

State Library's report for AZBSN 9-21-2020

Mala's report

1. E-rate Additional Funding Window Announced

The FCC announced 9-16-20 that they are opening a new filing window for this funding year (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021) for schools (but not libraries) that need to increase their bandwidth due to the current pandemic. The FCC Order can be viewed here:

<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-opens-second-e-rate-application-window-funding-year-2020-0>

Summary of the Order:

-) Schools may submit a new FCC Form 471 requesting E-rate discounts on internet and data transmission services without initiating a new competitive bidding process, if the school:
 - o already sought bids for services by posting an FCC Form 470
 - o has received a FCDL funding approval letter, or has a funding request pending
 - o requests additional E-rate discounts to purchase additional bandwidth through the existing service provider, or a new one (If a new one, they must be on State Contract or a new Form 470 must be posted)
-) Deadline to file is October 16th, 2020
-) The FCC will only fund additional bandwidth up to your **current cost per Mbps**
-) FCC Form 470 is not required
-) The following is required as part of the new Form 471
 - o The original Form 470 and Form 471 numbers
 - o A statement confirming that the requested additional funding is for additional bandwidth needed as a result of COVID-19 with current cost per meg and new cost per meg identified
-) There is no provision for Special Construction

2. Federal Coalition's Second Summit (2020) on Improving Broadband Access in Indian Country: Sept 21-25 9am-2pm AZ time. *Registration is Free and Open to all*

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-national-tribal-broadband-summit-tickets-114205581970?aff=eemailordconf&utm_campaign=order_confirm&ref=eemailordconf&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_term=viewevent

This is the second year in a row, a coalition of federal agencies is working together to address the issue of how to close the digital divide and increase internet access in

Indian Country. This year, the Interior Department and the Institute of Museum and Library Services are partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Service for the [2020 National Tribal Broadband Summit](#), taking place September 21-25 (9am-2pm AZ time) as a virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the pandemic has forced students to shift their learning on-line and numerous people into telework, the need for home broadband access has become increasingly apparent and critical. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) estimates that 18 million Americans still have no home access to high-speed, defined as a download speed of 25 megabits per second, internet service. And, according to a 2020 [report](#) by the Commission, approximately 28 percent of those living on tribal lands lack broadband access.

Two years ago, Interior submitted a [report](#) on rural broadband to the White House in response to President Trump's [Executive Order 13821](#), "Streamlining and Expediting Requests to Locate Broadband Facilities in Rural America," and his [Presidential Memorandum](#) for the Secretary of the Interior entitled "Supporting Broadband Tower Facilities in Rural America on Federal Properties Managed by the Department of Interior," which were both signed on signed January 8, 2018. The National Tribal Broadband Summit is a continuation of these efforts, with a specific focus on bringing broadband to Indian Country.

The National Tribal Broadband Summit brings leaders across the broadband development ecosystem to share best practices, new ideas and lessons learned from their real-world experience of bringing high-speed internet to Native American tribes, homes and businesses.

Participants will leave with tools to help them bridge the connectivity gap in Indian Country and unlock doors to opportunities that broadband access can provide.

For more information about this year's event, including how to register, please visit the [2020 National Tribal Broadband Summit website](#).

About the Federal Coalition

The [Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs](#) advises the Secretary of the Interior on Indian Affairs policy issues, communicates policy to and oversees the programs of the BIA and the BIE, provides leadership in consultations with tribes, and serves as the DOI official for intra- and inter-departmental coordination and liaison within the Executive Branch on Indian matters.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. They advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. To subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit [USDA's GovDelivery subscriber page](#).