

Connect New Mexico Pilot Program
Connectivity to Declared Disaster Areas
Scoring Guide - Wave 4

The New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (“OBAE”) presents the following Scoring Guide for the Connect New Mexico Pilot Program – Wave 4.

The Scoring Guide provides a detailed overview of the selection criteria. Please refer to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) for additional information regarding the Pilot Program. The NOFO provides extensive details on the authorizing legislation, program purpose, program eligibility factors (e.g., eligible entities, project types, network technology, service areas), allowable expenditures, key performance requirements (e.g., network speed, service offerings), and self-certification and compliance requirements.

1. Scoring Guide Objective

The Scoring Guide identifies the specific categories and consideration factors by which applications will be evaluated. The Scoring Guide aims to: 1) provide a systematic, structured approach to comprehensively assess an application’s potential to achieve the purpose of the Pilot Program; 2) ensure that all applications receive a consistent standard of evaluation and scoring.

As stated in the NOFO, the Pilot Program, Wave 4 aims to foster the rapid deployment and/or restoration of terrestrial-based broadband networks across unserved and underserved locations in New Mexican communities impacted by environmental disasters. The designated areas include those communities affected by wildfires and floods over the last two years – including the Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak Fire, South Fork and Salt Fires, Ruidoso Floods, and Roswell Floods.

2. Review Process

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a Review Team consisting of two or three personnel from OBAE (contractors and staff). They will score the application based on the criteria stated in this Scoring Guide and the specific content presented in the Application.

3. Selection Criteria and Weights

This team will systematically score applications using the following selection criteria and associated point values (please see Table A). A total of 100 points will be allocated. The selection criteria include five major categories. These criteria will be applied to the information provided by the Applicant. To ensure that an application receives the highest possible score, please provide complete, comprehensive, and transparent responses for all information requested in the application.

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Table A) Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria: Five Categories	Points	Evaluation Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed to Deployment: The timeframe required for network deployment and readiness for commercial launch <p><i>Note: The total project period can be no longer than 18 months given signed contract (along with purchase order) is likely to be completed by June 2025, thus leaving July 2025 as the first month to start design and/or deployment. The project must be completed and commercially ready by December 2026.</i></p>	36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The number of months required to deploy infrastructure facilities and have the network ready to offer commercial service, with most points awarded for those projects taking six months or less • ≤ 6 months: 36 points • 7 to 8 months: 30 points • 9 to 10 months: 24 points • 11 to 12 months: 18 points • 13 to 14 months: 12 points • 15 to 16 months: 6 points • 17 to 18 months: 0 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Support: The level of community support from direct beneficiaries (e.g., residents, businesses, institutions) and community leaders (e.g., public officials, economic development agencies, etc.) 	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Degree of personalized letters that reflect a broad spectrum of community members ✓ Financial contribution – delineated in the match – from local community members and local/state government ✓ Evidence of community outreach efforts to gauge interest in project ✓ Existing collaboration with government entities to foster network deployment (e.g., permitting, rights-of-way) ✓ Partnerships with local, tribal, and regional governments aimed to expedite permitting, serve as anchor clients, form a public-private partnership, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matching Contribution Degree: The magnitude of matching contribution above the 25% requirement 	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Following table assigns points for a higher proportion of a matching contribution • 45% or greater (16 points) • 42.5% – 44.9% (14 points) • 40% – 42.49% (12 points) • 37.5% – 39.9% (10 points) • 35% - 37.49% (8 points) • 32.50% – 34.9% (6 points) • 30% – 32.49% (4 points) • 27.5% – 29.9% (2 points) • Below 27.5% (0 points)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost Efficiency: The degree of locations benefitting from the network relative to the grant request 	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Considers the number of locations connected relative to the grant amount

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		Note: The score will reflect a ratio considering grant/unit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Community Impact: The degree to which network serves the broader community, including: community institutions; government facilities; backhaul for commercial mobile and public safety networks; backhaul to data centers; etc. 	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Degree of connectivity to community institutions, government sites, commercial locations, farms, data centers ✓ Backhaul support for public safety network operators (e.g., FirstNet) and commercial mobile network
Total	100	