

# How to apply for Educational Broadband Service (EBS)

November 2019



## What is EBS and why should my community apply for it?

EBS, or Educational Broadband Service, is a band of spectrum in the 2.5Ghz range that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has set aside for the public good. This spectrum was long reserved for educational use, but beginning in January 2020, rural, Tribal communities will be able to apply for licenses to own the spectrum themselves.

For more information about what EBS is and why this opportunity is so important, [please see this factsheet](#).

EBS ownership is not just an opportunity for Tribes;  
it's their right to own their airwaves.

## Do my lands have EBS spectrum available?

[Search the database](#).

## Is my community eligible to apply?

Licenses are available in areas that are both rural **and** tribal. However, off-reservation lands are eligible if the land was designated as "tribal land" by the FCC as of July 10, 2019.

## Can I apply on behalf of my community?

All federally-recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages can apply as long as they meet the following:

1. Must represent an entity owned and controlled by a federally-recognized tribe or a consortium of tribes.
2. Must have a local presence on the land where the license would apply.

For more information about who can apply and how, please visit:

<http://muralnet.org/ebsopportunity/>

### An entity must:

- Be more than 50% owned by one or more federally-recognized tribes or tribal consortia
- Be actually controlled by one or more federally-recognized tribes or tribal consortia

That means that tribal colleges, universities, and utilities may be eligible!



## When can I apply?

Beginning in January 2020, the FCC will open a Tribal Priority Window that will give Tribal entities priority in applying for EBS over their land. It is still unclear how long this window will be open, but it will likely be about 90 days.

## That's a short window! How can I start preparing now?

Requirements to apply aren't clear yet, but you will likely need:

1. Proof you are a federally recognized tribe OR an eligible entity owned and controlled by a tribe or consortia of tribes.
2. Proof that the land where the license is located is tribal AND rural.
3. Proof that you have a local presence on the land where you are applying.
4. A list of spectrum channels you want to claim.

## What do I have to do once I get the license?

Once you are granted the license, you will have to meet specific requirements by your second and fifth year of ownership. Depending on the technology you use, that includes:

1. Mobile or Point-to-Multipoint Service:
  - a) 50% of the population in your license area must be covered by Year 2.
  - b) 80% of the population in your license area must be covered by Year 5.
2. Fixed point-to-point Service:
  - a) 20 links per million (one link per 50,000) by Year 2.
  - b) 40 links per million persons (one link per 25,000) by Year 5.
3. Broadcast Service:
  - a) 50% of the population in your license area must be covered by Year 2.
  - b) 80% of the population in your license area must be covered by Year 5.

**There are organizations that can help! Get in touch:**

MuralNet:  
[info@muralnet.org](mailto:info@muralnet.org)

Internet Society:  
[narb@isoc.org](mailto:narb@isoc.org)

## What if I don't meet the requirements?

There is no monetary penalty for missing the deadline. If you miss your deadline in Year 2, you will only have four years to meet your Year 5 deadline. If you do not meet the final requirements in Year 5, your license will automatically terminate.

Five years is a long time in the world of technology and there are individuals and organizations here to help you meet your deadlines!