



CONNECT new mexico

Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
New Mexico Governor

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**COMMUNITY CONNECT
NOTICE OF ASSISTANCE GRANT AWARD
CITY OF RATON - RATON DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY WI-FI**

February 9, 2026

Findings and Conclusions:


1. The New Mexico Legislature appropriated \$70,000,000 from the general fund to the Connect New Mexico Fund to the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) to establish and implement grant programs set forth in the 2021 General Appropriation Act at Section 17(B)(1) of Chapter 140 of Laws 2021.
2. The expenditure deadline for the funding source is June 30, 2026.
3. The delay inherent in a merit-based program would delay meaningful mitigation of an existing threat to the health, physical security, economic security, cyber security and educational development of New Mexicans.
4. In accordance with the appropriation, and the Assistance Grant rules found at §1.12.21.10 NMAC, OBAE established the Community Connect Grant Program.
5. Through Community Connect grants, OBAE may award financial assistance grants for projects that target communities with poor levels of connectivity and digital inclusion to provide them with sustainable, place-based solutions that meet community needs.
6. On December 1, 2025, the City of Raton submitted an application to establish 18 new access points for Public Wi-Fi zones by June 30, 2026. The City of Raton will provide maintenance and operation of the Public Wi-Fi network for a minimum of three (3) years after project completion.
7. The Application was submitted with the support of Raton MainStreet Inc., Grow Raton, El Raton Media Works, Raton Aquatic Center, Raton Visitor Center, and Arthur Johnson Memorial Library.
8. OBAE determined that the City of Raton is the only entity that can satisfy the program requirements in a timely, correct, and cost-effective manner.

Award: \$250,000

Awardee:	City of Raton
Project:	Raton Downtown Community Wi-Fi
Amount:	\$250,000
Budget End Date:	June 30, 2026

Disclaimer:

1. This notice of award is issued by the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion. The award shall be provided through a binding legal grant agreement, to be executed between the State of New Mexico and the grant awardee (hereinafter referred to as "Awardee") identified in this notification. This notice of award does not constitute a grant agreement, does not constitute a guarantee or commitment by the State of New Mexico to enter into such an agreement, and shall be non-binding on the State of New Mexico.
2. The award will be governed by New Mexico state statutes, including the State of New Mexico Procurement Code. Awardee will be required to comply with all State of New Mexico statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the grant agreement. Any additional requirements imposed on the Awardee will be outlined in the grant agreement, including any required financial and performance reporting.
3. OBAE will monitor Awardee to ensure the award is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with State of New Mexico statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the award included in the Agreement, to ensure that the award performance goals are achieved.

Signed by:

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