



PRESS RELEASE

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Oso Internet Solutions Celebrates \$5.78 Million Connect New Mexico Program Grant

Acting Director of OBAE Tours Oso Internet Expansion Area

Pine Hill, NM: On Wednesday, Oso Internet Solutions celebrated their landmark \$5.78 million grant from the Connect New Mexico Program with the Ramah Navajo Community. What sets this broadband project apart from others in the state is the considerable distance between homes in Ramah Navajo Chapter, making digital connectivity even more critical.

This transformative project is set to connect 109 un and underserved members in Ramah Navajo and the Pine Meadows communities through the installation of 49 miles of high-speed fiber infrastructure, complementing two other federal initiatives aimed at expanding broadband access across the tribal region.

Margaret Merrill, the co-founder of Oso Internet Solutions, shared heartfelt sentiments about the enduring history and trust that has flourished between Oso Internet and the Ramah Navajo Chapter.

Drew Lovelace, the Director of the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) emphasized a key factor behind the selection of this project for funding: Respect for Tribal Sovereignty. He stated, "The leadership of the Ramah Navajo Chapter has made

it clear that they will only work with entities that uphold their community's sovereignty. They have entrusted Oso Internet with sole source designation and offered enthusiastic support for Oso serving their area."

The OBAE team embarked on a tour of the project area, to witness firsthand the unique challenges posed by the vast distances between homes and the challenging terrain.

Lovelace reflected on the experience, saying, "You hear about projects almost every day, but stepping onto the ground, observing the homes that will soon be connected, and meeting the individuals who will gain access to telemedicine, remote work opportunities, and the chance to connect with loved ones is an incredibly moving experience."

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