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Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

PRESS RELEASE

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Oso Internet Solutions and Ramah Navajo Pine Hill Schools Announce Fiber to the Home Project

Ramah, NM - Oso Internet Solutions (OIS), in partnership with Ramah Navajo School Board's Pine Hill Schools, received federal funding through the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) for their Fiber to the Home Project. The project is providing fiber to the home connectivity to unserved and underserved Pine Hill Schools students, staff, and families, facilitating enhanced access to not only educational resources, but also for improved access to health, safety and economic opportunities. "It's history in the making. The people we are connecting live in the most remote portion of the Ramah Navajo Chapter. We are excited that they are the first." says Lou Uttaro, Co-owner of OIS.

As part of the ECF initiative, Oso Internet Solutions will connect 60 homes within the Ramah Navajo Chapter community. The project aims to bridge the digital divide and create an inclusive learning environment by ensuring that students have access to high-speed internet for remote learning and homework support.

To further support the community's needs, Oso Internet Solutions has generously stepped forward to fund an additional 25 connections for elders, so that children have internet access in extended family locations. This gesture reflects Oso Internet Solutions' commitment to empowering the youth and multi-generational connection.

The combined effort will result in 85 homes being connected to Oso Internet Solutions' fiber optic network. This critical infrastructure project will be executed in collaboration with Rutherford Diversified Industries, a reputable fiber construction contractor with extensive experience in deploying fiber networks.

“Today, we are thrilled to celebrate a significant milestone in the Pine Hill Schools community. On July 18, 2023, the first fiber-based student home location was successfully installed on Ramah Navajo land. As a past Pine Hill School teacher, this fiber to the home installation marks a critical step in realizing our vision of equitable access to education for all.” says Margaret Merrill, Co-owner of OIS.

Anthony Coho, a resident of the Ramah Navajo, and a parent to four children, expressed his gratitude for this groundbreaking initiative. With the fiber connection, Anthony Coho's children will soon have free access to Pine Hill School's remote learning platforms, enabling them to fully engage in home-based learning and receive essential homework support.

Oso Internet Solutions is not only committed to providing access to educational resources but also ensuring affordability for the community. As part of their commitment, OIS is a participant in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which offers internet access at a discounted rate, making sure that every resident can stay connected and thrive in the digital age. They are also supporting the Ramah Navajo Chapter in providing Digital Navigation classes, to help community members better utilize their digital devices.

About Oso Internet Solutions (OIS): Oso Internet Solutions is a leading provider of high-speed internet and communication services, dedicated to bridging the digital divide in underserved communities. With a commitment to innovation and inclusivity, OIS strives to empower individuals and businesses through reliable connectivity solutions.

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Anthony Coho, and his four children are now able to connect to fast, reliable internet.