Middle-Mile Network Access for California’s Tribes

The middle-mile fiber-based network shown on the map below is the current state for infrastructure that will provide vital connections between Tribal Communities and the global Internet. The network could provide access to regional ISPs and Tribes, at capacity and speeds that will allow networks to scale to accommodate the needs of an entire community.

The route prioritizes areas that have no access to the global Internet or slow and ineffective connections which leave many households and community anchor institutions at a severe disadvantage – unable to take advantage of broadband-enabled services such as telehealth, remote work, and remote educational environments.

If your Tribe’s location is missing or inaccurately represented on the backbone map, please contact tribes@goldenstatenet.org as soon as possible. We seek to represent Tribal Nations within California with complete accuracy and appreciate your assistance in attaining that goal.

Resource Links

- California PUC Tribal Broadband Planning Program
- NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program
- US Department of Treasury Tribal Consults
- GoldenStateNet Initiative at CENIC.org
  - FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy
  - FCC Affordable Connectivity Program
  - USDA Telecom ReConnect Programs
- CENIC Middle Mile Access for Tribes
  - Tribal Broadband Bootcamps
  - Golden State Network Overview
  - CalTrans Dig Once Policies
  - CDT Broadband for All
Network Project Implementation Timelines

In order to better prepare for participation in such a large-scale, multi-year network project, an understanding of general timelines can be very helpful. Such timelines exist for planning, funding opportunities, and network design and construction and are shown at right to provide your Tribe with a high-level awareness of the stages of participation.

The Next Steps for Tribal Projects in California

A major goal of this project is to connect all Tribes in California to the global Internet at broadband speeds via the illustrated middle-mile infrastructure. However, the process by which this will take place will differ depending on your Tribe’s location -- especially whether your Tribe is adjacent to a Caltrans Right of Way.

If your Tribe is not adjacent to a Caltrans Right of Way, please note that backbones have hundreds, if not thousands of connection points. In such cases, we will identify the most conveniently located connection point for your Tribe and help align you with the funds and other opportunities needed to connect at that point.

Tribal representatives from all of California’s Tribal Nations are urged to contact Matthew Rantanen at tribes@goldenstatenet.org to learn more about participating in this project.

Scan the QR code to download this one-sheet, and access it’s interactive links.