

February 2022 Federal Register Update

This month, AIPI tracked the following Federal Register notices affecting Indian Country for the month of February. This list includes notices published between January 24, 2022 and February 18, 2022.

1. [List of Programs Eligible for Inclusion in Funding Agreements Negotiated With Self-Governance Tribes by Interior Bureaus Other Than the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Fiscal Year 2022 Programmatic Targets.](#)
 - Published on February 8, 2022
 - This notice lists programs or portions of programs that are eligible for inclusion in self-governance funding agreements with Indian Tribes and lists Fiscal Year 2022 programmatic targets for each of the non-Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) bureaus in the Department of the Interior, pursuant to Title IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.
 - For further information, contact Dr. Kenneth D. Reinfeld, Office of Self-Governance, telephone: (202) 821-7107 or Vickie Harvey, Office of Self Governance, telephone (918) 931-0745.

2. [Affordable Connectivity Program: Emergency Broadband Benefit Program.](#)
 - Published on February 14, 2022.
 - This notice serves as notification of the final rule addressing the eligibility criteria for broadband service providers that opt to participate in the program, eligibility criteria for households that seek benefits, the types of broadband services and connected devices that will be covered, the amounts of reimbursements available to providers, claims procedures, consumer protection requirements, and reporting, auditing, enforcement, and related matters.
 - Final rule goes into effect on March 16, 2022.
 - For further information, contact Eric Wu, Attorney Advisor, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-7400 or eric.wu@fcc.gov.

3. [Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism.](#)
 - Published on February 14, 2022.
 - In this document, the Federal Communications Commission takes steps to address one of the barriers to participation and clarify the eligibility of Tribal libraries for E-Rate program support by updating the definition of “library” in its E-Rate program rules to include Tribal libraries. By doing so, the Commission seeks to resolve a longstanding issue for Tribal libraries in the E-Rate program rules, consistent with Congressional action taken in 2018, and to encourage increased Tribal library access to affordable broadband connectivity through the E-Rate program.
 - Final rule goes into effect on March 16, 2022.

- For further information, contact Kate Dumouchel, Wireline Competition Bureau, (202) 418-7400 or by email at Kate.Dumouchel@fcc.gov.

4. [Department of Veterans Affairs' Tribal Representation Expansion Project](#).

- Published February 14, 2022
- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is seeking Tribal consultation on “The Tribal Representation Expansion Project (T. REP)”, a project through which VA strives to ensure that Native American Veterans have access to responsible, qualified representation in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of their benefit claims before VA. VA is seeking comments on whether Tribal communities currently have access to representation for VA benefit claims and, for those Tribes that are being underserved in terms of representation, whether the Tribal governments may be interested in collaborating with VA to designate an individual within the community as authorized to prepare, present, and prosecute VA benefit claims. In addition, VA is seeking comments and recommendations on any issues, concerns, or processes the Tribes believe should be addressed in T. REP to better ensure that the project is successful in helping to expand access to representation for Native American Veterans on their benefit claims before VA.
- VA will hold the virtual tribal consultation session on March 23, 2022, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). Written comments may also be submitted to VA on or before March 30, 2022.
- Participants can access the virtual consultation session by registering through the following link:
<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/onstage/g.php?MTID=eea07b769b5f8a27cfe390e0c732ee1eb> ; for audio by phone, please dial (404)-397-1596, access code 2760-198-8717.
- For further information, contact Clay Ward, VA Office of Tribal Government Relations at (202) 461-7445 (this is not a toll-free number), or by email at Tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov, or by mail at Suite 915B, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420.

5. [Request for Nominations of Members To Serve on the Bureau of Indian Education Advisory Board for Exceptional Children](#).

- Published February 14, 2022.
- The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) requests nominations of individuals to serve on the Advisory Board for Exceptional Children. There will be three positions available to specifically serve in the areas of Indian parents or guardians of children with disabilities within the BIE school system or Indian persons with disabilities. Board members shall serve a staggered term of two years or three years from the date of their appointment. The BIE will consider nominations received in response to this request for nominations, as well as other sources.
- Nominations must be submitted by April 14, 2022.

- Please submit nominations to Ms. Jennifer Davis, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Bureau of Indian Education, Division of Performance and Accountability, 2600 N Central Ave., Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004, or Fax to (602) 265-0293 or email to jennifer.davis@bie.edu.
 - For further information, please contact Jennifer Davis, DFO, at Telephone (202) 860-7845; or email jennifer.davis@bie.edu.
6. [Affordable Connectivity Program](#).
- Published on February 14, 2022.
 - The Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) seeks comment on proposals for increasing awareness of and participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program and for an enhanced affordable connectivity benefit for consumers in certain high-cost areas.
 - Interested parties may file comments on or before March 16, 2022 and reply comments on or before April 15, 2022.
 - You may file comments electronically by accessing the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>. All filings should refer to WC Docket No. 21-450.
 - For further information, please contact Eric Wu, Attorney Advisor, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at eric.wu@fcc.gov.
7. [FY 2022 Competitive Funding Opportunity: Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program; Tribal Transit Program](#).
- Published on February 16, 2022.
 - The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the opportunity to apply for \$8.75 million in competitive grants for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (Tribal Transit) Program.
 - Complete proposals must be submitted electronically through the [GRANTS.GOV](https://www.grants.gov) "APPLY" function by 11:59 p.m.
 - For further information, please contact Matthew Lange, Office of Program Management, (312) 353-4118, or email: TribalTransit@dot.gov.
8. [Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) for Review and Approval; Comment Request: Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program](#).
- Published on February 17, 2022.
 - The Department of Commerce invites the public and other federal agencies to comment on the procedures requiring award recipients to submit financial reports, performance (technical) reports, and annual reports to the NTIA Federal Program Officer and the NOAA Grants Officer and Grants Specialist.
 - Comments must be received by April 18, 2022.
 - Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by mail to Jennifer Duane, Director, Grants Management, Administration, and Compliance, Office of internet Connectivity and Growth, National Telecommunication and Information

Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4887, Washington, DC 20230, or by email to broadbandusa@ntia.gov.

- For more information please contact Jennifer Duane, Director, Grants Management, Administration, and Compliance, via email at jduane@ntia.gov; broadbandusa@ntia.gov; or via telephone at (202) 482-2048.
9. [Applications for New Awards; Indian Education Discretionary Grant Programs-Native Youth Community Program.](#)
- Published on February 18, 2022.
 - The Department of Education is issuing a notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2022 for Demonstration Grants for the Indian Children and Youth Program, Assistance Listing Number (ALN) 84.299A.
 - Applications Available: February 18, 2022.
 - Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply: March 10, 2022.
 - Date of Pre-Application Webinar: March 7, 2022.
 - Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 19, 2022.
 - Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 20, 2022.
 - For the addresses for obtaining and submitting an application, please refer to the Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the Federal Register on December 27, 2021 (86 FR 73264) and available at www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-27979.
 - For more information, please contact Donna Bussell, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 3W239, Washington, DC 20202-6335. Telephone: (202) 453-6813. Email: donna.bussell@ed.gov.