ARPA/CPF PERFORMANCE REPORT 2026

NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF BROADBAND
ACCESS & EXPANSION

CONNECT new mexico
Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) continues to implement New Mexico's Capital Projects Fund initiatives under Programs 1A Broadband Infrastructure, 1B Digital Connectivity Technology, and 1C Multi-Purpose Community Facility. This report provides a high-level overview of the State's use of funds, progress toward approved program objectives, and key developments encountered throughout the reporting period from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Across all programs, OBAE utilized administrative funds to support essential operations including project oversight, fiscal management, GIS mapping, and Tribal liaison activities. These functions ensured compliance, maintained project momentum, and supported coordination with state, local, and Tribal partners. Collectively, the programs 1A, 1B, and 1C continued to advance statewide broadband deployment, expand community connectivity options, and reinforce New Mexico's long-term strategy.

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PROGRAM 1A

Broadband Infrastructure

This program advanced broadband deployment in targeted unserved and underserved areas by supporting planning, design, materials procurement, permitting, and construction activities. Cumulative reimbursements reached $42,858,882.83, including $25,490,307.72 expended during the 2025-2026 reporting period. Multiple projects initiated customer service operations with one project reaching full completion, four projects progressed to substantially complete, and several others moved into advanced construction phases. Subrecipients continued to navigate challenges related to multi-jurisdictional permitting, supply-chain constraints, and restoration needs arising from infrastructure damage.

PROGRAM 1B

Digital Connectivity Technology

Program 1B became operational following the reallocation of $5.9 million from Program 1A and Treasury approval of a new 1B Program Plan. During the reporting period, program guidance and eligibility criteria were approved by the Treasury and the application window was formally opened. This is a direct implementation plan enabling eligible state agencies, counties, municipalities, and other subdivisions of the state to seek support for public Wi-Fi deployments. These investments are intended to expand community-based connectivity in areas lacking reliable access for work, education, and health-related services.

PROGRAM 1C

Multi-Purpose Community Facility

Program 1C continued delivering broadband-ready facility improvements for seven Tribal communities. Investments supported design, construction, accessibility enhancements, and technology-enabled education and community spaces. Four projects reached full completion, two remained in construction, and one progressed through documented eligible expenditures. These facility improvements strengthen digital inclusion efforts and enhance access to broadband-supported resources and programming.

USE OF FUNDS

PROGRAM 1A

Broadband Infrastructure

The Connect New Mexico Pilot Program, administered under Project Use Code 1A for Broadband Infrastructure, continues to advance the planning, design, and construction of scalable fiber and wireless networks across unserved and underserved regions of the state. The program supports both last-mile and middle-mile infrastructure to ensure that communities gain access to reliable, high-capacity broadband services.

For this reporting period, cumulative reimbursements totaled $26,077,918.58, reflecting continued progress as the majority of projects transitioned into full construction or advanced deployment phases. Subrecipients drew funds for network design, permitting activities, and procurement of materials, as well as customer premise equipment, construction labor, and overall project administration. Total cumulative reimbursements across the entire program have reached $43,446,493.69, demonstrating substantial overall progress toward broadband deployment.

Three projects achieved substantial completion and entered the closeout phase, while one project reached full completion during the reporting year. Most remaining projects advanced significantly in construction, with one major project awaiting the completion of a linked, prerequisite project before it can commence.

Connect New Mexico's Pilot Program expands high-capacity fiber and wireless broadband, bringing reliable last-mile and middle-mile connectivity to underserved communities across the state.

Two projects held ribbon-cutting ceremonies marking the start of customer service operations, and the two projects funded under the Declared Disaster Areas wave held ceremonies to commemorate the beginning of their construction activities.

Subrecipients executed a broad range of activities essential to broadband deployment, including:

- Completing engineering, architectural, and network design work;
- Conducting permitting activities and regulatory reviews across federal, state, and tribal jurisdictions;

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PROGRAM 1A BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

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- Procuring fiber, conduit, handholes, poles, CPE, vehicles, and related materials;
- Deploying network infrastructure through trenching, boring, aerial installation, and wireless system deployment;
- Managing construction contractors and field operations; and
- Performing administrative, financial management, and reporting obligations.

OBAE utilized administrative funds to support essential program functions, including ARPA/CPF coordination, project management oversight, financial processing, GIS mapping, and updates to public-facing resources. These funds also supported the work of the Tribal Liaison, who provides dedicated coordination and technical assistance to the five Pueblos awarded funding. The liaison ensures effective communication and culturally informed engagement. Additionally, contractors and support staff contributed specialized services such as mapping, website maintenance, procurement processing, and other ancillary administrative activities.

As newly completed and operational projects come online, rural communities across New Mexico are gaining access to reliable broadband necessary for telehealth, virtual education, remote work, agricultural operations, and business activities. Completed and substantially completed projects have delivered meaningful impacts to households, businesses, farms, and community anchor institutions by bridging connectivity gaps and improving equity in digital access.

As newly completed and operational projects come online, rural communities across New Mexico are gaining access to reliable broadband necessary for telehealth, virtual education, remote work, agricultural operations, and business activities.

Subrecipients encountered several significant challenges:

- Multi-agency sequential permitting requirements contributed to substantial delays. Projects navigating federal, state, and tribal oversight required extensive coordination to secure environmental, cultural, and right-of-way clearances.
- Procurement delays have intensified due to nationwide infrastructure investments. Shortages of fiber, network, and customer premise equipment (CPE) impacted the scheduling of contractors and construction crews, increasing operational uncertainty.

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PROGRAM 1A BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

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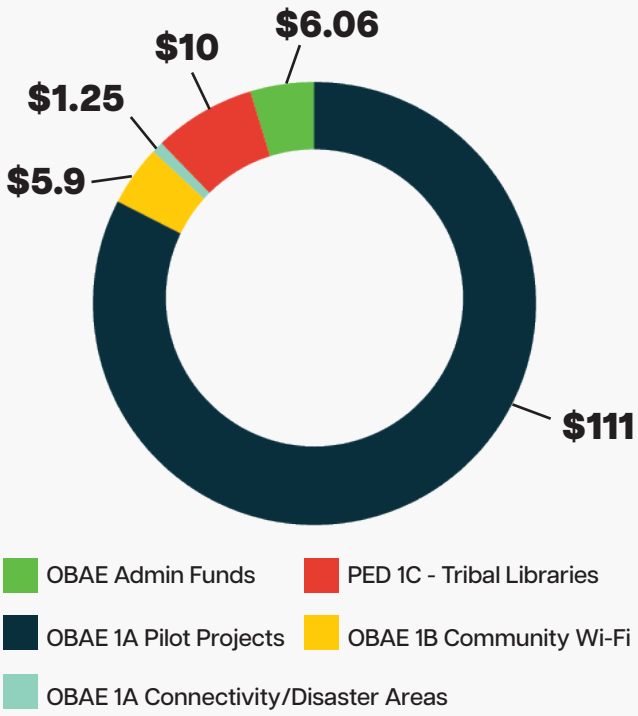
- A major wildfire incident destroyed a critical network component in one project, resulting in unanticipated costs, downtime, and procurement delays while sourcing replacement equipment.

To mitigate risks to project performance, OBAE employs a proactive, structured, and multilayered monitoring approach. Project Managers conduct quarterly site visits, which include field walkouts at project initiation and closeout verification, as well as during key construction stages. Project Managers maintain regular communication with all subgrantees through monthly project status calls. Subgrantees experiencing delays or heightened risks participate in biweekly monitoring calls, allowing for accelerated decision-making and closer coordination.

State of New Mexico ARPA-CPF Funding (in millions)



	GRANTEE	CURRENT STAGE	GRANT AMOUNT	% OF GRANT SPENT	FIBER MILES	BSLs
1.	PENASCO VALLEY TELEPHONE COOP	FINAL DESIGN	$1,000,000.00	5.20%	14.62	42
2.	COMCAST: BLOOMFIELD	FINAL DESIGN	$6,683,568.75	5.92%	109.4	1,155
3.	PUEBLO OF LAGUNA	FINAL DESIGN	$9,050,049.88	21.78%	193	1,460
4.	TDS RUIDOSO FIRE RESTORATION	CONSTRUCTION	$251,300.00	0.00%	9.8	84
5.	PUEBLO OF NAMBÉ	CONSTRUCTION	$5,233,436.91	0.28%	29.75	254
6.	PUEBLO OF SANTA ANA	CONSTRUCTION	$2,665,775.02	2.56%	20.9	276
7.	SANTO DOMINGO PUEBLO	CONSTRUCTION	$9,220,154.07	5.73%	50	870
8.	COMCAST: CHAPARRAL, LA UNION	CONSTRUCTION	$7,880,420.38	6.14%	113.84	3,132
9.	COMCAST: ANTHONY, VADO, LA MESA	CONSTRUCTION	$8,715,045.79	8.23%	109.59	1,503
10.	COMCAST: AZTEC, SAN JUAN	CONSTRUCTION	$8,875,469.25	12.34%	125.1	1,688
11.	PUEBLO OF JEMEZ	CONSTRUCTION	$8,565,941.98	46.23%	45.58	623
12.	TULAROSA: DOG CANYON/DOG RANCH	CONSTRUCTION	$4,247,625.00	57.25%	63	574
13.	SWC TELESOLUTIONS: TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES	CONSTRUCTION	$8,482,110.00	77.01%	49	2,932
14.	CENTRAL NEW MEXICO ELECTRIC COOP	FINAL CONSTRUCTION	$6,569,755.00	55.29%	85.5	2,031
15.	SOCORRO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	FINAL CONSTRUCTION	$5,095,992.00	86.62%	50	299
16.	TULAROSA: BENT/ALAMAGORDO	FINAL CONSTRUCTION	$7,447,454.00	90.00%	79	1,048
17.	OSO INTERNET SOLUTIONS	SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE	$5,789,283.37	92.72%	49.35	109
18.	VALLEY TELECOM GROUP	SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE	$3,704,815.40	95.81%	49	822
19.	SWC W GALLUP	SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE	$1,041,926.86	100.00%	0	435
20.	PEÑASCO VALLEY TELEPHONE COOP	COMPLETE	$486,595.00	100.00%	12.5	53
		TOTALS	$111,006,718.66	39.14%	1,259	19,390

PROGRAM 1B

Digital Connectivity Technology

The Digital Connectivity Technology (1B) Program provides targeted investment in the deployment and expansion of public Wi-Fi infrastructure to address connectivity limitations in New Mexico communities. A total of $5,993,281.34 in Capital Projects Fund resources was designated to support eligible state, municipal, county, and regional government entities in implementing public Wi-Fi solutions that enhance access to work, education, and health-related services.

During the reporting period, OBAE formally established and launched the program following the reallocation of $5.9 million in October 2025 from a 1A project. This new funding enabled the development of a program plan that addresses the identified need for expanded public Wi-Fi access in underserved communities. Program guidance was published, eligibility criteria were defined, and the application period opened on June 17.

> ***OBAE formally established and launched the program following the reallocation of $5.9 million in October 2025 from a 1A project.***

Jicarilla Public Library

PROGRAM 1C

Multi-Purpose Community Facility

The funding allocated to the New Mexico Tribal Library Broadband Ready Facility Improvement Program, administered by the Public Education Department. was sub-awarded to seven Pueblos to support improvements to Tribal Libraries and Tribal Education Centers. These investments have primarily supported design, construction, expansion, and renovation activities, including ADA accessibility improvements, enhancements for seniors and Native elders, early childhood development areas, childcare spaces, and upgraded facility amenities such as HVAC systems, kitchens, bathroom renovations, and technology-ready work areas.

As of this reporting period, four projects have been fully completed, representing significant progress in advancing educational, workforce, and community support functions within these facilities. Two additional projects remain under construction, continuing work on major renovations and expansions. One project has received reimbursement for eligible expenses, marking continued advancement and documented progress toward full completion.

Addressing Critical Needs

New Mexico continues to advance a comprehensive and coordinated statewide strategies to address broadband-related critical needs by prioritizing high-poverty, rural, Tribal, and otherwise underserved communities. Through multiple complementary programs (though not directly supported by ARPA-CPF), the state providing coordinated support for the reduction of barriers to affordability, expanding infrastructure, increasing device access, and strengthening digital skills. Together, these efforts support communities facing the most significant connectivity challenges and ensure that broadband and the services it enables become reliably accessible to all New Mexicans. Programs such as the Low-Income Telecommunications Assistance Program (LITAP), TechUp! New Mexico, Community Connect, Student Connect, the Statewide Education Network (SEN), and the New MexiCorps Digital Navigator Program each target distinct but interconnected needs identified in the Office of Broadband's three-year broadband plan.

Through numerous programs, OBAE is advancing the state of connectivity while addressing critical needs in low-income and rural areas of New Mexico.

Affordability continues to be one of the most pressing barriers for households in critical-need communities. The Low-Income Telecommunications Assistance Program (LITAP), established in 2026 through Senate Bill 152, directly addresses this challenge and will offer subsidies to reduce monthly broadband costs for up to 27,000 eligible low-income households in its initial year, with capacity to expand to more than 100,000 families in subsequent years. By focusing on high-poverty, rural, and Tribal regions, the program ensures that households most likely to be disconnected can obtain and sustain reliable internet service. Extensive legislative outreach and engagement with community organizations helped raise awareness of the program, ensuring that families who stand to benefit most are informed and able to participate.

At the same time, the state is addressing disparities in device access and digital literacy.

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Addressing Critical Needs

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These factors limit a household's ability to fully utilize broadband service. Through TechUp! New Mexico, 170 households across 33 rural, Tribal, and high-poverty communities received laptops along with nearly 1,600 digital-skills training sessions. The program's mix of group classes, one-on-one support, and remote assistance helped residents apply digital tools to essential tasks such as schoolwork, telehealth, job searches, and communication. The New MexiCorps Digital Navigator Program builds on this work by deploying trained navigators to provide localized digital skills, guidance, and mentoring for residents who may struggle due to age, income, or limited prior exposure to digital technology, ensuring residents can effectively engage with online resources and services.

New Mexico is also making major progress in expanding public-facing broadband infrastructure to address longstanding gaps in service availability. The Community Connect Grant Program and the 1B Community Wi-Fi initiative are funding public Wi-Fi projects in parks, plazas, municipal buildings, historical sites, and other community spaces statewide. These programs prioritize communities with low connectivity and limited digital inclusion, enabling local governments, Tribal nations, educational institutions, and ISPs to deploy sustainable networks that deliver speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps. By eliminating matching fund requirements, the state ensures that resource-constrained communities can participate. The resulting public Wi-Fi strengthens educational access, supports workforce and business activity, enables telehealth use, and improves emergency communications.

The Student Connect Program has invested $24.8 million across 13 grants to ensure that rural and underserved student households gain reliable high-speed internet.

Finally, student connectivity remains a cornerstone of the state's digital equity strategy. The Student Connect Program has invested $24.8 million across 13 grants to ensure that rural and underserved student households gain reliable high-speed internet. Recent projects in Grant County and Lordsburg have connected nearly 900 student households with up to three years of complimentary service, providing essential links for homework, college applications, and digital resources. Complementing these efforts, the Statewide Education Network (SEN) now connects 223 schools (representing nearly 114,000 students and staff) strengthening statewide digital readiness through secure educational broadband and centralized operations. Together, these programs expand digital opportunity for learners and strengthen long-term educational and economic outcomes across New Mexico.

Labor

The state of New Mexico advanced its commitment to strong labor practices across all broadband infrastructure and community connectivity projects funded or supported through state and federal programs. All projects were required to comply with applicable state labor laws, including the New Mexico Public Works Minimum Wage Act, and to certify adherence to Davis–Bacon requirements when relevant. Subgrantees were required to provide project employment and local impact plans outlining their approach to hiring local skilled workers or ensuring their contracted partners did so. As a result, most projects were delivered by New Mexico based ISPs, electrical cooperatives, Tribes, and Pueblos, with out-of-state firms utilizing local labor to fulfill contract requirements.

Broadband projects funded through the Connect New Mexico and ARPA–CPF programs continued to strengthen local employment by emphasizing the use of local and Tribal labor forces. Many Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes administered their own employment protections through Tribal Employment Rights Offices (TERO), ensuring worker standards that meet state and federal requirements. These projects not only supported high-quality job opportunities but also enabled Tribal communities to build internal technical capacity, including the development of Pueblo-operated internet service providers and establishment of career pathways for Tribal members.

Recognizing the urgent statewide demand for certified fiber optic technicians, OBAE and the

In collaboration with the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, OBAE has established broadband workforce trainings held twice monthly in numerous locations across the state.

New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions continued implementing a comprehensive workforce development strategy supported by a $1.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The program focuses on hands-on fiber optic certification training in rural and Tribal regions where broadband infrastructure is being deployed. Over the past year, six training classes have been delivered statewide, with all participants successfully passing the practical examination and several completing or preparing for the written certification exam. These achievements demonstrate the effectiveness of the training program and its alignment with the state's long-term workforce needs.

OBAE staff, state dignitaries, and broadband industry figures often celebrate groundbreakings or the completion of broadband infrastructure projects, such as this ribbon cutting event held in Ruidoso.

Community Engagement

During the reporting period, OBAE advanced a comprehensive and statewide community engagement strategy to support the successful implementation of broadband infrastructure projects across New Mexico. Reaching urban, rural, and Tribal communities through ribbon-cutting ceremonies, site visits, project tours, school-based events, and community celebrations that highlighted major deployment milestones. These outreach efforts connected OBAE directly with residents, broadband users, local leaders, and project partners, enabling real-time dialogue about construction progress, broadband access challenges, timelines, and opportunities for enrollment in new or expanded service. These activities were particularly impactful in communities such as Sierra County, Acoma Pueblo, Santo Domingo Pueblo, Zia Pueblo, and the Mescalero Apache Tribe, where OBAE staff participated in on-site reviews and met face-to-face with broadband teams and community leadership to ensure federal and state investments aligned with local needs.

OBAE strengthened statewide engagement by participating in major regional and statewide convenings that connected diverse audiences to broadband resources and information. The agency took part in several broadband conferences including the State-Tribal Leaders Summit, and the 19 Pueblos District Summit, both of which brought together Tribal representatives, broadband administrators, state agencies, and local leaders to discuss numerous

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Community Engagement

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topics such as project coordination, funding opportunities, land-use issues, and technical implementation. These engagements were essential to understanding local priorities and ensuring that broadband projects, particularly those in high-need rural and Tribal areas, were implemented with culturally informed and community-centered approaches. OBAE also convened its fourth annual Broadband Day at the Roundhouse, which drew legislators, Tribal leaders, educators, service providers, and community organizations. This event offered progress updates on statewide broadband deployment, highlighted program achievements, and provided an opportunity for attendees to directly engage with OBAE staff and stakeholders.

To enhance transparency and provide public access to up-to-date information, OBAE deployed a series of robust communication and outreach tools. Monthly Broadband Bulletins communicated project updates, new funding opportunities, construction milestones, mapping enhancements, and service rollout timelines. The agency also expanded its broadband mapping hub, giving residents, providers, and local governments the ability to track construction progress, view connectivity data, and understand where broadband investments were being made.

OBAE also prioritized inclusive engagement by collaborating with community anchor institutions and statewide partners to expand digital equity efforts. The agency supported device distribution and digital skills programs through partnerships with entities like DiverseIT through the TechUp! New Mexico Program. OBAE also coordinated cybersecurity tabletop exercises for schools through the Statewide Education Network (SEN), providing practical support to educational institutions and helping protect critical digital infrastructure. These ongoing partnerships expanded the reach of OBAE's engagement strategy and ensured that communities experiencing the largest digital gaps received sustained support.

Finally, OBAE delivered targeted technical assistance to Tribal Nations, local governments, and broadband providers through workshops, advisory meetings, and one-on-one engagement. Workshops such as the Tribal Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) session provided vital guidance on regulatory processes, funding eligibility, and long-term sustainability planning. OBAE staff also supported the Connect New Mexico Tribal Working Group by offering technical assistance, sample materials, and program updates to help Tribal communities prepare for federal opportunities like the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program and Digital Equity Act grants. These efforts ensured equitable access to technical knowledge and strengthened the capacity of communities to participate fully in broadband deployment and long-term digital planning, reinforcing OBAE's commitment to transparent, inclusive, and community-centered engagement.

Community Engagement

KEY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM: JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026

2025

July 17
Cabinet in Your Community in Silver City

August 22
Tribal Broadband Convening - Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque

September 11
Disaster Relief Ribbon Cutting - Lincoln County

September 24
Jemez Pueblo Operational Ribbon Cutting Event

October 28
Luna County Border Community Ribbon Cutting - Village of Columbus

December 3
3rd Annual New Mexico Broadband Summit

2026

February 12
Broadband Day at the Roundhouse

February 27
2026 ABIERTA Summit: Digital Readiness & Adoption in New Mexico

March 27
Truth or Consequences Operational Broadband Ribbon Cutting Event

April 24
19 Pueblos District Pueblo Administration & Collaboration Summit (PACS)

April 24
Broadband Networking and Job Fair at the Santa Fe Higher Education Center

May 6
Mescalero Apache Telecom (MATI) Data Center and Office Building Ribbon Cutting

May 20
Espanola Student Connect Ribbon Cutting

June 4
Tribal Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Workshop