

## News From Our Federal Partners

November 15, 2024

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### Federal Partners Update

On Tuesday, October 29, 2024, FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel shared an announcement during the general assembly at the National Congress of American Indians Convention that the FCC has launched the Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program (T-LEAP).

Building on the Tribal Library Pilot Program from the past two years, T-LEAP is a permanent program providing one-on-one assistance for Tribal library applicants in all aspects of preparing, applying, and receiving E-Rate support throughout a funding year. T-LEAP will also help Tribal library participants through E-Rate's invoicing and other post-commitment processes.

The E-Rate program, with funding from the Universal Service Fund, provides discounts of up to 90 percent of the costs for broadband connections to and within Tribal libraries. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the E-Rate program administrator, will staff the T-LEAP.

For more information, visit the following resources:

- [FCC Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program webpage](#)
- [E-Rate FAQ Two Pager for Tribal Libraries](#)
- [Informational Brochure](#)
- [Sign up](#) for T-LEAP

Press Release (October 28, 2024): [FCC to Launch Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program](#)

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### IRS Clean Energy Credits: Online Registration Tool and Office Hours for Elective Pay and Transferability of Clean Energy Credits

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 allows Tribal Governments and Alaskan Native Corporations to benefit from certain clean energy tax credits through elective pay. For tax years beginning after December 31, 2022, an applicable entity that qualifies for a clean energy tax credit can make an elective payment election. This election will treat certain credits as a payment against their federal income tax liabilities rather than as a nonrefundable credit. The amount of the credit will first offset any tax liability of the entity, and any excess will be refundable.

- Tribal Governments can now register using the new IRS [IRA/CHIPS Pre-filing Registration](#) tool. Registration allows entities to take advantage of elective payment or transfer of credits.
  - Additional information about clean energy tax credits can be found at [irs.gov/tribes](https://irs.gov/tribes) and [irs.gov/cleanenergy](https://irs.gov/cleanenergy).
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## **Biden-Harris Administration Launches Clean Energy Connector to Bring Nearly \$15 Million in Annual Energy Savings to Up to 40,000 Low-Income Households**

On March 19, the Biden-Harris Administration, through a partnership between DOE and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), launched the pilot of the [Clean Energy Connector](#), a tool that connects families to solar energy through HHS's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

The first-of-its-kind software can now be used by local LIHEAP program administrators in Illinois, Washington, D.C., and New Mexico to connect community solar subscriptions to as many as 40,000 households with low incomes.

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## **Department of Energy Tribal Nations and Native Communities Resource Guide**

The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to working closely with Tribal Nations and Native communities to apply for and deploy transformative federal funding opportunities to build bright clean energy futures and, in turn, foster more economic prosperity.

With DOE's [resource guide](#), Tribal governments and nongovernmental partners can navigate, access, and utilize funding opportunities.

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## **[2024 National Interagency Community Reinvestment Conference](#)**

As the premier conference for community development, NICRC offers insights, emerging ideas, and promising practices shared by community development

experts from around the country. The program includes our signature regulator-led sessions on Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). This year, attendees will learn about the current regulatory process as well as what to expect under the revised CRA regulation, which was issued on October 24, 2023.

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### **Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Grant Program**

The Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant (NAE) Program. Tribes are eligible to apply. The NAE Program provides \$3.2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funds for projects that improve walkability, safety, and affordable transportation access and address existing transportation barriers, especially in disadvantaged or underserved communities. The program also provides funding for planning and capacity building activities in disadvantaged or underserved communities, and funding for technical assistance to local governments to facilitate effective planning for surface transportation projects. View the [NAE Program page](#) for more information about eligible projects, facilities, and recipients.