



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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**FCC TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL SUMMIT ON EMERGING TRIBAL
ECONOMIES, SEPTEMBER 19th 2002, IN PHOENIX**
Telecom Day is Important Part of FCC's Indian Telecommunications Initiatives Program

Washington, DC -- The Federal Communications Commission is participating in the National Summit on Emerging Tribal Technologies. The Summit is in Phoenix, AZ, from September 16th to 19th and it is sponsored by federal agencies, Indian Country and corporate America.

The FCC Indian Telecommunications Initiatives Program (ITI) Telecom Day is on September 19th. The FCC's ITI is a comprehensive program that seeks to foster partnerships among tribes, industry and government agencies to target specific concerns, identify potential solutions, and bring affordable, quality telecommunications services to Native American tribes and Alaska Native Communities.

Access to modern telecommunications services is critical to the successful development of all communities. Among other benefits, telecommunications access enhances educational and learning opportunities, through access to the Internet; employment and business opportunities; public safety services, including access to emergency services and long distance medical services; and, access to government services.

The ITI's goals are to increase the telephone penetration rate among Native American tribes and Alaska Native communities; facilitate the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure necessary to provide telecommunications services in Indian Country; and inform consumers in Indian Country about financial support available through federal government programs, including Universal Service discounts for low income customers.

The FCC ITI includes:

- interactive regional workshops to address telecommunications issues;
- outreach by key, senior FCC officials who will attend and participate in various conferences, meetings, and other events sponsored by American Indian tribes, tribal organizations and others interested in Indian Country issues;
- FCC staff meetings with representatives of individual tribes to learn about their unique telecommunications issues; and
- distribution of educational materials to Indian tribes and tribal organizations about telecommunications issues.

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