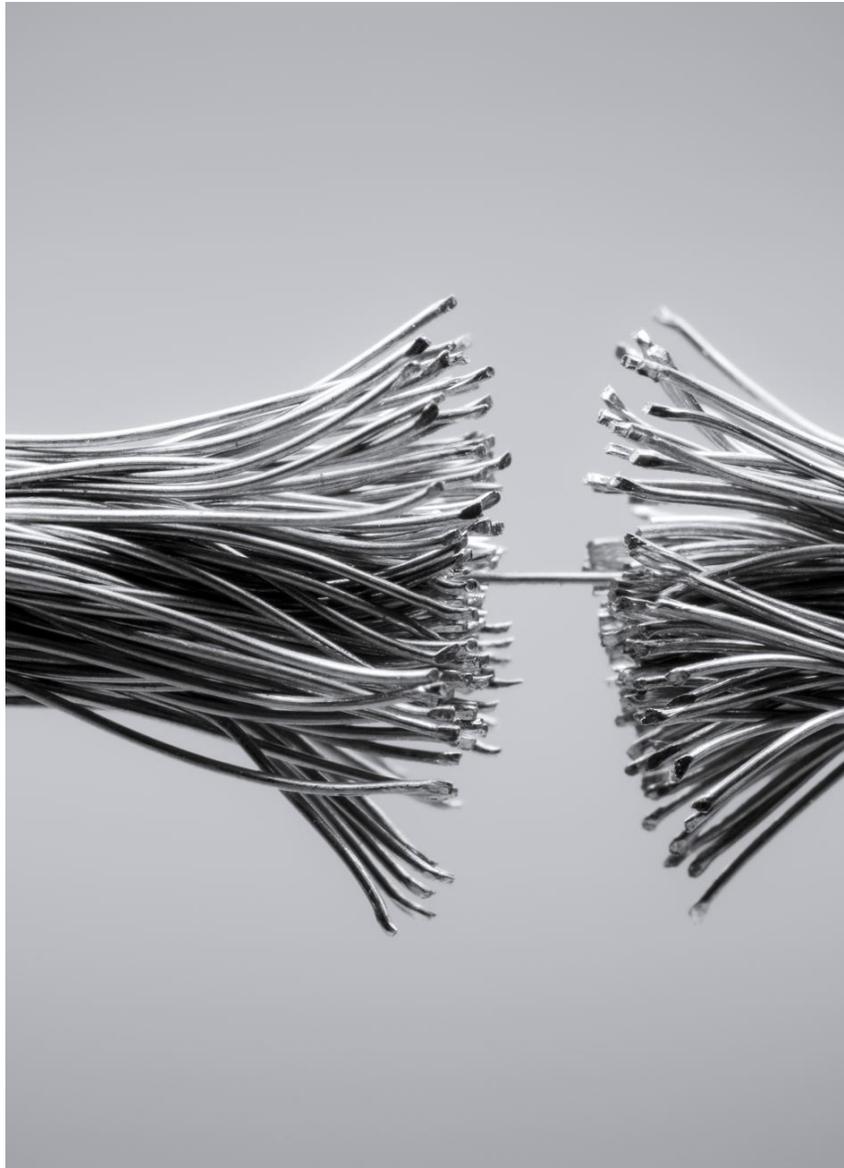


# Call to Action

Broadband Funding for Indian Country





# The Big Problem

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The problem for Indian Country concerning broadband funding is centered on the unjust allocation of funding and other resources from the federal government.

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The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program allocates \$42.5 billion to create broadband access programs at the state level, particularly for unserved communities and individuals.



# Impact

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The funds will be given to the states by the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA), primarily using a map created by the FCC (the “Fabric”).

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An initial version of the Fabric misrepresents Indian Country by incorrectly labeling the area as “served” or simply omitting data points for Tribal lands.

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Funds from the NTIA are allocated based on an Fabric. Estimates indicate that location data in the Fabric may be incorrect in 70 percent of cases in rural areas, either by omission or error.



# Result

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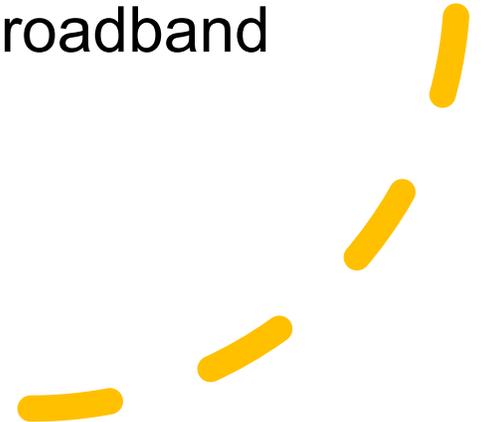
This injustice makes it difficult for Indian Country to obtain a fair share of BEAD funding.

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It is estimated that Indian County should receive at least **\$5 billion** from the BEAD program if the data were accurate.

# What to Do?

- Gather data points to refute the Fabric
  - Utilize trusted third-party tools to inform and facilitate data collection and strengthen Tribal broadband mapping efforts.
    - Develop a Tribal Nations' broadband map that accurately depicts Tribal presence.
    - Create a communication channel where detailed information about broadband coverage can be shared.



# Gathering the Data

- Tribal Ready has created the Virtual Tribal Broadband Office (VTBO) – [www.tribalready.com](http://www.tribalready.com) . The VTBO will help ensure that Tribes have access to their fair share of available funding by assisting them in gathering data to close the gaps in existing broadband mapping and by facilitating collaboration among Tribes.
- It is free for Tribes to access and utilize these tools. We have gone to extraordinary lengths to ensure privacy and data protection. Tribal Data Sovereignty is our overriding principle.
- The VTBO is designed to help ensure access to resources and support for broadband services to be deployed in Indian Country. The VTBO will help with the development and implementation of broadband initiatives for Tribes.

# Using the Data

- Advocate at the FCC, the NTIA, and other government agencies to ensure that Tribal Nations are included in all levels of mapping, including the FCC Fabric.
- Impact state and federal broadband planning to ensure the equitable allocation and deployment of funds and resources
- In addition, by utilizing data and other resources Tribal Nations can work with state broadband offices to determine the criteria for grant programs, advocate for increased funds, and work together to implement strategies for promoting technology education, providing technical assistance, and forming joint public-private partnerships to support broadband deployment.



# Tribal Ready, PBC

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Tribal Ready was founded in 2023. It brings together decades of experience in designing and delivering broadband networks. Tribal Ready's Mission is advancing Tribal Sovereignty to unleash the full power and potential of Native communities.

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Our mission is to do all we can to ensure that the high-speed broadband reaches every Native community and person. We also want to make sure that Natives are at the forefront of every step on the path to lead their own destiny.

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High-speed broadband is a resource - a means to an end. It takes resources to achieve the result of not only sustainable high-speed networks but world class access to better economic development, education, healthcare, among other benefits.



# “Public Benefit Corporation”

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We chose to be a PBC because it is in keeping with our mission of advancing Tribal Sovereignty to unleash the full power and potential of Native communities.

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A Delaware public benefit corporation is a for-profit corporation intended to produce a public benefit and operate in a responsible and sustainable manner. A PBC must be managed in a way that balances the interests of the stockholders, the company’s key stakeholders, and a specific public benefit that the company commits to in its charter.

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PBCs also serve broader societal interests for the benefit of society, the environment, the natural world and/or the world at large. In this way, they reflect a very different conception of the corporate form than the “shareholder primacy” model, which is focused solely on shareholder economic benefit work.



# Who we are

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Our team has decades of experience working with Tribes, planning, building and operating communication networks. Our experience is focused on rural and unserved communities – Indian Country. We know how to plan, build, operate, and sustain networks that will benefit Native communities.

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We are demonstrating our commitment by providing technical expertise and a dynamic platform that facilitates access to information, communication, collaboration, and other resources to make sure that Natives receive all the funding and cooperation deserved.

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We believe in the history, character, strength, and values inherent in Native Nations. We believe in Natives controlling their own destiny. We are deeply committed to hard work and determination leading to the creation of expanding opportunities for all Natives.



# Tribal Data Sovereignty

- Tribal Data Sovereignty is the principal that Tribal Nations have the inherent right to control their own data. It gives Tribal Nations the power to decide how their data is collected and used, as well as who should have access to it.
- Data sovereignty is a way for Tribes to reclaim control of their data from governments or other structures that may be using it for their own purposes.
- It is a form of self-determination and gives Tribes the ability to protect their cultural heritage, maintain group rights and resources, and make sure their data is used in a way that is respectful of their traditions and worldview.
- Strengthening Tribal Data Sovereignty is essential to ensure that Tribal Nations have control over their data and have access to the resources they need to protect their sovereignty and self-determination.
- Tribal Ready respects and adheres to policies that protect TDS



Act Now!

- Indian Country will lose BILLIONS!
- Indian Country must act now!
- Data is the key – Indian Country is the source
- Protect Tribal Data Sovereignty
  
- Tribal Ready is here to help
- [www.tribalready.com](http://www.tribalready.com)

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**Ready**

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