



CONNECT new mexico

Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

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To: Broadband Service Providers and Stakeholders in New Mexico
From: Drew Lovelace, Acting Director, Office of Broadband Access and Expansion
Date: April 5, 2024
Regarding: Connect New Mexico Fund: Mapping Review to Validate Eligible Locations

➤ **Mapping Review Process**

The New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) is currently reviewing applications for the Connect New Mexico Fund. The review process comprises two distinct but complementary tracks: a) merit review that applies a scoring rubric to assess strengths and weaknesses of the applications; b) mapping review that closely examines the eligibility of the proposed project areas (PPAs).

➤ **Eligibility of Proposed Project Areas**

The mapping review is designed to ensure that an applicant's PPAs are eligible. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) defines Eligible Proposed Project Areas as ones where 80% of the household and business locations are either unserved and/or underserved. Served locations may only be included if they are incidental toward targeting the unserved and/or underserved locations (e.g., must be passed by wireline to reach eligible locations). Definitions of unserved, underserved, and served follow:

- Unserved: A household or business location that lacks access to a broadband connection that reliably offers at least 25/3 Mbps (download/upload) through a wireline network or fixed wireless network using licensed spectrum
- Underserved: A household or business location that has access to a broadband connection that reliably offers at least 25/3 Mbps (download/upload) but less than 100/20 Mbps through a wireline network or fixed wireless network using licensed spectrum
- Served: The household or business location has access to a broadband connection that reliably offers at least 100/20 Mbps (download/upload) through a wireline network or fixed wireless network using licensed spectrum

In addition, community institutions lacking a reliable data rate of 1 Gbps symmetrical are eligible.

➤ **Types of Challenges**

The NOFO identifies the following types of challenges:

- Currently Served: Existing service providers can provide evidence that particular locations within a PPA are currently served.
- Planned Deployment: Entities that can demonstrate substantiated progress in launching a network. This includes the demonstration of: a) a comprehensive business and technical plan;

b) funding secured; c) a detailed budget; and d) a detailed project plan that supports the launch of commercial services within 18 months of the NOFO issuance date.

- Enforceable Federal or State Commitments: Awardees and beneficiaries – from other federal or state funding programs that provided funding to deploy a broadband network – can provide evidence that commercial services will be available within a reasonable period from the NOFO issuance date.
- Merits of Existing Unlicensed Wireless Networks Using Advanced Technology: Fixed wireless providers—using an advanced generation of technology over unlicensed spectrum—may provide data to assert they can offer reliable speeds above 100/20 Mbps.

➤ **Process**

OBAE has published the PPAs through an open and interactive map at this link:

<https://arcg.is/1nOm1m0>. OBAE invites feedback from incumbent broadband service providers, fellow applicants, and other stakeholders – including the general public and potential customers – regarding the eligibility of all PPAs.

➤ **Evidence**

OBAE requires compelling evidence regarding locations currently served, or may soon be served with planned infrastructure deployment. The tables below list various forms of evidence. OBAE’s determination regarding the merits of a challenge will be based on a comprehensive and detailed showing of this evidence.

State of Broadband	Evidence Types
Existing Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximate number of locations in the PPA(s) being challenged • Detailed route map (for fiber) and propagation maps (for fixed wireless) • Date service first offered that would meet the aforementioned definition of “served” – i.e., 100/20 Mbps • List of all service offerings for homes, businesses, and community institutions (speeds, latency, pricing) • Percentage of challenged locations that can receive the highest marketed speeds through wireline and/or licensed fixed wireless • Ability to currently provide 1 Gbps (symmetrical) to CAI’s in PPAs • Technical evidence that can prove ability to offer: a) 100/20 Mbps; b) the highest purported speeds for homes, businesses, and community institutions • Marketing materials • Network level speed test data • Reasons why the FCC Data Map does not reflect your existing locations to be served • Other supporting data*
Planned Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximate number of locations in the PPA(s) being challenged due to planned deployment • Detailed wireline route maps or wireless coverage maps • List of all planned service offerings for homes, businesses, and community institutions (speeds, latency, pricing) • Percentage of units, under challenge, that will be passed by wireline, or

	<p>covered by fixed wireless, within 18 months of the NOFO publication date (June 12, 2025) and can receive 100/20 Mbps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of units, under challenge, that will be passed by wireline, or covered by fixed wireless, within 18 months of the NOFO publication date (June 12, 2025) and can receive the <u>highest purported speeds</u> as noted in the service offerings • Technical evidence that can prove ability to offer: a) 100/20 Mbps; b) the highest purported speeds for homes, businesses, and community institutions • Forecasted ability to currently provide 1 Gbps (symmetrical) to CAI's in PPAs • Detailed budget • Detailed project plan • Evidence of procurement to services and goods (e.g., materials, equipment) • Other supporting data*
Enforceable Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximate number of locations in the PPA(s) being challenged • List of all existing and planned service offerings (speeds, latency, pricing) • Performance obligations from the relevant grant funding program (speed, latency) • Network type obligation from the relevant grant funding program (e.g., fiber, licensed fixed wireless, etc.) • Percentage of units (under challenge) that are currently passed by wireline, or covered by fixed wireless, that can receive 100/20 Mbps • Percentage of units, under challenge, that will be passed by wireline, or covered by fixed wireless, within 18 months of the NOFO publication date (June 12, 2025) and will be able to receive 100/20 Mbps • Detailed route map • Detailed budget • Detailed project plan • Narrative regarding adhere to the federal or state grant's program's timeline requirements. • Technical evidence that can prove ability to offer: a) 100/20 Mbps; b) the highest purported speeds for homes, businesses, and community institutions • Forecasted ability to provide 1 Gbps (symmetrical) to CAI's in PPAs • Evidence of procurement to services and goods (e.g., materials, equipment) • Other supporting data*
Unlicensed Wireless Service Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximate number of locations in the PPA(s) being challenged • Detailed propagation maps • List of all service offerings for homes, businesses, and community institutions (speeds, latency, pricing) • Date service first offered for 100/20 Mbps • Percentage of challenged locations that can receive 100/20 Mbps through wireline and/or licensed fixed wireless • Percentage of challenged locations that can receive the highest marketed speeds through wireline and/or licensed fixed wireless • Ability to currently provide 1 Gbps (symmetrical) to CAI's in PPAs • Technical evidence that can prove ability to offer: a) 100/20 Mbps; b) the highest purported speeds for homes, businesses, and community institutions • Marketing materials

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Network level speed test data• Other supporting data*
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(*) Broadband service providers and stakeholders may provide additional information to support their case that residential and business locations for a PPA have reliable 100/20 Mbps broadband access, and community institutions have reliable 1 Gbps symmetrical broadband access.

➤ **Identification of Served Locations**

Stakeholders must provide the following information:

- Location Data: These may include unique identifiers for each broadband serviceable location or street-level address being challenged.
 - Note: Such granularity is required for several reasons, including: a) many served locations are adjacent to unserved or underserved locations; b) an inability for closely concentrated locations to uniformly receive reliable fixed wireless due to various barriers (e.g., terrain, physical obstructions, etc.); c) fiber traverses through communities but the laterals and drops to reach particular locations are prohibitively expensive.
- Electronic Maps: Provide shapefiles of the areas deemed served.

➤ **Guidance**

Please adhere to the following guidelines.

- Deadline: Stakeholders have until April 19th (11:59 pm) to provide feedback.
- Email: Submit feedback to broadband@connect.nm.gov.
 - Please send a separate email for each particular challenge of a given application.
 - Note the following in the email header: Applicant Name, Project Name, Challenging Entity Name

OBAE looks forward to your feedback. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



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