# How does the Internet Society work with tribal communities in the United States?

## We build communities

In order for a technical network to grow and thrive, you first need to connect with and build up a network of people. We work in partnership with local people to help them connect to the Internet on their own terms.

## We support community-led solutions

We are a strong supporter of the development of community networks—communications infrastructure built, managed and used by local communities.

These networks provide a sustainable solution to address connectivity gaps in underserved, remote, rural, and Indigenous areas. They are a complementary access model for communities where traditional market-based solutions don't exist.

## We bring people together

The annual Indigenous Connectivity Summit, facilitated by the Internet Society, brings together Indigenous leaders and community members, network operators, Internet service providers, researchers and policy makers.

Our common goal: To connect Indigenous communities to build a bigger and stronger Internet.

## We develop knowledge

Local knowledge is a crucial aspect of community networks' long-term success. Working with our partners across North America, the Internet Society delivers two annual training programs to enhance the capacity of tribal areas to advocate for, build and operate networks.

## We advocate for connectivity

At the Indigenous Connectivity Summit, participants create and endorse a set of community-developed recommendations to overcome connectivity-related challenges. The recommendations include both policy and technical applications, and build on previous years' work.

The Internet Society then amplifies the voices of the summit participants by advocating for their recommendations alongside our Indigenous allies.



Learning how to use and install the Internet during training in Pu'uhonua O Waimanalo.
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In 2019 the Internet Society worked with the Native Hawaiian community of Pu'uhonua o Waimanalo to establish a Community Network that now serves all of its 90 residents.

Prior to the deployment of its network, residents had no access to the Internet at all.

We are also supporting the development of Community Networks in Ulukhaktuk in the Canadian Arctic and, Pu'uhonua o Waianae, Hawai'i, among others.

Find out more and get in touch at internetsociety.org

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