SANDAG Tribal Broadband Workshop

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

10 a.m. – 2 pm

Viejas Casino | Sycamore Room

In recent years, the State of California and the Federal Government have allocated significant funding to support internet services and infrastructure delivery to underserved, rural, and tribal communities. The Broadband for All (SB 156) bill commits $2 billion to set up last-mile connections for Tribes and local governments. The California Advanced Services Fund (SB 1193) allocates $5 million in technical assistance for tribes. The Federal Government's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) commits approximately $2.15 billion, dedicating $2 billion to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, and $15 million to the Tribal Digital Equity program to address the lack of broadband infrastructure and digital skills. Finally, the Department of Treasury allocated $100 million for tribes to invest in capital assets or planning to address tribal connectivity challenges. All these funding opportunities have deadlines that are quicky approaching as soon as July 12th.

The Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association and the San Diego Association of Governments invite you to participate in a workshop to discuss how Tribal communities can leverage these funding opportunities to meet their connectivity needs. SANDAG is committed towards bridging the digital divide across the region and would like to serve as a resource for tribes. Your time and participation are greatly appreciated.

Workshop Agenda

1) Welcoming Remarks (10 mins)
   o   Provided by Co-chairs: Antoinette Meier and Chairwoman Pinto

2) Introductions (15 mins)

3) Broadband 101 and Overview of Available Funding (45 mins)
   o   Federal programs (first applications due July 12)
   o   State programs (applications due July 1st)

Break (15 Minutes)

4) Broadband on Tribal Lands: Group Discussion (50 mins)
   o   Broadband access & adoption
   o   Service quality & affordability
   o   Efforts underway (e.g., Tribal Digital Village, tribe & Internet Service Providers partnerships)

Lunch (1 Hour)

5) Identifying Broadband Opportunities: Group Discussion (50 mins)
   - o Presentation: Ray Teran, Viejas Tribal Government Resource Management Director
   - o Group Discussion
     - i) How can we align tribal needs with funding opportunities?
     - ii) Discuss opportunities to align statewide efforts with Tribal needs?