

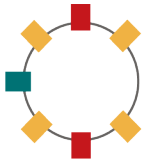
AFN Navigator Program

COVID-19 Relief ■ Connection. Support. Recovery

AFN Navigator Program

A Statewide Success Story





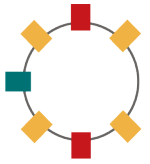
Navigator Program

In June 2021, the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) launched a COVID-19 Navigator Program to: (i) assist the Alaska Native community in capturing federal pandemic relief aimed at Native American recovery; and to (ii) prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among Alaska Natives and throughout rural Alaska.

The initial six-months of the program, made possible through a grant from the State of Alaska, was an overwhelming success. AFN secured at least \$78 million in Federal resources for Alaska Natives entities – and we expect this number to increase exponentially as awards are announced by Federal agencies over the coming months.

In January, AFN received additional funding to extend the Navigator Program through September 30, 2022.





Navigator Program

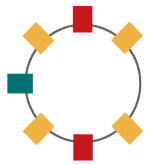
Under our COVID-19 Navigator Program, AFN functions as the “hub” in the center of the network, while the individuals and organizations we contract and collaborate with function as the “spokes” to deploy our uniform messaging and strategy.

The Program couples ‘Navigators’ with Alaska’s 12 geographic Native regions—to better enable isolated rural Native villages and undercapitalized tribes and tribal organizations compete for COVID-19 resources.

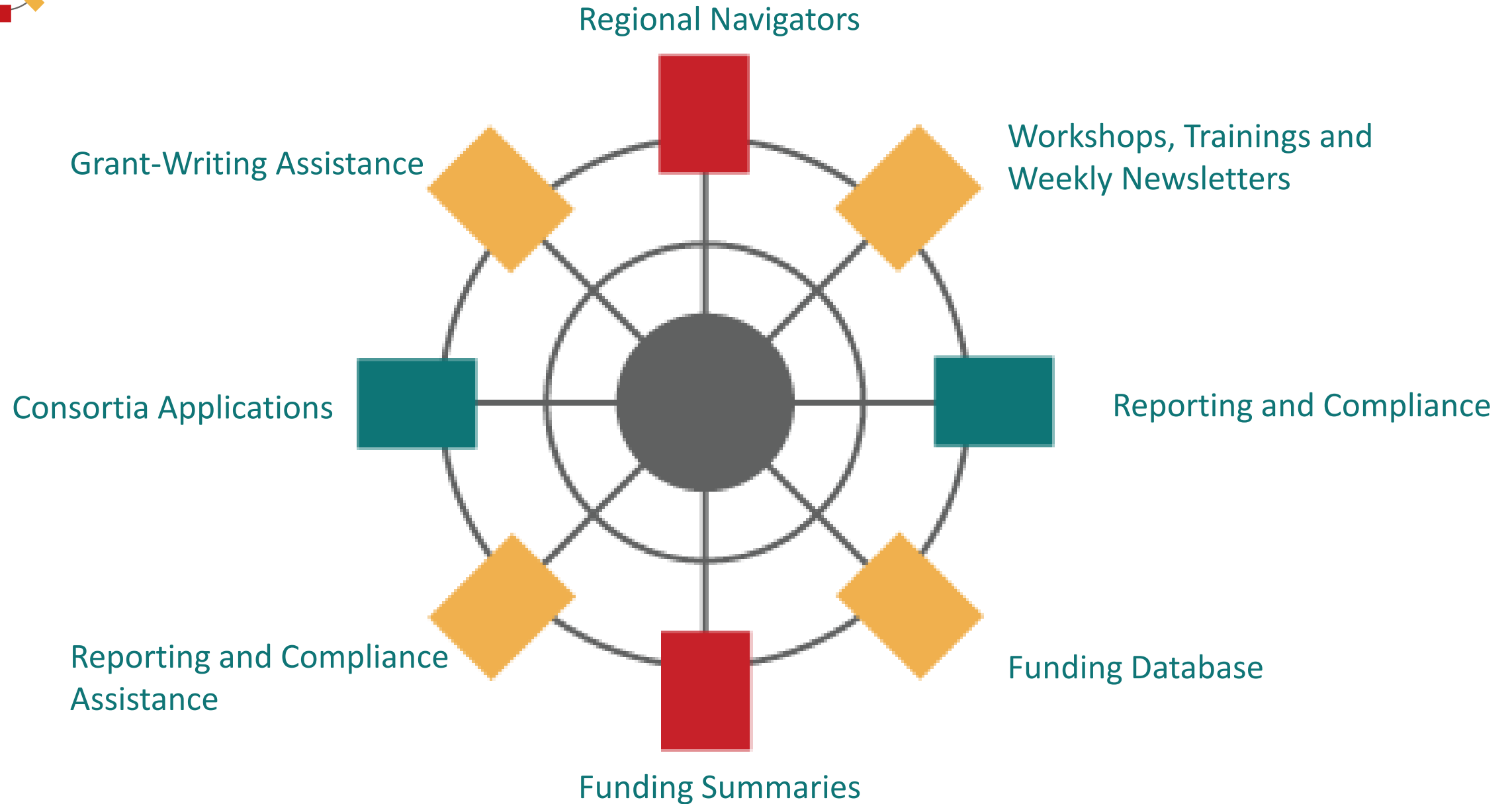
Navigators include former:

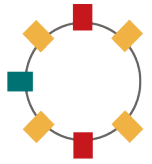
- U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee professional staff;
- U.S. Senate Commerce Committee professional staff;
- Alaska Native corporation executives and attorneys; and
- State of Alaska employees





Targeted Assistance





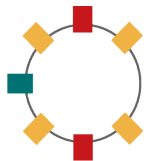
Available Resources

Awareness about a particular federal COVID-19 funding opportunity is nice.

Access is necessary.

The Navigator Program focuses on the latter.

- ☐ Regional Outreach
- ☐ Funding Identification
- ☐ Eligibility Analysis
- ☐ Application Submission
- ☐ Reporting & Compliance Assistance
- ☐ Weekly Trainings & Workshops
- ☐ Weekly Newsletters
- ☐ Navigator Program Webpage



Available Resources



RESOURCES & PARTNERS

The AFN COVID-19 Navigator Program has assembled a comprehensive set of tools, resources, and partners to assist organizations seeking for maximum value from Federal relief opportunities. Explore the Resource Library below, or reach out to us for more information.

[Contact Us](#)

Helping Alaska Natives stop COVID and secure resources.

Grant Writing Assistance

Get through the pre-grant evaluation process with an experienced grant writer.

Training Activities

Access past Navigator-led trainings on a variety of topics.

Upcoming Program Events

See upcoming events, trainings & webinars and register to attend.

Research and use Federal COVID-19 relief programs

AFN and AMI, are collaborating to offer tribal governments a free opportunity to talk through the pre-grant application process with an experienced grant writer. Tribal government representatives will be able to discuss their needs and priorities and learn about basic processes to apply for federal grants.

Interested in meeting with a grant writer?

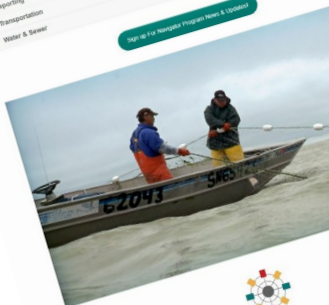
- + You may request any or all of the topics below, for discussion with the grant writer.

Please visit the [AFN website](#) for a full list of resources. We have included some links below for easy access.

Topics:

- General
- Childcare
- Housing
- Community Development
- Broadband Infrastructure
- Treasury Outsource
- Reporting
- Transportation
- Water & Sewer

[Sign Up For Navigator Program Team & Updates](#)



Current Funding Opportunities

AFN is committed to ensuring the Alaska Native community is supported and informed of federal COVID-19 relief programs aimed at Native American recovery and accessing those programs.

The opportunities below are sortable by relevant attributes (like category, agency, and deadline) and are color coded by level of effort needed to apply (green for low effort, yellow for medium effort, and red for high level of effort to apply).

Search...

BY DEADLINE BY CATEGORY BY ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT BY GRANT AMOUNT BY LEVEL OF EFFORT TO APPLY

Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG), RDBCP-RBDG-2022	FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Travel, Tourism, And Outdoor Recreation Notice Of Funding Opportunity	FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Good Jobs Challenge EDA-HDC-ARPGJ-2021-2006964
CLICK TO LEARN MORE	CLICK TO LEARN MORE	CLICK TO LEARN MORE
Rural Communities Opioid Response Program- Implementation	ARPA Non-Profit Recovery Fund	Housing Block
CLICK TO LEARN MORE	CLICK TO LEARN MORE	
Minority Pilot	Assistance	State S Credit



AFN Navigator Program

Helping Alaska Natives stop COVID and secure resources.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT BROADBAND RECONNECT PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Name of Funding Program: The Rural eConnectivity (ReConnect) Program

Agency Point of Contact: Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Web Link to Agency or Program: [Click here for more information](#)

Opening Date for Applications: February 22, 2022

Deadline for Applications: November 24, 2021

Eligible Recipients: The governing body of an Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community listed pursuant to the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994

Eligible Uses: To fund the construction or improvement of facilities required to provide fixed terrestrial broadband service. Eligible facilities include buildings, land, and fixed wireless service. If other services will be provided over these facilities, then award funds may also be used to acquire the additional equipment.

Award Amounts (if known): \$35,000,000 for applicants whose proposed funded service area (PFA) is classified by the USDA Economic Research Service as comprising 100% Frontier and Remote Area (FAR) Level 4.

Amount of Funding Program: \$350 million has been allocated to Tribal Governments for 100% grant funding.

The ReConnect Program offers loans, grants, and loan-grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in areas of rural America that currently do not have sufficient access to broadband. The Agency encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities:

- Assisting Rural communities recover economically from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly disadvantaged communities.
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development programs and benefits from Rural Development funded projects.
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.

Navigator News

AFN is committed to ensuring the Alaska Native community is supported and informed of federal COVID-19 relief programs aimed at Native American recovery and accessing those programs. To better support the Alaska Native community in these endeavors, AFN has launched a COVID-19 Navigator Program. The Program, which is a public-private partnership with the State of Alaska, will run through Dec. 31, 2021.

In This Edition

- Grant Writing Assistance Hotline
- Meet Our Regional Navigators
- Navigator Program Website Launches
- Upcoming Training Opportunities

Announcements

Grant Writing Assistance Hotline

Collaborating to offer tribal governments a free opportunity to talk through the pre-grant application process with an experienced grant writer. Tribal government representatives will be able to discuss their needs and priorities and learn about basic processes to apply for federal grants. To learn more about this program, please contact the grant writer, here's the process:

1. AMI, at [ami@afnavigators.org](#) or 907-586-1225 to indicate your interest.

2. AMI will get your name, affiliation, contact information, and a short version of your needs.

3. AMI will share that information with our contracted grant writing professional, who will contact you to schedule a time for a phone meeting.

Select any or all of the topics below, to discuss with the grant writer.

Needs or priorities of your community and why you need funding.

Grant opportunities that might be a good fit for your needs.

Budgets and other requirements commonly needed with grant applications.

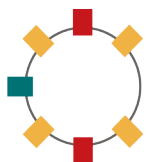
- Requirements of registration in [SAM.gov](#)
- Purpose for registering in [SAM.gov](#)
- Access to the online public website that lists all Tribal debt for taxes or unemployment costs.
- Review of the Alaska State website that lists all Tribal debt for taxes or unemployment costs.

The meeting time is flexible, but in consideration of others who would like to meet with the grant writer, we would ask you to limit your call time to one hour. If requested, the grant writer consultant will schedule a good time to call you back to continue the conversation. This free service is provided through [AFN Navigator Program](#).

AMI has additionally developed a pool of grant writers to assist with grant writing needs. Please visit [https://afnavigators.org/partners/grant-writing-1001](#).

Navigator Program Interactive Grants & Funding Opps Webpage

AFN's interactive grants and funding opportunities webpage is now available. Grants and funding opportunities can be searched by eligible recipient, category, deadline and agency. Grants and funding opportunities are also coded to signify the level of effort in applying for the grant or funding opportunity: Green (low level of effort), Yellow (medium level of effort) and Red (high level of effort). Please visit [https://www.afnavigators.org/navigation-program-opportunities](#).



Available Resources



Grant-Writing Assistance

The Alaska Municipal League (AML) provides additional resources (including grant writing pool to assist with grant applications), fund tracking, and tools (including loss revenue calculator).



The AFN and AML have collaborated to offer a FREE pre-grant application consultation for tribal governments to talk through their interest, eligibility, and processes for upcoming funding opportunities with an experienced grant writer. Tribal governments that have identified a grant that they believe fits a need, should follow the intake process.

Contact

Alaska Municipal League
907-790-5304
dawn@akml.org



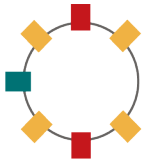
Workshops & Training

AFN has held a number of virtual workshops, all of which are archived, to help Alaska Native entities and organizations learn about COVID-19 funding opportunities, apply for those opportunities (i.e., grant writing), utilize recovery funds (e.g., examples of uses of funds), comply with reporting requirements, and more. Interested persons can sign up to attend a virtual session or they can review past events by visiting the 'Navigator Program' link off of AFN's website.

More Information

<https://www.nativefederation.org/navigator-program-workshops-trainings/>

Email: navigator@nativefederation.org



Reporting / Compliance

ARPA Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery (CSLFRF) Funds Reporting Annual Deadline: April 30, 2022

Upcoming Webinars: How to Complete the ARPA-State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Compliance
Reporting: Preparing for the April 30th ARPA Reporting Deadline

Thursday, April 14th

Time: 10:00 - 11:00 am (AKST)

Hosted by U.S. Treasury Department

Thursday, April 21st

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 pm (AKST)

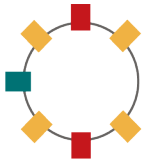
Hosted by AFN and AML

www.nativefederation.org/navigator-program-workshops-trainings/

Reporting Resources

E-mail: SLFRP@Treasury.gov

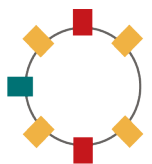
Guide: treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments



Reporting / Compliance

**CARES Act Funds Quarterly Reporting Deadline: April 11, 2022
Cycle 8 (January 1 – March 31, 2022)**

- ☐ Alaska Municipal League free reporting assistance through April 30, 2022
- ☐ Recorded Webinars on Navigator Trainings and Workshop webpage
- ☐ Treasury Videos and Training Guides:
 - <https://oig.treasury.gov/cares-act-reporting-and-record-keeping-information>
 - 3/22/2021 Updated Recipient Desk Review Procedures
 - 3/2/2021 Frequently Asked Questions
 - 11/30/2020 Portal Upload Template
 - 9/1/2020 Training Slide Deck
- ☐ Treasury office hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (EDT)
 - Email: CARES@oig.treas.gov
 - Phone: 1-855-584-4853



Federal Funding

Navigators track federal COVID-19 funding opportunities on a daily basis.

Once a program is identified, eligibility is determined, outreach is performed, and a funding summary is prepared. Sometimes advocacy is required to ensure the program works for Alaska.

If appropriate, AFN will submit an application for a consortia.

- ❑ U.S. Department of Treasury
- ❑ U.S. Department of Commerce
- ❑ U.S. Department of Agriculture
- ❑ National Telecommunication and Information Agency
- ❑ Federal Communication Commission

\$78 to \$229 million
secured for Alaska

\$35 million application
submitted by AFN

Treasury - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

AFN participated in five consultations with Treasury and provided written comments to proposed program.

AFN proposed an alternative formula for the employment allocation portion of these funds to give Alaska tribes 'credit' for their affiliated regional tribal organization employees. Treasury agreed to the change and proposed a \$1 million minimum for all Alaska Native and American Indian tribes.

This formula change meant that Alaska received a minimum of \$1 million for each of its 229 tribes—or \$229 million.

Shortly before the application period ended, AFN learned that 78 Alaska tribes had not applied for the program and thus the state would not receive \$78 million.

Navigators worked to get all of Alaska's 229 tribes signed up for the program, ensuring that Alaska received its full allocation.

Without AFN, 78 Alaska tribes would not have received their \$ 1 million employment allocation, and the remaining Alaska tribes would have received a token amount because the original formula heavily favored American Indian tribes.

NTIA - Tribal Broadband and Connectivity Program

AFN worked with the Alaska Telephone Association, Denali Commission, and Alaska Tribal Administrators Association, as well as telecommunications providers to educate tribes about the program.

Navigators contacted every tribe to ensure it submitted its own application or was part of a consortium.

AFN conducted several briefing sessions and workshops in partnership with NTIA.

AFN formed a 'Broadband Use and Adoption Consortium' and submitted a \$35 million application to provide computer hardware and software (including installation and maintenance), training, and Internet cafés, as well as broadband subsidies to consortia members.

AFN's consortia is made up of 200 tribes and Native entities, including:

- 26 federally recognized tribes;
- 6 regional tribal organizations (serving 157 tribes);
- 4 Tribally Designated Housing Entities (serving 30 tribes); and
- 28 Alaska Native village corporations

\$78 to \$229 million
secured for Alaska

Treasury - Emergency Rental Assistance

AFN Navigators assisted eligible tribes submit their applications for additional ERA funding to help tribal members pay rent, late mortgages, utilities, and insurance.

Direct outreach to 37 tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Authorities eligible to receive ERA funding.

Assistance with filling out applications on behalf of several remote tribes experiencing internet outages

\$498 million to be
awarded to tribes

Treasury - Housing Assistance Fund

Treasury allocated \$9.9 billion to the Homeowner Assistance Fund. \$498 million set aside for Tribes or Tribally Designated Housing Entities.

AFN Navigators worked with the Association of Alaska Housing Authorities, which represents the 14 regional Tribally Designated Housing Entities, to ensure applications were submitted for the HAF.

Roughly 40 Alaska tribes submitted 'Notices of Intent' to preserve their funding allocation.

\$38 million earmarked
for Alaska

Treasury - Capital Projects Fund

The Treasury Department will allocate \$100 million to Indian tribes for capital construction projects, including broadband, water and sewer, and community facilities, among others.

AFN Navigators are working with Alaska tribes to help them apply for this program. Each tribe is eligible to receive \$167,000 for capital construction projects.

AFN Navigators participated in tribal consultations and recommended that priority be given to tribes designated as "small and needy" by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Alaska has the most SNTs in the nation. Treasury will be holding additional consultation sessions with tribes, including AFN, as it develops the funding formula which should favor Alaska tribes.

Deadline: June 1, 2022

\$3 million grant submitted
by University of Alaska,
due to AFN's efforts

Up to \$175.5 million for
Alaska

NTIA - Connecting Minority Communities Grant Program

Navigators performed extensive outreach to the University of Alaska, Ilasagvik Tribal College, and Alaska Pacific University.

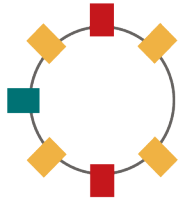
As a result, the University of Alaska applied for a \$3 million grant to serve Native college students by providing computers and computer literacy training, reduced cost broadband connections, and upgrades to computer labs and equipment at rural campuses.

FCC - Emergency Broadband Benefit

EBP provides a discount of \$75 per month for broadband bills for persons living on tribal lands – including all of Alaska. Eligible households can also receive \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from their broadband provider.

According to White House estimates, 200,000 Alaska residents across the state are eligible for reduced broadband rates because they meet the income thresholds. Yet, only 5,000 of these Alaskans are signed up for the program. AFN is working to close that gap.

AFN Navigators met with the Chief of Staff of the incoming FCC Chair Jessica Rosenworcel on the lack of outreach to Native communities. The Chairman's office agreed to work with AFN to improve the outreach and get all eligible Alaskans signed up for this \$7 billion program.



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General Questions:
Navigator@nativefederation.org

<https://www.nativefederation.org/afn-navigator-program/>

