

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2023

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### Alaska Tribal Spectrum tribal nonprofit receives award notification for \$29.5 M to deliver the Alaska Tribal Network for affordable wireless broadband and cell phone service for 59 Alaskan villages starting in 2024.

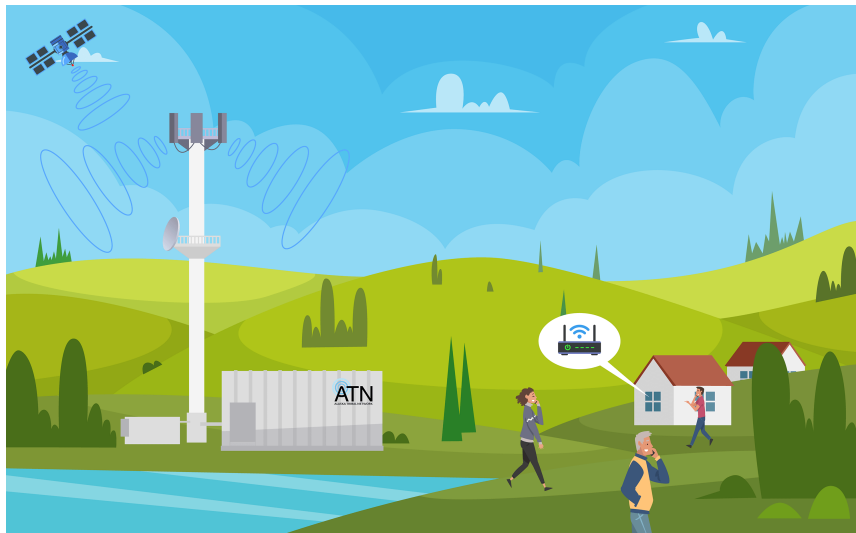


Figure 1 – Alaska Tribal Network (ATN) Conceptual

This award funding via the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) will be used to establish the Alaska Tribal Network (ATN) to deliver high quality affordable **mobile broadband and mobile cell phone service** in 59 unserved rural tribal villages representing **2569 Tribal households, 125 Tribal community businesses, and 89 Tribal community anchor institutions**. The ATN will use Starlink and other high speed satellites in combination with tribal 2.5 GHz spectrum to provide wireless service in their homes, on their phones, and on boats over a large tribal area. Service is scheduled to be available starting in 2024 offering plans from OptimERA, an Alaskan ISP out of Dutch Harbor, Alaska, that will manage the overall ATN statewide. The offered service plans will also qualify for subsidies via the Affordable Connectivity Program. The ATN design offers many sustainable advantages and choices for tribes including affordable widespread mobile coverage, reliable service, tribal revenue, enhanced public safety, and simplicity. For more information on the benefits of the ATN visit

[aktribalspectrum.org/about-the-ATN](https://aktribalspectrum.org/about-the-ATN)

ATS President of Policy and Tribal Affairs Julie Anderson commented on the significance of this award:

*“We are grateful to the NTIA for the award which will deliver high quality affordable mobile broadband and mobile cell phone services to our member communities representing several thousand currently unserved rural Alaskans.*

*The Alaska Tribal Network will bring immediate access to telemedicine, job opportunities, improved public safety, and educational opportunities that are so vital for Native communities to compete and thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”*

### **About ATS**

Alaska Tribal Spectrum is a tribal member nonprofit with a mission to bring affordable mobile broadband and cell phone service to every member community in Alaska.

ATS currently manages the largest 2.5 GHz license in the US representing 106 ATS member communities. The spectrum under ATS management represents an area almost the size of Texas and is the FCC's largest single 2.5 GHz spectrum award in America.

Each ATS member tribe also has the ability to stay abreast of broadband grant opportunities and easily apply with ATS for additional funding (i.e. TBCP 2, BEAD) to further expand their network, or create digital equity plans to fully utilize the service for everyone’s benefit. Any tribe in Alaska is welcome to join ATS as a member to enjoy these advantages.

### **ENDS**

#### **For more information contact:**

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