



BROADBAND OFFICE
Office of the President and Vice President

Western Agency Council
September 13th , 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 Western 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 Western 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
 - Leupp, Tolani Lake, Cameron, Coppermine, Bodaway, Leeche, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, and Chilchinbeto will have fiber connectivity by 2030, covering approximately 62 miles of fiber. **Navajo Mountain Chapter has been connected via Fiber by NTUA** and Bodaway is planned to be connected. All other chapters in the agency are expected to already have fiber connectivity.
- **2024 Connectivity Report for Western Agency:** New Connectivity to broadband and how much fiber?
 - SBI

- Adding 4G LTE to Shonto, Tonalea and Leupp funded by NTIA.
 - **Added 4G LTE to Raplee Ridge, Peabody, Navajo Mountain**, pending for completion Zelner, Monument Valley, Dennehotso and areas funded by ARPA (NNBO)
 - Choice Wireless
 - Choice Wireless will add Fixed Wireless Broadband to the Tuba City and Monument Valley areas, funded by NTIA.
 - ATT/FN implemented 700 MHz service since 2022 in the entire NN including the Western 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 Western Agency?
 - **NTUA expanded fiber to Navajo Mountain** and increasing capacity through electronics upgrades in areas near Page and Tonalea. These projects are funded by NTIA. **Navajo Mountain Chapter has fiber optics now.**
- **ARPA Breakdown and Western Agency Status Report:** What are the latest developments on our ARPA Broadband allocations specific to the Western 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 Raplee Ridge, Peabody, Zelner, Monument Valley, Dennehotso and Navajo Mountain areas is underway.
 - An initial development plan and budget for fiber and tower infrastructure have been completed. **Final RFPs for towers will be released in September 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.
 - Working with Arizona Commerce and Utah to optimized development of BEAD program, NTIA program managed by the state of Arizona and Utah 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.
 - Community Engagements
 - NNBO and DEI held a meeting on May 8th, 2024, to present broadband information and share the plan, also a Region report was given on June 6th, 2024.
- **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.
 - Land Department in the process to release 2nd draft of telecom regs.
 - Lay the foundation for the optimization of BEAD funding.
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- **Challenges:**
 - Improving communication and data sharing between the NN Broadband efforts and the community
 - 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 Western Agency.
 - Looking for funding to implementing the full broadband plan that entails 78 and 1500 miles of fiber across the Navajo Nation. The NNBO has secured only \$77M of a total of \$271M need.

CONTACT US

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