



National Lieutenant Governors Association

1 **Resolution On Tribal Nations and Broadband Access**

2 **WHEREAS**, there are currently 574 Federally Recognized Tribes across the nation¹ operating at different
3 capacity levels with various barriers to sufficient broadband services, and

4 **WHEREAS**, a lack of broadband access for Tribal Nations prevents Tribal members from accessing health
5 care, education, employment opportunities and all remote accessible services, and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has identified broadband infrastructure and
7 direct services as a priority for Tribal Nations², and

8 **WHEREAS**, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) established a program
9 directed to Tribal governments to be used for broadband deployment on Tribal lands, as well as for telehealth,
10 distance learning, broadband affordability, and digital inclusion³, and

11 **WHEREAS**, states and territories must respect the government to government relationship between Tribal
12 Nations, states/territories and the federal government. By recognizing Tribal citizens as state/territorial citizens,
13 states/territories are ensuring all citizens, including Tribal citizens, have access to broadband, and

14 **WHEREAS**, widespread efforts to promote broadband availability, adoption, and use improve state and
15 territorial broadband initiatives and strategy, and

16 **WHEREAS**, maintaining positive relationships between states/territories and Tribes allows for the examination
17 of opportunities for direct state/territorial general funds or pass through funding to assist in broadband
18 infrastructure to meet the needs of Tribes, and

19 **WHEREAS**, having little to no restrictions on broadband funding allows Tribes to meet their capacity levels
20 and infrastructure needs.

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors' Association (NLGA)
22 supports increasing broadband access for all Tribal Nations.

ADOPTED, this day, the _____ of March, 2022.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Kevin Meyer (R – Alaska), Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera (D – Colorado)

¹ National Congress of American Indians, <https://www.ncai.org/about-tribes>

² FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy, <https://www.fcc.gov/office-native-affairs-and-policy>

³ NTIA BroadbandUSA, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/grant-programs/tribal-broadband-connectivity-program>