Broadband Bulletin August 2025
New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion and the Bulletin at (505)-231-2038, ab.net@state.nm.us

Bringing Opportunity to Your Community

BROADBAND BULLETIN

August 2025

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion is dedicated to serving New Mexico with a comprehensive approach to broadband infrastructure, adoption, and access. BEAD's goal is to ensure that every New Mexican has high-speed internet service with unprecedented bandwidth that should last for generations. We are working with our partners to connect every unserved and underserved location, deploy affordable internet to rural areas, focus on the needs of our Native and Indigenous communities, and ensure that all

From the Director's Chair

Jeff Carter

During the past month, BBAE has been a whirlwind of activity as we have been working with our partners and Everything Is Low engaging efforts to remove barriers to broadband access and adoption throughout New Mexico. As we kick off the "make-ready" phase of our BEAD program, we are working with our partners, Equity Broadband and Broadband DEWG, projects that will provide broadband access to over 1,000 public community anchor institutions. Our Broadband Navigator program has expanded to more than 30 trained navigators, who are helping our communities with digital literacy, broadband adoption, and connecting people to the internet. The state's Broadband Navigator program is now in its second year, working closely with Tribal communities to ensure they have the tools and information to navigate the digital world and access broadband resources.

We, the NM Office of Broadband Access and Expansion, are proud to be a part of this work, and we are grateful for our partnerships and more than Mexicans who are changing and will change the broadband landscape and goal of our state mission.

High-Speed Happenings

DBAE Seeks Public Comment on Massive Federal Broadband Deployment Plan

Make-Ready Contract Pieces of BEAD Final Proposal Sent/Sought

New Mexico's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program is swiftly moving forward.

This week, the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) has made the public for comment on a BEAD proposal that will determine how hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent to connect every New Mexican to broadband.

The public is invited to provide input on OBAE's initial Proposal to guide parts through the BEAD program. The seven-day comment period is the final step before the agency can submit its proposal to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for approval.

You can read the draft Final Proposal here.

Comments may be submitted through the web form here **through 11:59pm tonight.**

OBAE has previously approved the projects for which funding is 17 entities:

- **Cybernet, Equity Broadband and the Tech Joint venture companies**
- **3 cooperatives**
- **2 municipalities**
- **1 tribal**

Cybernet is a joint venture between two leaders in technology, including 40% of the nations' personal cell phones. 90% of the equipment sent and from overseas, and 70% of the locations in the state are in Bernalillo County.

The BEAD program will make the biggest investment in the history of New Mexico's broadband infrastructure. The state's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Broadband is necessary for all families to receive critical services and information to stay connected to jobs, healthcare, education, and their communities.

The Federal Government has commitment of over $42 billion to ensuring underserved communities and Tribal communities get connected. The state, it also offers challenges as a lack of broadband infrastructure, high costs, and low adoption rates in rural and Tribal communities.

The BEAD program BEAD orders which represents part of the $42 billion BEAD program funding allocated across all 50 states and six territories to connect unserved and underserved locations nationwide.

New Mexico's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program is swiftly moving forward.

This is a pivotal moment in New Mexico, stated, Gilbert 27 Industrial Solutions "I am so proud of our partnership with Equity to help us with the proposal. We have a great team and we are ready to make the most of this opportunity to connect New Mexico's people and grow the state's economy."

OBAE Director Jeff Carter said, "We are ready to make the most of this opportunity to connect New Mexico's people and grow the state's economy."

Equity Broadband Partnership Projects Underway

Equity Broadband's Partnership projects are underway, with the first fiber-optic cable being installed in Bernalillo, Valencia, Cibola and Sandoval counties. Equity Broadband is a joint venture between the Pueblo of Laguna, Cybernet, and Tech Joint Venture, and the Pueblo of Laguna, Cybernet, and Tech Joint Venture are the partners that are working with Equity Broadband.

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Broadband DEWG Seeks Project Manager Fulfillers

Broadband DEWG's initial project is to support broadband and communities recovering from Great Depression-era, and Jeff Carter, Director of OBAE, "Designing and Rolling Out Broadband Infrastructure Is Not Easy."

Upcoming Events

Ribbon Cutting In Ruidoso September 10th to Celebrate Disaster Grant Awards

OBAE will be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the awarding of ARPA disaster grants to two internet service providers. The money will help to repair and replace broadband damaged or destroyed by wildfires and flooding in Lincoln County. The funds will also be used to build a redundancy line to ensure connectivity.

The ceremony will be September 10 at 10:30am at Ruidoso Community College. The address is 709 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso 88345.

Register for the 2025 ABQNOG September 18th

The New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion and the Statewide Education Network will be holding the 3rd annual ABQNOG conference and are encouraging internet service providers, network operators, school IT representatives and others to attend this important all-day event.

This year ABQNOG will be partnering with the American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN), the organization that assigns and administers IP addresses & ASNs in support of the operation and growth of the Internet.

The 2025 ABQNOG will be **September 18 at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown from 9:30am-4pm.** The address is: 2600 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Registration is free.

For more information and to register for the ABQNOG, CLICK HERE.

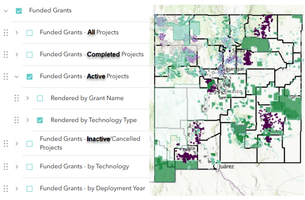
The technical meeting will include networking specialists, ARIN experts and industry leaders from the Southwest region who will address new technologies, broadband updates and share information vital in the advancement of this important industry.

ABQNOG will be particularly helpful and enlightening for prospective and current ISPs.

Lunch and coffee will be provided at the conference.

If you have any questions, please contact Ovidiu Viorica at Ovidiu.viorica@connect.nm.gov

OBAE Providing Grants Map Updates

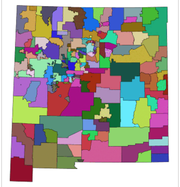


Last month OBAE's Geographic Information System (GIS) team updated the grant layers in the "Grants for NM Broadband" map. The latest grants are now included, and the layout and information available for each grant are now more consistent.

Grants are also grouped by their implementation status as well as tech types. Individual grant data now include project dates, project status and provider information in all layers. We hope this helps users view the broadband grant information in a more efficient and user-friendly way, allowing them to see and understand the project grants according to their interests.

CLICK HERE to see the updated grants map.

OBAE's Broadband Mapping and Data Hub



OBAE has a comprehensive and detailed mapping system that will help you navigate throughout the state to learn more about served and unserved broadband locations, current infrastructure, future broadband projects and other important information. The Hub provides broadband maps and discloses where grants are funding high-speed internet projects.

To check out the Mapping Hub and Data, **CLICK HERE.**

Network News

Hundreds of Defaulted Colorado RDOF Locations May Be Ineligible for BEAD

More Than Half of States Posted New BEAD Plans Ahead of Key NTIA Deadline

Updated, Comprehensive List: BEAD Benefit of the Bargain Provisional Awards

New Mexico Ready to Deploy BEAD Funds Across Technologies

Dem Lawmakers Want Clarity on BEAD Non-Deployment

Wireless Now Dominates Colorado's BEAD Applications

Study: Data Centers Will Require 214M More Fiber Miles By 2029

Luján Presses NTIA's New Chief to Act on Broadband Funds 'Day One'

Washington Insider Slams BEAD Satellite Funding Rules: What the States Are Planning

States Face LEO Dilemma as BEAD Program Revamps

Broadband Competition Report: Most Americans Have More than One Wired Option

SpaceX Excoriates Virginia's BEAD Final Proposal

Minnesota Broadband Chief on BEAD Challenges, State Investments, and Tribal Partnerships

Massachusetts Broadband Institute Awards $31.5M in Grants

Bad News, Good News About Tribal Broadband: Ookla Study

Fiber Looks Strong as Virginia Sends BEAD List for Approval: Awardee Rankings

Arielle Roth's First Headache– Call It the Musk Migraine

Kansas Announces $10.4M in Grants for Wi-Fi, Device Distribution

Louisiana's Revised BEAD Awardees: Who Gains? Who Loses?

Contact Information:

If you have any questions or comments for OBAE please email them to:

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If you have questions about any of these opportunities, please contact us via email at Broadband@connect.nm.gov.

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