



**The Navajo Nation** **DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*  
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**BROADBAND OFFICE**  
**Office of the President and Vice President**

**Northern Navajo Agency Council**

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**By the NN Digital Equity Initiative Team**

(NNBO, NNTRC, & NN DEI/AMC)

- **Digital Equity Initiative (DEI):** What is it and how many people in Northern 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 Northern 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
  - Aneth, Beclabito, Cove, Gadii' Ahi/To'koi, Mexican Water, Red Mesa, Teec Nos Pos, Burnham, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Sweetwater and Sanostee will have fiber connectivity by 2030, covering approximately 73 miles of new fiber. Connectivity for Aneth, Mexican Water, Red Mesa and Teec Nos Pos is anticipated sooner since they are already funded and the projects, financed by NTIA and RUS, is currently being implemented by NTUA. All other chapters in the agency are expected to already have fiber connectivity.
- **2024 Connectivity Report for Northern Agency:** New Connectivity to broadband and how much fiber?
  - SBI
    - Adding 4G LTE to Sanostee and San Juan funded by NTIA.
    - Adding 4G LTE to Aneth, Mexican Water, Red Mesa, Red Valley, Rock Point, Teec Nos Pos, Sweetwater areas funded by ARPA (NNBO)
  - Choice Wireless
    - Choice Wireless will add Fixed Wireless Broadband to the Black Rock area near Shiprock, funded by NTIA.
  - ATT/FN implemented 700 MHz service since 2022 in the entire NN including the Northern 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 Northern Agency?
  - NTUA is expanding fiber TeecNos Pos, Red Mesa, and Aneth to Navajo Mountain and increasing capacity through electronics upgrades in areas near Mexican Water, Black Rock and Newcomb. These projects are funded by NTIA.
  - NTUA will build one site in the area of Black Rock near Shiprock, project is funded by NTIA.

- SBI is building a site in San Juan near Hogback, project is funded by NTIA.
- Sacred Wind will add fiber and FTTH in some small areas in Shiprock and Newcomb
- **ARPA Breakdown and Northern Agency Status Report:** What are the latest developments on our ARPA Broadband allocations specific to the Northern Agency?
  - SBI received funding from ARPA money to upgrade the current SBI network to 4G-LTE in the area. The process of adding 4G LTE coverage to the Aneth, Mexican Water, Red Mesa, Red Valley, Rock Point, Teec Nos Pos, Sweetwater areas areas is underway.
  - An initial development plan and budget for fiber and tower infrastructure have been completed. Draft RFPs for towers were released in May 2024. The full implementation plan currently considers up to 25 towers.
  - The plan forms the foundation for the BEAD program.
- **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, New Mexico and Utah to optimized development of BEAD program, NTIA program managed by the state of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah to provide physical connectivity via fiber or wireless to every Navajo Nation household and CAIs.
  - Coordinating RFP writing and providing technical assistance according to needs and budget
  - Provide assistance on delegate region funding allocation.
  - Community Engagements.
- **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 expired on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - 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.
  - DEI Team and the NNBO will lead the BEAD initiative that will enable fiber or fixed wireless connectivity to ALL Household and CAI within the Northern Agency.

## The NN Digital Equity Initiative Team is

Navajo Nation Broadband Office (NNBO), Navajo Nation Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (NNTRC), & Navajo Nation Digital Equity Initiative/Americas Communications (NN DEI/AMC)

### CONTACT US

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