needs and any additional feedback.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Digital Equity:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PBPN shared that there is an equity issue they recognize that the internet is not available to – everyone and their community is very similar to other rural. Community is similar to other rural communities in the state of Kansas. PBPN has concerns with elders and their ability to access secure servers. There is knowledge that an education gap exists due to lack of access to devices, opportunities. Regarding the ACP program, PBTN advised they are unable to take full advantage of ACP because they don’t have reliable internet access in the Nation. Elder Center doesn’t have access to internet. Difficult to have Digital Equity conversation without access.</li> <li>• PBTN does have open access Wifi at the PowWow grounds and at times have allowed communities members who need access use of the administration room.</li> <li>• PBPN indicated they would like to participate in DE plan and the state indicated they would follow-up on needs and any additional feedback.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workforce Opportunities:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PBPN shared that there were workforce concerns and were working with a consultant to determine what opportunities exist.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Feedback &amp; Next Steps</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PBPN advised the key point of contact regarding broadband would be Raphael Wahwassuck &amp; Chairperson Rupnick.</li> <li>• KOBD will reach out with additional detail requests for plan inclusion and based on conversation and information shared will elevate concerns regarding right-of-way access with contact.</li> <li>• KOBD will follow-up with NTIA regarding tribal use of planning dollars.</li> <li>• KOBD advised future grant programs would consider tribal projects a priority when scoring for tribal entities.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PBPN shared information on tribal filing with the Federal Department of the Interior regarding the Treaty of 1844 and tribal lands beyond the common lands.</li><li>• Data to KOBD April 30, 2023</li></ul>
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**THANK YOU!**

Meeting Participants/Invitees:

**PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION:**

Chairperson Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick  
Secretary Lorrie Melchior  
Member Raphael J. Wahwassuck  
Member William “Bill” Evans

**KANSAS OFFICE of NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS:**

Jancita Warrington, Executive Director

**KANSAS OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT:**

Jade Piros de Carvalho, Director  
Joseph Le, Deputy Director  
Kimberlyn Jones, Digital Equity Manager  
Morgan Barnes, Engagement and Outreach Manager  
Josh Edger, Program Manager

**NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION:**

Margaret Gutierrez, Deputy Director, TBCP  
Isabel Lopez, Kansas Tribal FPO, TBCP  
Melinda Stanley, Kansas FPO, OICG



Sac and Fox Tribe of Missouri Consultation  
Monday, May 1, 2023; 1:00-3:00 pm CT  
Reserve, KS

1. Introductions

- a. Jarred Kahbeah, Tribal Member
- b. Tiauna Carnes, Chairwoman
- c. Rita Bahr, Secretary
- d. Brigitte Robidoux, Treasurer
- e. Jade Piros de Carvalho, Director, Kansas Office of Broadband Development
  - i. Opening
- f. Kimberlyn Jones, Digital Equity Manager, Kansas Office of Broadband Development
  - i. ACP, \$30/household or \$75/household on tribal lands
- g. Jancita Warrington, Executive Director of Kansas Office of Native American Affairs
  - i. Explanation of the funding pathway to tribal grants
- h. Joseph Le, Deputy Director, Kansas Office of Broadband Development
- i. Joshua Edgar, Broadband Program Manager, Kansas Office of Broadband Development
- j. Casey Russell, Broadband Infrastructure Manager, Kansas Office of Broadband Development

2. Casey Russell,

- a. explanation of 'Unserved' and 'Underserved'

3. Brigitte Robidoux,

- a. Tribal Networks are unreliable and equipment is in conflict with the provider (Rainbow).

4. Jade Piros de Carvalho--Infrastructure

- a. What is your I.T. support like?
  - i. One shared I.T. person with the casino
  - ii. One GIS person shared with the casino
- b. Who is your ISP?
  - i. Rainbow was paid 6 years ago from a USDA grant to lay fiber down the Kansas side of State Line Road bringing service to 18 homes and to Reserve, KS. Rainbow provides fiber-based services to all the tribal offices (Counsel building, community center, administrative center/courthouse and the Tribe's Trading Post, a retail/fuel station.
  - ii. Relocating to a new Trading Post location ETA: construction to begin fall 2023 requires new fiber line installation.
  - iii. Main technical issues are with the tribal equipment/network and adequate support.
  - iv. **\*\*Southeast Nebraska Telco did not sign up to participate in ACP.\*\***
- c. Brown County was going to post in the newspaper that the Tribe does not pay its taxes on Trust Land, which was a fallacy
- d. CONSENT ISSUES:
  - i. The issue of Tribal Consent was discussed and identified as a historical, ongoing issue. The Tribe cited recent water infrastructure improvements that were done without Tribe's approval.
  - ii. Village of Reserve was counting tribal members to apply for grants and for water rights.
- e. Sac and Fox does a lot for the village of Reserve, City of Falls City, and others
- f. PUBLIC SAFETY:
  - i. Village of Reserve cellular tower is ATT for Public Safety. Sac & Fox pulled fiber to the base of the tower.
  - ii. Cell phone service is a concern along Stateline Road
  - iii. Access to mobile service and 911 is a concern throughout the area

- iv. Emergency Management detonation of signals is lacking
  - v. **\*\*SBO could research the owner of the Reserve KS mobile cellular (public safety) tower and see if there has been a recent tower study, to attract Verizon or other mobile cellular internet provider\*\***
  - g. Environmental challenges are not a concern as Sac and Fox has an EPA department.
  - h. Historic Preservation not a concern- Tribe has two THPA Officers. Gary Bahr and Tiwana Carnes
  - i. Tribal Infrastructure Plan can be enveloped into the State Broadband Office Plan
5. Jade Piros de Carvalho—Digital Equity
- a. Affordability is a concern:
    - i. Rainbow Affordability; \$100/month for 100Mbps internet. Highest speed is \$180/month for 350 Mbps.
    - ii. Southeast Nebraska Telco is \$190/month for XXX Mbps Internet.
    - iii. Sac and Fox tribal offices, community center, admin building, and businesses access is \$12,000/month to Rainbow. Tribal leaders could not confirm capacity of connection or details of fiber leases, etc.
    - iv. Rainbow has a free hotspot at the community building but it is deficient, as well as the stateline hotspot.
  - b. Barriers beyond Affordability:
    - i. Subscribing for access for elder tribal members raises numerous barriers. Barriers include knowing what they need/subscribing to a service, passwords, cybersecurity eCommerce challenges, device access and device literacy, navigating the internet, etc.
    - ii. Device level: The majority of tribal members utilize their mobile phone as primary internet access device. There is a lack of tablets, computers and most cannot afford the devices.
    - iii. Pandemic: Tribe leveraged pandemic emergency response funding to provide K-12 students with devices through a Tribal program (not thru the school districts). College students received devices thru a scholarship driven program.
    - iv. Digital skills and basic literacies are lacking for elderly tribal members to access Telehealth services in addition to a need for equipment, the wherewithal to participate is absent. Telehealth monitoring services are a concern from a reliability standpoint making diabetes or heart monitoring impractical because of a lack of signal strength and extensive access, device costs.
    - v. Digital Skills Training identified as a need for the Sac & Fox Tribe.
  - c. HEALTH Services: Tribe shares a health clinic with the Iowa Tribe, and indicated the Tribes are collaborating in various ways as they share a border.
  - d. Total of 487 Sac and Fox members across the U.S., with around 50 Tribal Members living on the reservation in Kansas.
    - i. Lack of housing, lack of good jobs were cited as concerns with a declining population
    - ii. Hiawatha, KS is preferred, and has free Wi-Fi at the public library.
  - e. Tribal members were given ACP info early on.
    - i. State Broadband Office partnered with Education SuperHighway to help with the ACP application process
    - ii. KOBD shared ACP information and offered support to raise awareness.
  - f. There is a national program to help people get their first computing devices.
  - g. KOBD shared upcoming grant opportunities:
    - i. There may be a possibility of the Sac and Fox Tribe applying for Kansas Digital Equity Capacity Grants

- ii. Kansas SBO was also awarded \$15 million of U.S. Treasury Capital Projects funds for devices and community Wi-Fi, coming out in August. Grant applications would be due before the end of 2023.
- iii. Kansas SBO also has \$30 million from state & local recovery funds to provide grants for infrastructure, pending approval of guidelines
- iv. Kansas Digital Equity Plan will be done in November and will be available for public comment. Sac & Fox inquired if there was an opportunity to apply jointly for programs with the Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska as they partner on shared efforts and share a health center. The state indicated they would support that approach for activities within the state boundary.
- h. Nebraska does not recognize the Sac and Fox Tax I.D. Number and is requiring the Tribal vehicles to be re-registered on the Kansas side of the border.

**6. Jade Piros de Carvalho—Workforce Issues and Opportunities**

- a. Tribe indicated a number of current positions remain unfilled and it is challenging to bring people to work in the area.
- b. The major employers in the area beyond the tribe includes Walmart, schools, Iowa Tribe
- c. Benefits, flexible work schedules have been increased.
- d. Casino employed 200 pre-COVID and now only have 140 and are struggling.

**7. Next Steps**

- a. Sac & Fox indicated an interest in participating in program opportunities that could benefit their members and the Reserve, Kansas community.
- b. KOBD requested Sac & Fox Tribe share tribal data to include in the state's planning effort by May 15, 2023



# Kickapoo Nation

## Tribal Consultation

Friday, August 4, 2023, 2:30 pm –4:30 pm (CST)



### AGENDA

<p><b>Welcome, Opening Remarks Introductions</b></p>	<p>Richard McKinney, Kickapoo TBCP NTIA Broadband Award Project Director          Jancita Warrington, Director, Kansas Native American Affairs Office          Jade Piros de Carvalho, Director, Kansas Office of Broadband          Isabel Lopez, Kansas Tribal Federal Program Officer, TBCP</p>
<p><b>Goal(s) of Engagement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grow the relationship between the Kickapoo Nation and the Kansas Office of Broadband Development (KOBD).</li> <li>• Gain a clear understanding of the broadband access and digital equity priorities of the Kickapoo Nation.</li> <li>• Complete a successful Consultation with the Kickapoo Nation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tribal Perspective &amp; Background</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kickapoo goals and background</li> </ul>
<p><b>Broadband Planning BEAD/Digital Equity &amp; Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief overview of the State's Broadband Equity Adoption &amp; Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity (DE) Planning and upcoming subrecipient grant program opportunities including program timelines &amp; key deadlines. (KOBD)</li> <li>• Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (NTIA TBCP)</li> </ul>

### Discussion Agenda

<p><i>Tribal Perspective &amp; Background</i></p>	<p><i>Summary of Conversation:</i></p> <p>This work is like a road project: Every community needs goods roads/broadband to thrive. Kickapoo has been fortunate to receive funding to building infrastructure, but they lack the tools to maintain and support.</p> <p>Need is greater than funding available. How will we maintain, how will they educate, how will we provide vehicles.</p> <p>Through the NTIA, Kickapoo was funded for Infrastructure but not adoption and use (that's a concern). They have five areas of focus and concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underserved Areas: Ability to access the Internet. Some tribal members struggle to pay for internet. We do not want tribal members to have to choose between food and internet. Kickapoo would like to create programs or funding to so that everyone in the community can have free or unlimited access to the internet regardless of their financial situation.</li> <li>• Infrastructure within Buildings: provide public spaces in anchor institutions to help create spaces that are safe where internet is being provided and built out.</li> <li>• Workforce Capacity to Support Broadband Sustainability: Kickapoo feel forced to give money to others to complete the project. Then it becomes not sustainable by the tribe, and they become dependent on others. Prefer to be in the driver's seat. Intern programs to train tribal members, department some form of organization. Support the tribe in creating and providing training for their members to allow this work to become sustainable from within.</li> <li>• Modernizing Technology: If tribal members do not want to want to use or buy the technology tools, need to have spaces that allow them to use these things in a safe/secure location without having to invest/manage it over time.</li> </ul>
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# Kickapoo Nation

## Tribal Consultation

Friday, August 4, 2023, 2:30 pm –4:30 pm (CST)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication and Outreach in the Community: Needs assessment to outreach and engage community, create a communication plan – where does community want to go in the long term. Message and engagement to support long term sustain and support.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Infrastructure Access:</b></p>	<p><i>Summary of Conversation:</i></p> <p>Kickapoo’s vision is to have sovereignty over the assets they have constructed. Would like to have formal options to lease infrastructure back to an ISP. Currently in the short-term Kickapoo tribe is looking for ISP partners. In the future, they would like to train and support their infrastructure and network from within the nation. KOBD advised the opportunities for funding within Broadband Equity Access and Deployment is wider than the ISP’s and encouraged Kickapoo to review and apply.</p> <p>Kickapoo shared their perception of the FCC maps with an acknowledgement that they were better than what had been presented in past. Tribe is frustrated that providers were able to overstate service and were not required to consult the tribe or provide any proof of service. The frustration is that when things are reported in error, the burden of proof is on the tribes to respond to inaccurate data without the resources. Regarding the challenge process, the Kickapoo did not have the resources or the staff to challenge the map. The tribe tried to do individual challenges, but they were rejected and advised they should have done a bulk challenge. Moving forward they will include this work in their engineering workflow. Again, tribe acknowledges the FCC maps are incorrect and is doing what it can to fix it.</p>
<p><b>Digital Equity:</b></p>	<p><i>Summary of Conversation:</i></p> <p>Kickapoo would like to be part of the Digital Equity plan and work with KOBD. The challenge is the time and effort every grant takes to apply. We try to see what grants/programs we should spend our time on. Need support applying through technical assistance.</p> <p>KOBD shared that the legislature through Infrastructure Hub provided (\$50 million for matching + 5 million for technical assistance). This could be a resource to connect in with.</p> <p>Tribe felt that the Affordable Connectivity Program wasn’t helpful. Kickapoo tribe has the only tribal school in state of Kansas. Unique position. Serves tribal students from across the state.</p>
<p><b>Workforce Opportunities:</b></p>	<p><i>Summary of Conversation:</i></p> <p>Goal is that the workforce would be made up of tribal members. Part of the Grey Snow mission is to enable tribes to become their own ISP and support the mission of other tribes to do the same thing. Kickapoo is requested a re-evaluate grant funding to reallocate to do workforce training. Key areas would : fiber, network, basic business and safety. Goal is that we would help people with opportunities to do this work and expand opportunities for continuous learning and growth.</p> <p>KOBD shared about the Workforce Development Center Sponsorships across the state. Additionally sharing about the special focus on technology jobs that are currently available and then technical jobs to maintain. Goals of this work include: establish a pilot program and perhaps establish a specialized marketing campaign to go out to the Tribal communities. This conversation is ongoing and KOBD is excited to connect with the Kickapoo to continue conversations.</p>



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<b>Feedback &amp; Next Steps</b>	<p>Confirm key point of contact: Kickapoo Nation: Richard McKinney, <a href="mailto:rmckinney@khakansas.org">rmckinney@khakansas.org</a> Kansas Office of Broadband Development: Morgan Barnes, <a href="mailto:morgan.a.barnes@ks.gov">morgan.a.barnes@ks.gov</a></p> <p>Kickapoo will need time to digest and internalize to think about what the follow-up items would be. Joint desire to do more planning and use planning fund opportunities through KOBD.</p> <p>KOBD to share notes with Kickapoo. Joint desire to do more planning and use planning fund opportunities through KOBD. Shelley Paasch, Partnerships Coordinator, will help with coordinating regional planning efforts. Would encourage tribe to participate in the Speedtest at <a href="http://www.broadbandks.com">www.broadbandks.com</a>.</p> <p>From NTIA: A second Tribal Connectivity Broadband Program opportunity is now available (not accepting planning only), but funds are for broadband infrastructure, use and adoption. This competitive opportunity is accepting applications through Jan. 23, 2024 and a webinar, program notice of funding opportunity and other resources can be found here: <a href="#">Round Two Notice of Funding Opportunity   BroadbandUSA (doc.gov)</a></p>
<b>THANK YOU!</b>	

### Meeting Participants:

#### **KICKAPOO NATION:**

Sing Tam Lee – Chief Executive Officer - Levos Group  
Jon Walton – Grey Snow  
Dr. Jason Pockrus - Grey Snow Grants and Contracts Administrator,  
Paul Walk - Grey Snow Engineer  
Eric Whener - Grey Snow Engineer  
Richard McKinney - KTIK Project Director

#### **KANSAS OFFICE of NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS:**

Jancita Warrington, Executive Director

#### **KANSAS OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT:**

Jade Piros de Carvalho, Director  
Kimberlyn Jones, Digital Equity Manager  
Joshua Edgar, Broadband Program Manager  
Casey Russell, Broadband Infrastructure Program Manager  
Morgan Barnes, Engagement and Outreach Manager  
Shelley Paasch, Partnerships Coordinator

#### **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (NTIA):**

Margaret Gutierrez, Acting Division Chief of the Tribal Connectivity and Nation to Nation Coordination Division,  
Isabel Lopez, Kansas Tribal Federal Program Officer, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP)  
Melinda Stanley, Kansas Federal Program Officer Broadband Equity Access & Deployment (BEAD) & Digital Equity Act





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(DEA) Office of Internet Connectivity & Growth (OICG)