



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

April 19, 2023

Chief Cyrus Ben
Office of the Tribal Chief
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
101 Industrial Road
Choctaw, MS 39350

Dear Chief Ben,

First, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians for the \$8.43 million Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program grant award from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Connectivity is vital for tribal members and all Mississippians as we move into the digital economy, and I am so pleased to see this funding coming to the MBCI.

The State of Mississippi is also actively engaged in expanding broadband access. Around this time last year, I was happy to sign a bill creating the Office of Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi. The "BEAM" office serves as the single point of contact for issues surrounding broadband policy and funding within the State. I appointed former State Senator Sally Doty to serve as the Director of "BEAM."

The State is currently developing a five-year plan to connect all Mississippians with high-speed internet. I would respectfully request an initial tribal consultation with BEAM to ensure that the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has input on this five-year plan that is required under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program and the Mississippi Digital Skills and Accessibility Program. Accordingly, I invite you and/or Tribal representatives to participate in a meeting with BEAM to discuss any plans or needs of the MBCI.

BEAM will be conducting community engagement meetings in Philadelphia and Newton on May 8th and could meet at anytime on May 9th at Tribal Government Headquarters or the place of your choosing. If this date is inconvenient, we will certainly work to find another date that works with your schedule.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about BEAM or broadband mapping and expansion efforts, please feel free to contact Senator Doty via email at sally.doty@beam.ms.gov or call her office at 601-359-5029.

Sincerely,

Tate Reeves
Governor