



Broadband and Radio Opportunities: Bridging the Digital Divide

Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 1:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Room Cascade 4

Speakers: Geoffrey Blackwell, Chief Strategist and General Counsel, AMERIND Risk, and Matthew Rantanen, Director of Technology, Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association
Gregory Guice, Senior Vice President, Federal Public Affairs, McGuireWoods Consulting, LLC

Purpose: The ability to communicate and share ideas is fundamental to the health, safety, education, and economic well-being of Native communities. This most fundamental right must be preserved and enhanced for tribal nations and in tribal communities. Better access to telecommunications promotes vibrant economies while preserving cultural traditions and ways of life through enhancing our ability to communicate. New and existing programs continue to increase native ownership, representation, and access to telecommunications. Additionally, bipartisan Congressional support for an infrastructure package provides opportunities for the creation of new tribal programs and enhancement of existing programs. This breakout session will provide an overview of telecommunications programs, funding, training, and technical assistance opportunities available to bridge the digital divide in Indian Country.

1. Introductions
2. Identifying Goals and Assessing Community Need
3. Assessing Current Capacity
4. Where to Find the Money
5. Where to Find Technical Assistance
6. Time Cycles for Plan Implementation – When to Do What
7. Adjourn