



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

**Central Agency Council**  
**April 6, 2024**  
**By the NN Digital Equity Initiative Team**  
(NNBO, NNTRC, & Americas Communications)

- **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 Institution.
  - 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 process of adding 4G LTE to Blue Gap Area, Yale Point, Dine College funded by NTIA.
  - Choice Wireless
    - Once NTIA sites are built, Choice Wireless will add coverage in the Area of Sand Springs, Low Mountain and Nazlini. Low Mountain is expected for 2024.
  - Choice Wireless implemented cellular services in 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, Nazlini sites funded by NTIA, grant provided to the NN and managed by NTUA, are in approval process, ROW and EA and soon construction is expected to start.
  - Jedeezah Monopole construction will be completed soon, only waiting for final NTP from the Navajo Nation.
  - Fiber to Jedeezah is in progress, New Fiber to Nazlini, and from Tsaile 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 current SBI network to 4G-LTE in the area.
  - A development plan and budget covering ARPA is underway and will be completed at the end of April (for public review) for fiber and tower infrastructure. Final RFPs will be release in May 2024
  - It is expected construction completion for the initial funding by 12/2026.
  
- **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 optimized development of BEAD program, NTIA program manages by state to 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
  - Provide assistance on delegate region funding allocation
  
- **Other AZ Broadband news and tower regulations next steps/status detail.**

- The DEI team is currently working with the Navajo Land Department on 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 on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, unless Congress approves a reappropriation.
  - Improving communication and data sharing between the NN Broadband efforts and the community
  - The DEI is developing a dashboard for the public to view current broadband projects and project status on a regional level.