****

**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Native Affairs and Policy**

**Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau**

**FCC Tribal Broadband, Telecom, and Broadcast**

**Training and Consultation Workshop**

**Vee Quiva Hotel and Casino – Laveen Village, AZ**

**September 20-22, 2016**

**AGENDA**

**Tuesday, September 20th**

## 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Introduction to Broadband, Telecom, and Broadcast – Orientation & Training Session for Tribal Representatives

This introduction and orientation session provides an overview of communications technologies, terminology, and key concepts. The session is intended primarily for Tribal representatives and includes regional networking among participants. This informal discussion is ideally suited for Tribal officials, Tribal government program and project managers, and Tribal representatives who are new to the subjects of telecommunications, broadband, and broadcast media. Attendees will review key concepts and issue areas to prepare for the rest of the event and for work with the FCC, with communications carriers, and within their Tribal Nations.

**Wednesday, September 21st**

## 8:30 am – 9:00 am Doors Open – Registration and Networking

## 9:00 am – 9:30 am Welcome – Overview of Agenda and Logistics

## Introduction to the Federal Communications Commission

This session introduces the FCC and discusses its relevance to Tribal Nations. It provides background on how the Commission operates, including how the FCC handles licensing, rulemaking, subsidies and public comment in creating communications programs and policy. This session will also introduce the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Universal Service Administrative Company and discuss how the FCC works with USDA and USAC to develop and implement outreach and training for Tribal Nations.

##

**9:30 am – 4:30 pm** **Schools and Libraries Program: E-rate Program Training for Applicants on Tribal Lands**

***Special Concurrent Session Hosted by USAC in the Native Learning Lab***

The E-rate Program provides discounts to help schools and libraries obtain affordable rates for high-speed Internet access and telecommunications. Schools and Libraries on Tribal lands are invited to a day of “E-rate 101” training hosted by the E-rate Tribal Liaison, which will include guidance on understanding the importance of the program, how to navigate the application process, and information on where Tribal applicants can find help and resources.

## 9:30 am – 10:00 am Data at the FCC

This session provides an overview of the ways in which FCC uses data: to develop performance goals and measures, to analyze the availability of broadband service, to determine eligibility for funding, to create coverage maps. The session provides an introductory look into the FCC’s data collection and publication and discusses what role Tribal Nations may have in providing the Commission with robust, accurate data.

## 10:00 am – 10:30 am Overview of the Federal Universal Service Fund Programs

This session provides an overview of the FCC’s Universal Service Fund and its four subsidy programs: (1) the High Cost program, including the Connect America Fund; (2) the Schools and Libraries program, also known as E-rate; (3) the Low-Income program, also known as Lifeline and Link Up; and (4) the Rural Health Care program. This session also includes an overview of how these programs operate, their application processes, and what it means to be an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC).

## 10:30 am – 10:45 am *Break*

## 10:45 am – 11:30 am Introduction to the USDA and Overview of Rural Utilities Service Programs

This session will explain the USDA’s role in providing leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues. Specifics will be provided in regards to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), which administers programs that provide much-needed infrastructure or infrastructure improvements to rural communities. These include water and waste treatment, electric power and telecommunications services.

**11:30 am – 12:00 pm Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program**

The USDA’s Distance Learning and Telemedicine program helps rural communities use the unique capabilities of telecommunications to connect to each other and to the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density. For example, this program can link teachers and medical service providers in one area to students and patients in another.

**12:00 pm – 1:15 pm *Lunch Break – lunch on your own***

## 1:15 pm – 2:00 pm The High-Cost Program – An Update

This session will review recent developments in the high-cost program. 1) Earlier this year, the Commission adopted changes to the rules which govern how rate-of-return carriers recoup certain costs.  As part of that document, the Commission also set forth a proposal which sought comment on whether it should adopt a Tribal Broadband Factor – a multiplier giving extra reimbursement for Rate-of-Return carriers serving Tribal lands with wired broadband service.

2) The Commission also recently released an Order adopting rules to implement a competitive bidding process for Phase II of the Connect America Fund, and with it, sought comment on issues relating to the process for determining winning bidders, including measures to achieve the public interest objective of expanding broadband on Tribal lands.

## 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm The Tribal Engagement Obligation

Eligible Telecommunications Carriers are now required to undertake meaningful engagement with Tribal governments on a variety of priorities related to broadband deployment. The rules require that ETCs demonstrate on an annual basis that they have meaningfully engaged Tribal governments in their supported areas. This session will review the rules and seek audience feedback regarding the experiences that Tribal governments have had in engaging with carriers under these rules.

**2:45 pm – 3:00 pm *Break***

**3:00 pm – 3:45 pm** **Federal Excess Property Program Overview**

This session will give attendees an opportunity to hear from USDA on the Computers for Learning (CFL) Program, under the Federal Excess Property Program. The CFL program allows schools and educational nonprofit organizations to view, select, and acquire the computer equipment that federal agencies have reported as excess.

**3:45 pm – 4:30 pm** **The Low-Income Program: The Universal Service Lifeline and Link Up Programs**

## This session provides a detailed look at the Low-Income Universal Service program, comprised of the Lifeline and Link Up programs. Lifeline provides a monthly discount on phone service to qualifying low-income customers, while Link Up provides a one-time discount on initial installation charges. Enhanced Tribal Lifeline provides a higher subsidy amount for eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands. Learn about recent reforms to update the Low-Income program for broadband, and about changes that affect enhanced Tribal support.

**Thursday, September 22nd**

**8:30 am Doors Open**

**9:00 am – 11:00 am Tribal Radio is Backbone Technology and the Voice of the Community: How to Obtain a Radio Broadcast License with the FCC’s Tribal Priority, and How to Run a Tribal Radio Station**

Distinct new regulations for Tribal Nations now make it easier to obtain an FM radio broadcast license for services over Tribal lands. Learn how to get a radio station licensed and running from the perspectives of Tribal radio station management. Learn the licensing mechanisms at the FCC available to Tribal Nations. Hear practical legal and engineering advice. In addition to expert panelists, this session will present video information from the Native station perspective on starting up a broadcast facility, as well as materials on the licensing procedures at the FCC. Staff will discuss lessons learned at the National Tribal Radio Summit held in July.

**9:30 am – 3:30 pm FCC Native Learning Lab Open – Please see an ONAP Staff Member to Schedule Learning Lab**

**Consultation Time**

**9:30 am – 10:00 am Learning Lab Open House – Introduction to the FCC’s Native Learning Lab**

**11:00 am – 11:15 am *Break***

**11:15 am – 12:00 pm Attendees Networking Session**

This session allows attendees an opportunity to network with other attendees. Additionally, FCC staff will be available during this time for one-on-one consultation with attendees.

**12:00 pm – 1:15 pm *Lunch Break – lunch on your own***

## 1:15 pm – 1:45 pmSpectrum and Wireless Technologies

This session will highlight the Commission’s wireless communications policies, addressing spectrum auctions and secondary markets frameworks. The session will provide an opportunity for discussion of Commission policies and proposals to make licensed spectrum available to Tribal Nations, so as to facilitate wireless deployment on Tribal lands.

## 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm Starting Up and Running a Tribal Communications Company: The Perspectives of Tribal Telecom and Project Managers on How to Build Capacity and Deploy Services

This session will provide an opportunity to hear the perspectives and experiences on telecom and broadband deployment from Tribal communications general managers and directors from across the region. This will include an overview of Tribal needs in communications services and detailed discussions of specific methods used to build business models and to develop critical telecom and broadband communications infrastructures. Tribal managers will also provide insights on how to increase internal capacities and knowledge within Tribal Nations. Led by Tribal communications service providers, this session will provide an opportunity to learn from the experience of others and develop knowledge and resource networks for coordination.

## 3:15 pm – 3:30 pm *Break*

## 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Consultation and Listening Session: THIS SESSION IS OPEN TO TRIBAL MEMBERS AND APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES OF TRIBAL NATIONS ONLY

This session provides Tribal members and appointed representatives of Tribal Nations an opportunity to discuss, in an open forum, with FCC staff, any matters of interest to Workshop attendees in a collaborative and constructive environment.

**4:30 pm Workshop concludes**

## \*\*\*\*\*