

CENTRAL COUNCIL *Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska* Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building 9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

## Executive Council of the Central Council TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 25-39

Title: Authorization to Apply for the Alaska Broadband Grant Program

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 38,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, under Article X of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has allocated a total of \$42.45 billion nationwide through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program to expand broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, this includes approximately \$1 billion specifically for Alaska, recognizing the state's unique geographic challenges and significant number of Broadband Service Location (BSL) unserved locations; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska's Alaska Broadband Office (ABO) is administering the Alaska Broadband Grant Program, funded through the NTIA's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program; and

WHEREAS, ABO is responsible for awarding funds to eligible applicants that can provide broadband to unserved and underserved locations; and

WHEREAS, Alaska faces unique geographical and logistical challenges, leaving approximately 40,000 Broadband Service Location (BSL) unserved locations; and

WHEREAS, the BEAD Program prioritizes fiber-based broadband solutions, but due to Alaska's remote and geographically diverse landscape, fiber deployment may not be feasible in all areas, leaving some BSL unserved locations without connectivity; and

WHEREAS, the funding requested through this program will support the procurement and deployment of Starlink systems, project management, and other operational needs necessary to implement this broadband expansion initiative; and WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida proposes deploying Starlink satellite systems in locations that remain unserved after BEAD-funded fiber projects are selected, expanding broadband access to all remaining unserved households; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida's initiative is designed as a last-resort broadband solution, procuring, installing, and activating Starlink systems with resident consent to provide connectivity to locations that would otherwise remain unserved; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida will receive revenue from each installed Starlink; and

WHEREAS, this initiative will play a critical role in achieving statewide broadband access, addressing gaps left by BEAD-funded projects and ensuring all eligible communities receive service;

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida intends to apply for up to \$120 million in funding through the Alaska Broadband Grant Program, for a four-year project; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Broadband Grant Program has an indirect cap but this grant will not incur an indirect shortfall because the grant will be managed pursuant to a business plan to ensure that the revenue for the project will be applied to and exceed the potential shortfall; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hereby authorizes the Tlingit & Haida President, or designee, to submit, negotiate, execute, and administer any and all documents, including any subsequent amendments, that are required by National Telecommunications and Information Administration for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

ADOPTED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2025, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 0 absences.

CERTIFY

President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST

Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata