



The Navajo Nation **DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*
Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees **RICHELLE MONTOYA** *VICE PRESIDENT*

**The Navajo Nation Broadband Office/Navajo Nation
Telecommunications Regulatory Commission
Report on ARPA Broadband Funding
to
NAABIK'YATI COMMITTEE of
the 25th Navajo Nation Council
December 05, 2023**

SPEAKER CURLEY & HONORABLE DELEGATES:

First, I would like to set the record straight on the assertion that each Delegate has \$4M set aside for broadband from the ARPA funding. This is a miscommunication. When I first started at the Broadband Office, I was asked how we would allocate the \$120M. I stated an option is equal distribution. However, as we worked on the details, we found equal distribution was not the best option as some areas were further along in broadband and funding. I did not realize the “equal distribution” allocation was being shared among the chapters until I was confronted with it at a November 2022 chapter meeting. Since then, I’ve endeavored to set the record straight.

There is a group confusing the Navajo people and leadership regarding who is the official representative for the Navajo Nation on all things broadband. It is the Navajo Nation Broadband Office and Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission. The 3 states, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona Broadband leadership are aware and NNBO/NNTRC is working with each of the states.

The Navajo Nation Broadband Office (NNBO) is charged with administering \$120M in ARPA funding for broadband. The breakdown is as follows:

1. Last Mile (5.19) - \$40,000,000
2. Middle Mile (5.21) - \$60,000,000
3. Match (5.20) - \$20,000,000

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Middle Mile (K211549): Repurpose \$10,000,000 set aside for Highway 191 Smart Highway to be used for broadband projects.
2. Match (K2115134): Reallocate \$20,000,000 as follows:
 - a. Middle Mile (K211549): \$1,347,932
 - b. Last Mile (K211550): \$18,652,068
3. Publish RFP for 3 weeks
 - a. Bid opening
 - b. Awards
 - c. Contracts or subrecipient agreements

CHALLENGES

- Time is shrinking to encumber funds. It is imperative, NNBO has the leeway to pursue the RFP and subrecipient agreement as outline above.
- Right of Way processes & fees will be a hinderance.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at sonianez@navajo-nsn.gov.

Thank you,
Sonia Nez, Department Manager
Navajo Nation Broadband Office
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT