



Be the Provider not a Subscriber

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320 Tribal Nations across the United States were granted access to the 2.5 GHz Tribal Priority spectrum — a rare opportunity to build Tribal-owned broadband networks and take greater control of digital infrastructure that many Native communities have long lacked.

Today, that opportunity stands at an important crossroads.

For 150 Tribal Nations, there is an especially urgent timeline. Their 2.5 GHz spectrum licenses carry a deployment deadline of October through December 2026, meaning a functioning network must be in place by then to retain their license and maintain access to this vital resource. These licenses are not simply technical assets — they represent sovereignty, self-determination, and the ability to shape each Nation's digital future.

Tribal Nations have always adapted to protect their people, lands, and cultures. In this generation, connectivity has become as essential as roads, water systems, and emergency services. Broadband now touches nearly every aspect of daily life, including education, healthcare, public safety, governance, and economic opportunity.

The 2.5 GHz spectrum offers something different from past models. It allows Tribes to become providers, not just subscribers — to design and operate networks that reflect their geography, priorities, and values, rather than relying solely on outside companies whose business models often overlook rural and remote communities.

With this spectrum, Tribes can connect homes, schools, community centers, clinics, and government offices. In many rural areas, it can reach a majority of households. It supports telehealth for elders, distance learning for students, reliable communications for first responders, and new pathways for small businesses and workforce development.

At the same time, moving from a license to a live network is not simple. Terrain, infrastructure gaps, funding timelines, technical planning, and workforce capacity all present real challenges. Analysts estimate that many Tribal licenses could be at risk if deployment is delayed. Yet this moment is not defined by risk alone — it is determined by possibility.

There is still time to act. What matters now is access to clear information, collaboration among Tribal Nations, and partnerships that respect sovereignty and local decision-making. No two Nations are the same. Successful broadband initiatives must reflect each Tribe's land, governance, resources, and long-term vision.

This is not just about meeting a regulatory requirement.

It is about ensuring Tribal Nations are not pushed to the margins of the digital future — and that tools specifically set aside to strengthen sovereignty are not lost due to lack of awareness or support.

For Indian Country, connectivity is not a luxury. It is infrastructure. It is an opportunity. It is sovereignty.

The decisions made in the next two years will shape education, health, economic resilience, and self-determination for generations to come.

There is still time, but this window will not remain open forever.

Let us move forward together and protect what was meant to strengthen our Tribal Nations.

For more information about solutions for your tribe, email contact@indigitech4.com