



# CONNECT new mexico

Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**  
New Mexico Governor

**DREW LOVELACE**  
Acting Broadband Director

FROM: Drew Lovelace, Acting Broadband Director  
NM Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE)  
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SUBJECT: Broadband Report on the Current State in New Mexico

Dear Fellow New Mexicans:

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) has put together a comprehensive report on the current state of broadband in New Mexico, along with a district breakout to highlight broadband availability in your district versus the rest of the State.

This session is a critical time for broadband in the State. While OBAE has been allocated \$675M in federal funds to reach the unserved, there is still a \$2.1B dollar gap to meet the needs of broadband in the State and a significant amount of deployment that needs occur in the next few years.

Over the last year, OBAE, has received the \$675M allocation, awarded \$117M of ARPA funding, launched two grant programs to push out \$75M dollars of the Connect New Mexico Fund, in addition to building the office and meeting our statutory requirements to house the State Broadband Map and provide Technical Assistance to local and tribal governments.

This session, OBAE has three critical priorities to move connect the unserved across the State. We ask for your support in moving these priorities forward.

1. Support the executive recommendation on OBAE operating budget.
2. SB43 is a future forward ROW bill creating new efficiencies for Internet Service Providers to deploy broadband.
3. SB45 moves the State Education Network program from PSFA to OBAE (currently with OBAE under and MOU)

Access to reliable and high-speed internet is essential for education, healthcare, business, and overall community well-being. The attached report outlines the current state of broadband in New Mexico.

Should you have any questions, either I or OBAE staff can make themselves available to answer any questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Drew Lovelace', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

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