



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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Colville Tribes Receives \$48.4 Million Grant to Build Broadband

(Nespelem, WA) — The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation accepted a federal grant to construct internet infrastructure across the Colville Reservation in the amount of \$48,405,830.78. Construction will occur over the next five years, and the specific final scope of the project is yet to be determined. Fiber will be connected directly to homes as much as possible. Where it is not possible, wireless services will be constructed with the goal of providing quality, high-speed internet access across the entire Colville Reservation.

This grant was funded by the Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) with funds that Congress appropriated in the fiscal year 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which was enacted in November 2021. Each individual tribal applicant could receive a maximum of \$50 million under the NTIA program. The Colville Tribes received the amount that it requested.

Colville Business Council Chairman Jarred-Michael Erickson said today, “A grant of this size is fantastic news for our people. While it won’t fund everything we need by itself, it is certainly a big step forward. I want to thank all our staff who have worked hard to make this possible, including our Information Technology people such as Tiffany Circle, and our grant people like Matthew Pleasants. Our goal is to have a day in the near future when you can access the internet anywhere on the Reservation and get the same quality of connection that you could anywhere in the State of Washington.”

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,322 descendants of 12 aboriginal tribes of Indians are enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville. The twelve tribes which compose the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation include: ščəlámxəx^w (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; sǰwʔilp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; šntiyátk^{wəx} (grass in the water) or Entiat; snǰáyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mətx^wu (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáxcənəx^w (people living on the bank) or Moses-Columbia; nspilm (prairie) or Nespelem; uknaqin (seeing over the top) or Okanogan;

palúšpam (people from Palouse) or Palus; sənpʕ^wilx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnpəšq^wáwsəx^w (people in between) or Wenatchi.