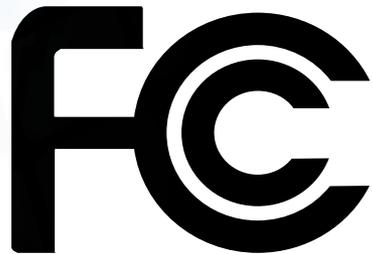




Federal Communications Commission Office of Native Affairs and Policy



National Tribal Telecommunications
Association

**Broadband Funding Opportunities & Engineering
Summit**

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Note: The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and may not necessarily represent the views of the Federal Communications Commission



Agenda

- Overview of ONAP's recent work on FCC and other programs and policies of significant Tribal interest
 - Emergency Broadband Benefit
 - Emergency Connectivity Fund
 - Interagency Funding Collaboration
 - 2.5 GHz RTPW Update
 - Other Spectrum Opportunities
 - Native Nations Communications Task Force
- Q&A

Emergency Broadband Benefit

- \$3.2B temporary program
- Provides eligible low-income households with discount up to \$50/month on broadband service and associated equipment rental
- Eligible households on qualifying Tribal lands may receive an enhanced discount of up to \$75/month
- All eligible households may receive up to \$100 off the cost of a connected device purchased from a participating provider.

Emergency Broadband Benefit

- About 4.2M households enrolled; ~97K on Tribal lands
- USAC Tracker:
<https://www.usac.org/about/emergency-broadband-benefit-program/emergency-broadband-benefit-program-enrollments-and-claims-tracker/>
- Early Tribal enrollment concentrated in Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma
- Most effective outreach appears to come from Tribal governments and Tribal and other small providers
- Total claimed support to date ~\$187M

Emergency Broadband Benefit

- ONAP's role has included participating in:
 - Developing the program rules (Report and Order)
 - Developing and implementing the Tribal aspects of the Commission's comprehensive outreach plan
 - Planning and conducting June 22 Tribal listening session
 - Responding to inquiries and requests from Tribal governments and carriers

Emergency Connectivity Fund

- Temporary \$7.17B program
- Reimburses eligible schools and libraries for purchase of service and equipment for off-premises connectivity
- Coverage for Tribal libraries broader than E-Rate
- Initial application window open June 29 – Aug. 13
- Covers purchases made between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022
- ONAP role similar to EBB Program

Inter-Agency Collaboration

- Recent laws created new support programs at multiple agencies:
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
 - \$1B Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program
 - \$268M Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program
- Department of the Treasury
 - \$350B State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund
 - \$20B for Tribal governments
 - Broadband investments are eligible expenditures
 - \$10B Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund

Inter-Agency Collaboration

- ONAP and other FCC staff have been coordinating with these other agencies on a range of issues, including:
 - Definitions of key terms
 - Development of rules and procedures
 - Avoiding duplication
 - Disseminating program information

2.5 GHz RTPW Update

- Status
 - 264 Tribal licenses awarded to date
 - Remaining applications are subject to mutual exclusivity or have complex waivers
- Tribes with applications subject to mutual exclusivity are strongly encouraged to voluntarily resolve any overlap
- Staff continues to work with applicants to complete or amend applications

Other Spectrum Opportunities

- Secondary Markets
 - Transactions (such as swaps & leases) can involve partitioning or disaggregation
 - Parties must negotiate terms and submit for FCC approval
- 3.5 GHz General Authorized Access
- TV White Spaces

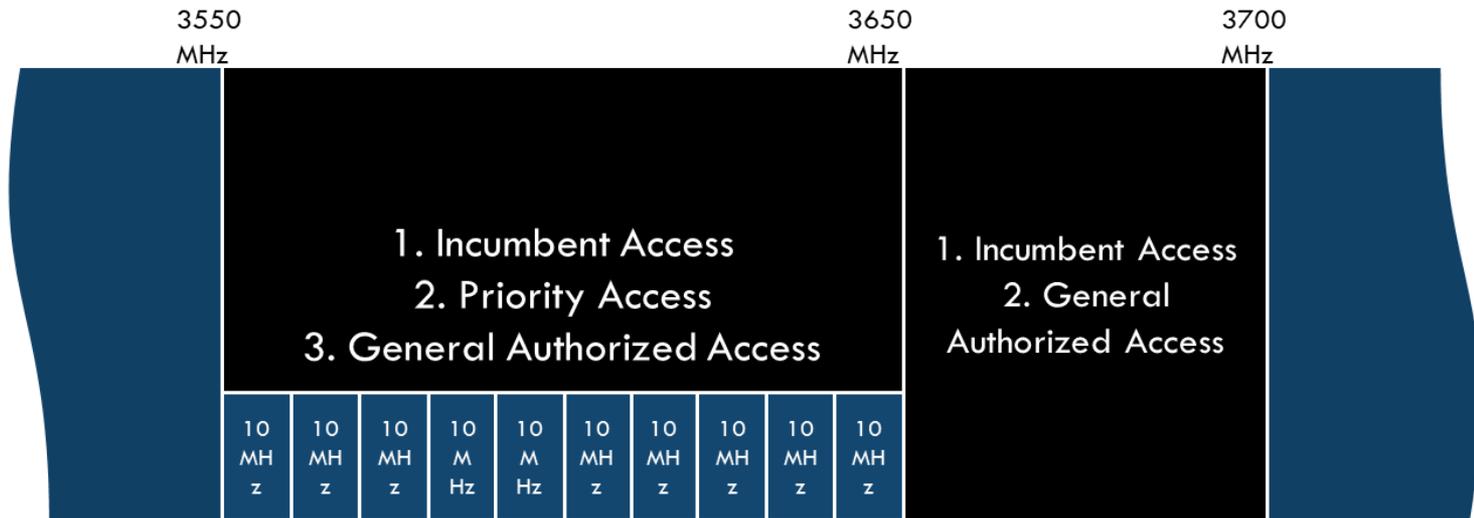
Obtaining Secondary Market Spectrum

- Partitioning (breaking off a geographic area)
 - You get your own license and will have your own regulatory requirements
 - We do not usually aggregate licenses back together
 - Be mindful of the size of the area due to construction requirements and emission limits at the license boundary
- Disaggregation (breaking off bandwidth)
 - Be mindful of how much bandwidth you need with evolving broadband demands and technologies
 - Can disaggregate and partition in one application

3.5 GHZ BAND

- Desirable coverage and capacity combined with attractive propagation and channel bandwidth for rural areas
- Low-cost entry makes General Authorized Access (GAA) a key opportunity for deployment in Tribal areas
- Hybrid sharing regime managed by a Spectrum Access System, plus flexible operating rules, allow for a wide variety of potential use cases, including:
 - Wireless broadband access
 - 5G services
 - Internet of Things
 - Intelligent manufacturing
 - Power generation and sensor technologies
 - Wireless backhaul

3.5 GHZ BAND



- Incumbent Users (Federal and grandfathered non-Federal access)
- Priority Access Licenses (PALs) granted in Auction 105 (July 2020); options for secondary market transactions possible
- General Authorized Access Users have at least 80 megahertz available in any given geographic area and can operate on any “unused” PAL channels

TV White Space Changes (Part 15)

- Order adopted in October 2020 (FCC 20-156) expands ability of white space devices to deliver wireless broadband services
 - In “less congested”, e.g., rural areas: higher fixed and mobile power - up to 16 watts and higher antenna height above average terrain
 - In all areas: eliminated antenna height above ground limit and rule changes to allow narrowband IoT devices
- Considerations:
 - PROS: excellent VHF/UHF propagation, license free, TV channels generally lightly used in rural areas
 - CONS: still have to work around TV and wireless microphone operations, lack of a license means no exclusive rights to the spectrum

Native Nations Communications Task Force

- ONAP continues to oversee and participate in the Task Force's ongoing work
- Task Force has adopted two reports since 2018:
 - *Improving and Increasing Broadband Deployment on Tribal Lands* (Dec. 2019)
 - *Recommendations for Improving Required Tribal Engagement Between Covered Providers and Tribal Governments* (Dec. 2020)
- Task Force currently working on a Tribal Codes project
 - Convenes monthly for virtual working meetings
 - July full meeting with FCC Chair, Commissioners

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Questions?