



**BROADBAND OFFICE**  
**Office of the President and Vice President**

**Chinle Agency Council**  
**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**By the NN Digital Equity Initiative Team**  
(NNBO, NNTRC, & NN DEI/AMC)

- **Digital Equity Initiative (DEI):** What is it and how many people in Central Agency will be impacted?
  - The Navajo Nation Digital Equity Initiative (NN DEI) is a program launched by OPVP in coordination with the Broadband Office and the NNTRC in 2024 to harness the combined resources of the tribal government and the telecommunications industry, fostering an open collaborative approach with one overarching objective: to ensure digital parity and economic opportunities for the Navajo people by promoting 5G technology with wireless and fiber network infrastructure rivaling or surpassing any community in America.
  - The initiative will foster internet and information access for the Navajo people and public and private entities improving broadband coverage, quality, and consumer costs through competition. Ultimately, the 5G wireless and fiber infrastructure development will deliver the most advanced technology available to support vital services such as telehealth, education, commerce, and, most critically, emergency NG911 response.
  - The DEI plan will assess and address the needs of all Chapters in the Central Agency with a 2030 goal of as well as 5G broadband connectivity and extending fiber to Telecommunications Sites Infrastructure, Chapter Houses, and Community Anchor Institutions.
  - Expected construction of coverage filling sites that will be available for 5G service providers by 2030
  - Black Mesa, Wheatfield, Hard Rock, and Nazlini Chapter will have fiber connectivity by 2030 (~70 miles of fiber). All other chapters in the agency should currently have fiber connectivity.
- **2024 Connectivity Report for Central Agency:** New Connectivity to broadband and how much fiber?
  - SBI
    - In the process of adding 4G LTE to Blue Gap Area, Yale Point, and Dine College funded by NTIA.
  - Choice Wireless
    - Once NTIA sites are built, Choice Wireless will add coverage in the areas of Sand Springs, Low Mountain, and Nazlini. Low Mountain was recently approved and construction is expected to start soon.
  - Choice Wireless implemented cellular services in the Low Mountain Chapter
  - ATT/FN implemented 700 MHz service since 2022 in the entire NN including the Central Agency with high-power sites providing Public Safety and Commercial Cellular service (4G)
- **New Cell Towers and Fiber:** What is the total progress made so far in expanding cell tower services in the past 14 months in Central Agency?
  - Low Mountain Sand Springs, Ram Pasture, Many Farm West, and Nazlini sites funded by NTIA, a grant provided to the NN and managed by NTUA, are in the approval process, ROW and EA, and soon construction is expected to start.
  - Jedeezah Monopole construction completed in June 2024.

- Fiber to Jedeezah is in progress, New Fiber to Nazlini, and from Tsaille towards Chinle will be built with NTIA funding.
- **ARPA Breakdown and Central Agency Status Report:** What are the latest developments on our ARPA Broadband allocations specific to the Central Agency?
  - SBI was provided funding from ARPA Money to upgrade the current SBI network to 4G-LTE in the area.
  - A development plan in progress, Tower RFP Draft for public comments was issued in May, and the Final RFP is expected to be released by July 2024
  - ARPA Funding was converted to General Funding, date and assignment of funding restrictions under ARPA were removed by doing so
- **Chapter Broadband Projects Overview:** What coordination or guidance/involvement is being offered by the Nygren Administration for chapters wanting to include broadband connectivity in their plans?
  - They can reach out to the NN Digital Equity Initiative team and broadband office. Contact info at [www.broadband.navajo-nsn.gov](http://www.broadband.navajo-nsn.gov).
  - Working with Arizona Commerce to optimize the development of the BEAD program, the NTIA program is managed by the state of Arizona to provide physical connectivity via fiber or wireless to every Navajo Nation household and CAIs.
  - Coordinating RFP writing providing technical assistance according to needs and budget
  - Assist with delegate region funding allocation
- **Other N.M. Broadband news and tower regulations next steps/status detail.**
  - NNLD, NNBO, and The DEI team are currently working on telecommunications regulations for wireless facilities and fiber.
  - Lay the foundation for the optimization of BEAD funding.
- **Challenges:**
  - The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a federal subsidy program that provides a \$75 broadband service subsidy to qualifying households expired on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, a survey to service providers will be conducted.
  - Improving communication and data sharing between the NN Broadband efforts and the community
  - NNBO is becoming the portal of communications sharing about telecom.

## CONTACT US

[www.broadband.navajo-nsn.gov](http://www.broadband.navajo-nsn.gov)

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