

MEMBERSHIP



Tribal Broadband as a Superhighway to Sovereignty

Affordable internet service can not only boost tribal economic development, but also bolster tribal sovereignty.

For the first time, new solutions and historic grant funding is available to YKD Tribes to build solutions that provide affordable broadband internet to their tribal community. The COVID-19 pandemic made clear that lack of broadband access takes a disproportionately toll on tribes' health, economy, and education. This digital divide is great in the United States, often separating the rural from the urban, the rich from the poor. The YKD is the largest Alaska native population that is unserved by broadband, expanding the digital divide into a chasm of inequality. And with a billion dollars in potential tribal broadband funding to be released in the next year, now is a good time for tribes to build their own sovereign broadband network.

The Consortium was created in 2021 in response to new Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite broadband the \$1B in NTIA grant funding under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, where collectively, Alaska tribes in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta can submit one application.

PURPOSE



Connecting YKD tribes

We are a non-profit tribal technology and educational organization. Our mission is to provide innovative strategies, working models and advocacy to support access to affordable broadband internet on YKD tribal lands.

- Free to Join!
- Resources for Grants Planning and Development
- Deadline of Aug 1 to join for inclusion in the NTIA Tribal Broadband Grant

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Owning broadband infrastructure supports Native Nations' sovereignty by keeping power and data within the communities and deciding who and how support is provided to their tribal community. Or the tribe can become its own Internet Service Provider (ISP) rather than relying on an external provider. A tribe that develops their own internet infrastructure is fostering their own economic policy and bolstering their sovereignty by cultivating their own resources.

YKD tribes have until August 1 to join as a participant member in the YKD Tribal Broadband Consortium.

Frequently Asked Questions: Tribal Partner Broadband Grant Support

How does my tribal community become a member?

Complete the membership application form and copy of your tribal resolution and submit it to: Sheila Carl, akiakrmui@yahoo.com

My community, Tribe, or Tribal Organization has a need for broadband funding and grant assistance. What is our first step?

Once a need and funding opportunity have been identified, Consortium Members submit a request for assistance using the form/assistance request email at: Sheila Carl, akiarmiui@yahoo.com

We have never applied for a broadband grant before. Can you still help?

Yes! We can provide full grant writing services from the very beginning of your application to its submission.

Who will manage the grant if awarded?

Member Tribes authorize the Consortium to apply for, manage and administer broadband grants on their behalf. It's what we do.



The YKD Tribal Broadband Consortium can help you navigate federal grants that bring broadband internet to your community.

We offer a variety of online learning and webinar opportunities on broadband industry topics, products, services and solutions.

We believe in the power of building educational and professional training programs to empower individual development and job growth.