



BROADBAND OFFICE
Office of the President and Vice President

Report to the Eastern Agency Council
February 28, 2024
By the NN Digital Equity Initiative Team
(NNBO, NNTRC, & Americas Communications)

- **Digital Equity Initiative (DEI):** What is it and how many people in Eastern 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 Eastern Agency with a 2030 goal of extending fiber to every Chapter Community Anchor Institution location as well as 5G broadband connectivity.
 - Expected construction of coverage filling sites that will be available for 5G service providers by 2030
 - Crystal, Two Grey Hills, Becalbito, Mexican Springs chapter will have fiber connectivity by 2026 (~ 35 miles of fiber).
- **2023 Connectivity Report for Eastern Agency:** How many homes were connected to broadband and how much fiber was laid in that year?

- Oso Internet Solutions:
 - Ramah Navajo School Board Staff Housing-65 units-construction complete. 100%
 - NHA housing in Ramah Navajo Sunset Village-Backbone construction is complete. 100%
 - Home drops-30 houses of 56, construction complete. 50%
 - Community residential contact information updates-100 families of 600 total updated. 16%
 - ROW work continues with RNC and the Navajo Nation.

- **New Cell Towers (ie. Baca-Prewitt Ribbon Cutting):** What is the total progress made so far in expanding cell tower services in the past 14 months in Eastern Agency?
 - According to data from the New Mexico State Broadband Office, there were 4 towers and 5x5G cellsite upgrades in 2023.
 - SWC, implemented Fixed Wireless sites/upgrades (Crownpoint and David Skeet) providing broadband access to an additional 2400 locations/homes on the Navajo Nation.
 - SBI since 2020 implemented cellular services in 9 sites
 - Choice Wireless implemented cellular services in Pinedale, Beclabito
 - Choice Wireless deployed Fixed Wireless in Tohachi and future deployment of Fixed Wireless (by 2024) in Standing Rock, Counselor, Nageezi and Black Rock
 - ATT/FN implemented since 2022 in the entire NN Eastern Agency with high power sites providing Public Safety and Commercial Service

- **ARPA Breakdown and Eastern Agency Status Report:** What is the latest developments on our ARPA Broadband allocations specific to the Eastern Agency?
 - A development plan and budget covering ARPA is underway and will be completed in April for fiber and tower infrastructure.

- **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.
 - We are working with the Administrative Services Center-Gallup Office group which covers Baahaali (Breadsprings), Chilchiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh

- Coordinating RFP writing providing technical assistance according to needs and budget
- Provide assistance on delegate region funding allocation

- **Other N.M. Broadband news and tower regulations next steps/status detail.**
 - The DEI team is currently working with the Navajo Land Department to develop proposed Telecommunications Siting Regulations and interim policy that will enable rapid infrastructure development
 - 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 will expire in April unless Congress approves a reappropriation.
 - The DEI is developing a dashboard for the public to view current broadband projects and project status on a regional level.