

Covered Populations: Facilitated Session



Agenda

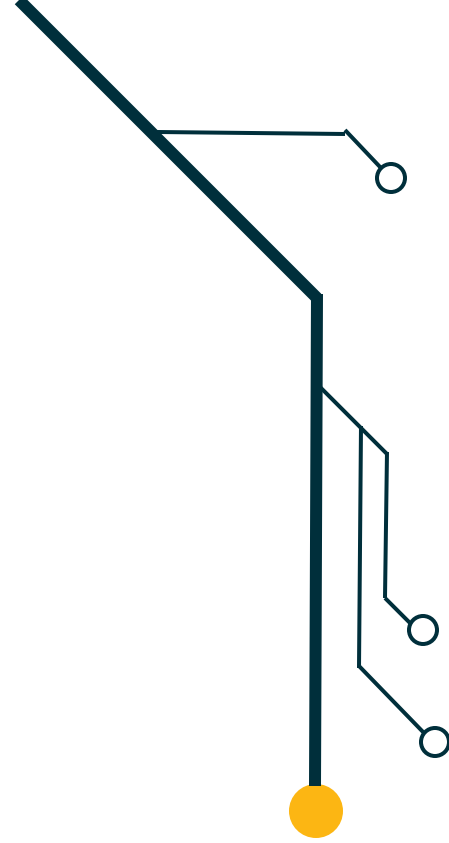
1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Broadband Technology Overview
3. Broadband Funding and Programmatic Opportunities
4. Opportunities for Engagement

Introductions

- *Kelly Schlegel - Director of the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion*
- *Joaquin Alvarado – Community Engagement Facilitator*

Mission and Vision of Office of Broadband

- **Mission:** Passionate leadership to drive bold, equitable, and inclusive broadband solutions
- **Vision:** Achieve bold, affordable broadband solutions for New Mexicans that honor the state's rich heritage and elevate quality of life for all
- **Values:** Seven values defining OBAE's people, processes, planning, and programs: 1) bold; 2) honest; 3) curious; 4) innovative; 5) respectful; 6) collaborative; 7) analytically rigorous
- **Four major goals**
 - Universal Broadband Availability
 - Broadband Adoption and Meaningful Usage
 - Statewide Next Generation Networks
 - Program Stewardship
- **These goals are foundation of the 3-yr Plan submitted Jan 01, 2023 that describe strategic priorities, initiatives and actions to accomplish each goal**



Broadband Technology Overview

*An introduction to broadband infrastructure and technologies for
communities and local policymakers*

Federal and State Broadband Speed Thresholds

25/3
Mbps

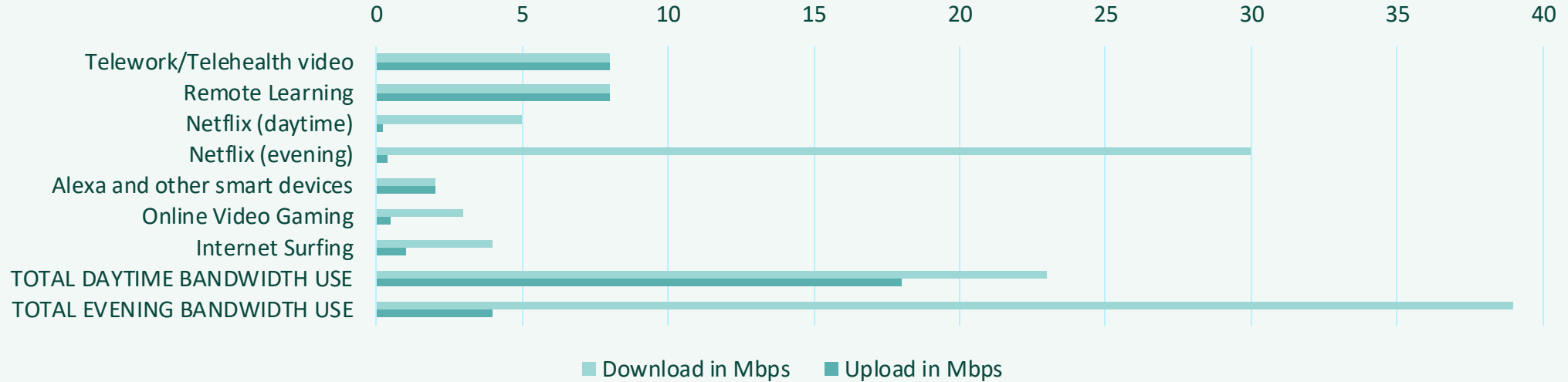
The FCC's definition is 25 megabits per second down and 3 megabits per second up (25/3 Mbps)

100/20
Mbps

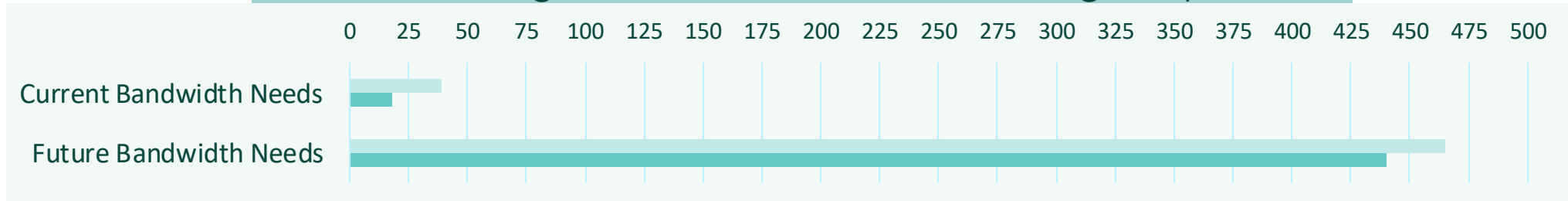
Congress set a new 100/20 Mbps standard in the American Rescue Plan Act and Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

How much bandwidth do we need?

Today we need more bandwidth than minimum 25/3 Mbps broadband speeds defined by the FCC

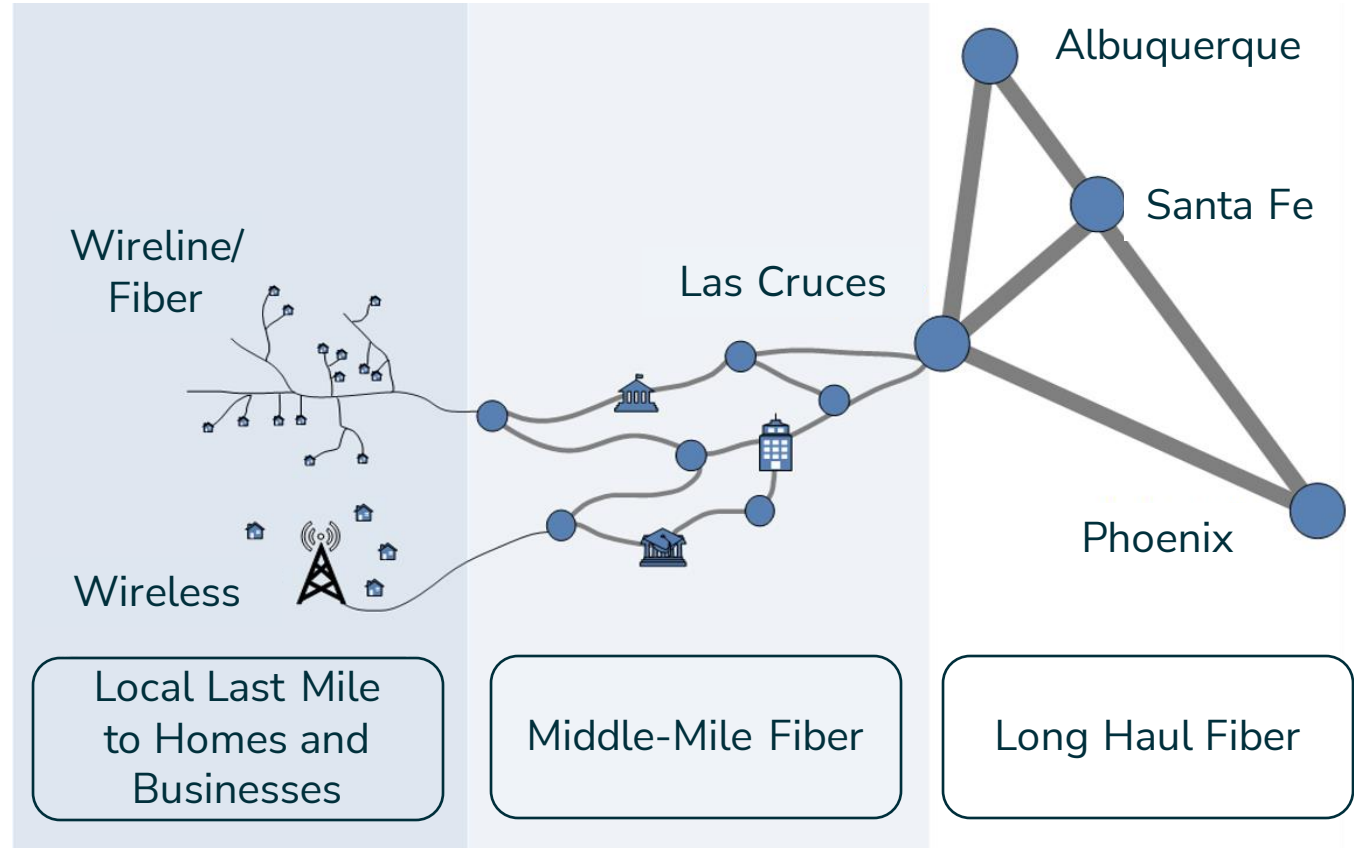


With augmented reality, other anticipated applications, and increased usage, we will soon need much higher speeds

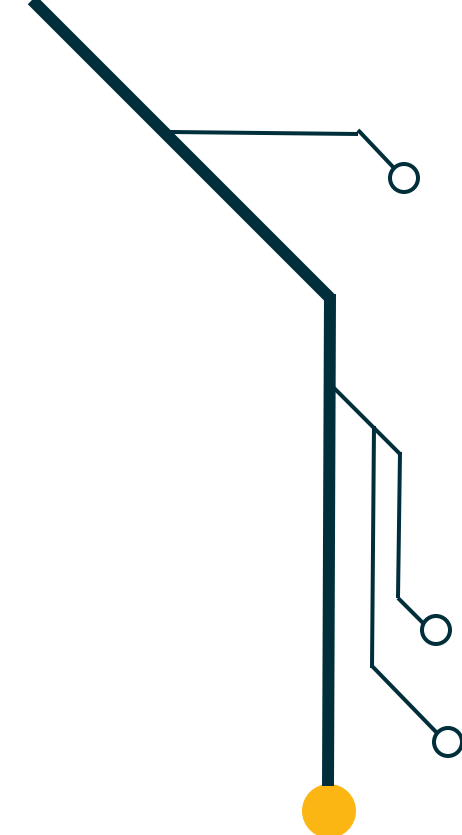
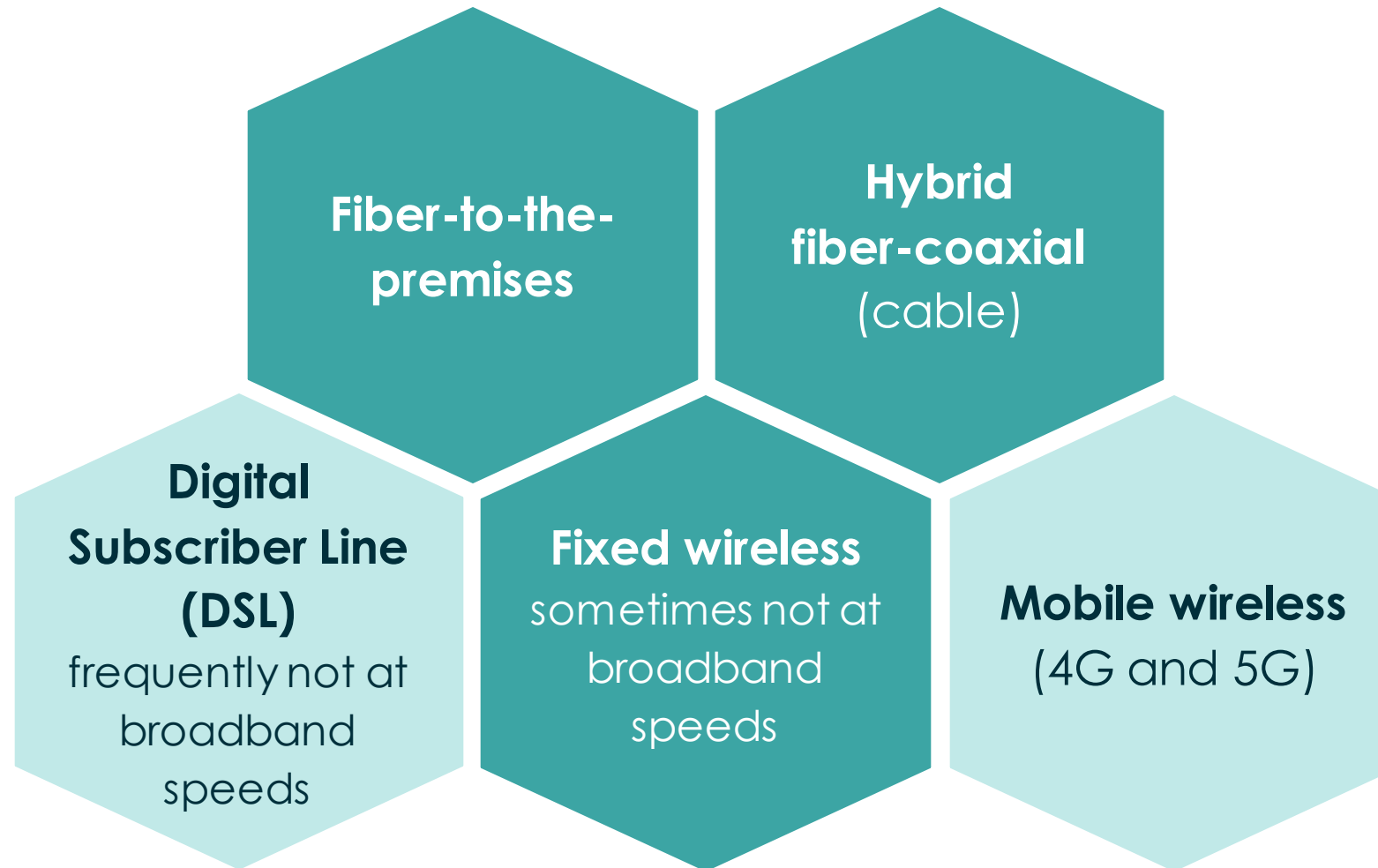


THE ELEMENTS OF A BROADBAND NETWORK

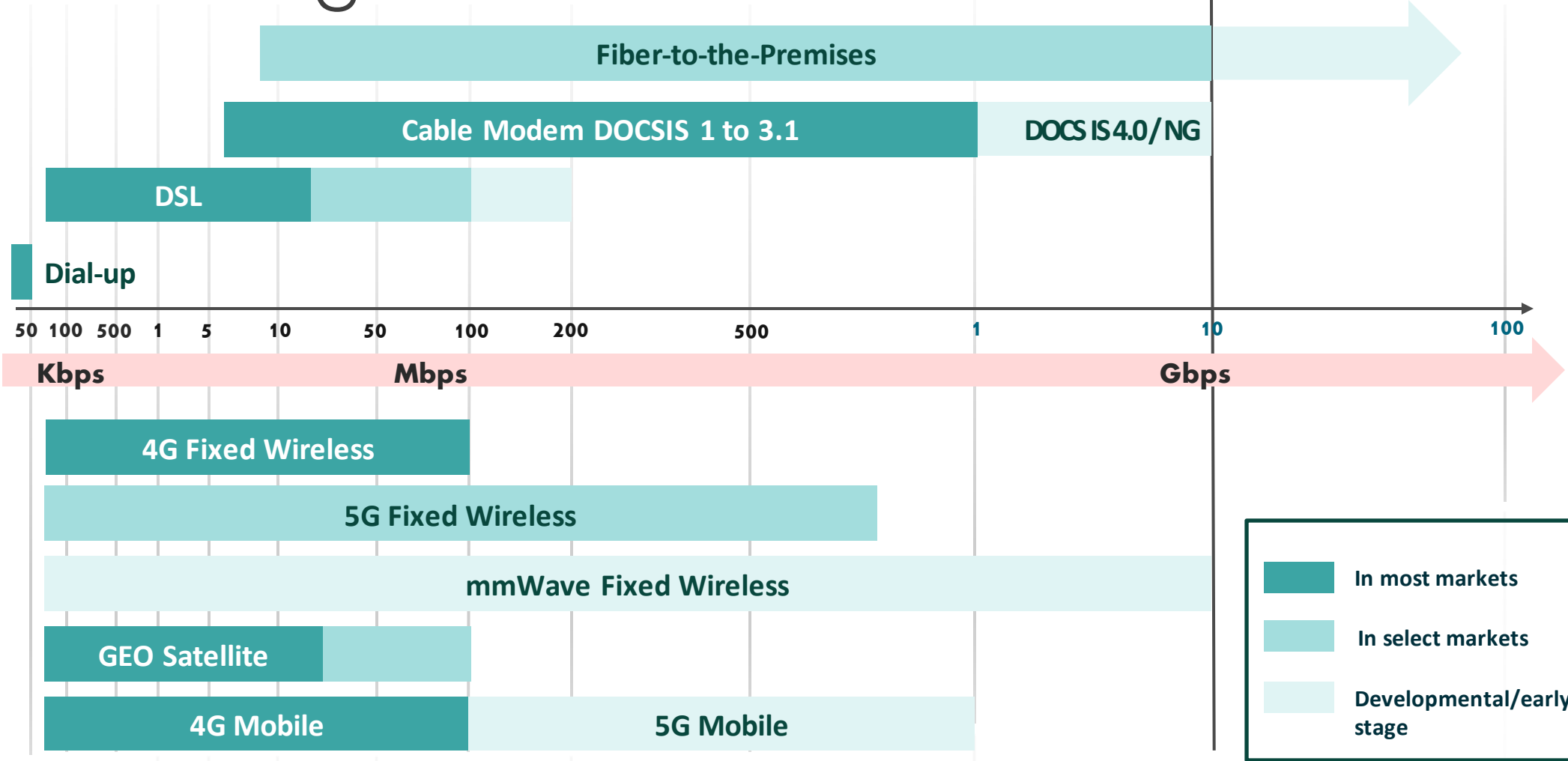
- Long haul fiber
- Middle mile fiber
- Last mile (wireline or wireless)



Types of Broadband Infrastructure



Typical Speeds: Wireline and Wireless Technologies



How did we get here?

Broadband has developed through the evolution of technology & industry investment

~1995: Dial-up

Telephone companies connect homes & businesses to the internet over copper telephone lines, at “narrowband,” slow speeds

~1999: DSL

Telephone companies use new technology to offer faster internet over copper wires -- but still with speed & capacity limitations

~1999: Cable Modem

Cable companies use their last-mile video networks to connect customers to the internet, faster

~2005: Fiber-to-the-premises

Very high speeds to end users, but only in select areas where companies – or the public sector -- invest

What is “Digital Connectivity”?

Generally, experts have identified five elements of digital connectivity:



Broadband Access:

Affordable, accessible, and reliable high-speed home internet service is available for all individuals



Accessible and Inclusive Content:

Public online content is inclusive and accessible by all individuals



Devices and Tech Support:

Individuals have access to a computer or tablet and technical support



Privacy and Security:

Individuals can protect their data privacy and online security



Digital Literacy and Skills:

Individuals have digital skills to support their ability to meaningfully use the internet in their daily lives

Digital Inclusion Ecosystem

A Digital Inclusion Ecosystem coordinates entities' work together to address all aspects of the digital divide, including affordable broadband, devices, and skills.

Indicators of a strong Digital Inclusion Ecosystem:

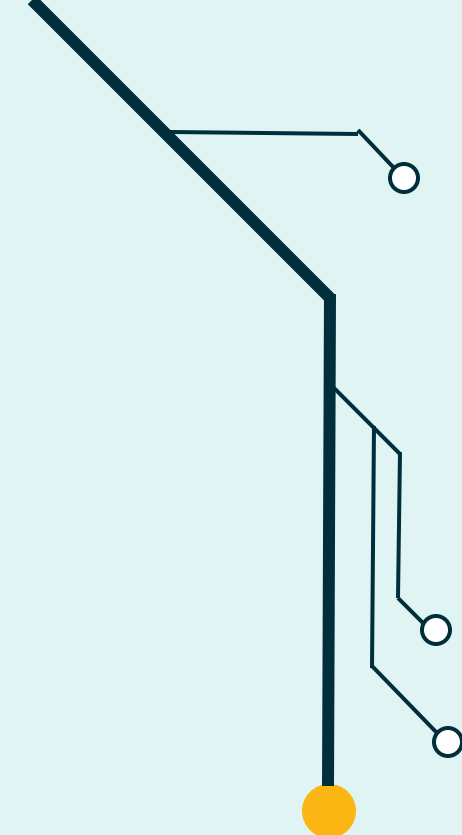
- Existence of programs and policies **addressing all aspects of the digital divide:**
 - Affordable and subsidized broadband service options that meet the community's needs
 - Affordable and subsidized device ownership programs that meet the community's needs
 - Multilingual digital literacy and digital skill trainings that meet the community's needs
 - Hardware and software technical support
 - Digital navigation services to guide residents to the above services
- **Collaboration:** Entities providing local digital inclusion services, policymakers, advocates, social service providers and community leaders co-create solutions in partnership with the community.

Discussion

1. What are the gaps/challenges towards achieving connectivity for the populations you serve?
2. Does your organization provide programming targeted at covered populations*?

Funding and Programmatic Opportunities

Funding Overview and Timeline



Broadband Funding Priorities and Timeline

New Mexico will develop a statewide plan for expanding broadband to all in-state addresses

Funding priorities for fiber-to-the-premises deployment

1. **Unserved locations:** those that cannot get Internet service at least 25/3 Mbps
2. **Underserved locations:** those that get internet service between 25/3 and 100/20 Mbps
3. **Community Anchor Institutions** (schools, libraries, hospitals, public safety): locations that cannot get 1Gbps internet
4. Low income and affordable housing

Planning

2023

Provisional grant program

2024

New infrastructure

2025

Broadband Service Deployment Under BEAD

State issues subgrants and requires matching funds to deploy broadband infrastructure and deliver service

Projects comply with fair labor standards and cybersecurity practices

State workforce development plan ensures readiness and new jobs to underrepresented groups

Low-cost service options available to households qualifying for ACP and low-cost service parameters based on provider participation in ACP, cost to subscribers after subsidies, and plan speed

Compliance with state and federal environmental laws, climate threat assessment

Broadband service project areas prioritize unserved address locations



Community Anchor Institutions

- **CAI connectivity:** After unserved and underserved locations, BEAD funds can support access to 1 Gbps internet for CAIs
- **State identifies eligible CAIs** and assesses needs
- **State applies the definition** and determines CAI types to serve, and its basis if selecting CAIs not in explicitly in definition
- **Challenge process:** Organizations not selected as eligible CAIs will have opportunity to challenge state determination

Definition:

“Entity such as school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization, or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, children, the incarcerated, and aged individuals.” (BEAD NOFO p. 11)



Library and Healthcare Anchor Needs

Libraries

- Device loans
- Digital skills training: all residents
- Onsite access to computers and other electronic devices
- Aides for people with disabilities
- Outreach/education/enrollment into Affordable Connectivity Program
- Capable of getting 1 Gbps connectivity from provider?

Healthcare Organizations

- Telehealth, devices, skills training – rural, aged, and other populations
- Rural healthcare outreach and programs
- Partnerships with community-based outreach programs
- Capable of getting 1 Gbps connectivity from provider?



Education CAI Needs

K-12 Education

- Curriculum access: online requirements for school-work packets
- Digital skills training: students and parents/guardians
- Outreach/education/enrollment into Affordable Connectivity Program

Colleges and Universities

- Curriculum content: fiber optic/broadband, cyber-security, and IT certification and degree programs
- Curriculum process: online resource based, including video/chat



Digital Connectivity Funding Priorities

New Mexico is developing a statewide plan for advancing digital connectivity, including how to utilize upcoming federal funds

Program areas:

- **Broadband Access:** Individuals have more affordable, accessible, and reliable high-speed home internet service
- **Devices and Tech Support:** Individuals have access to a computer or tablet and technical support
- **Digital Literacy and Skills:** Individuals have digital skills to support their ability to meaningfully use the internet in their daily lives
- **Accessible and Inclusive Content:** Public online content is inclusive and accessible by all individuals
- **Privacy and Security:** Individuals can protect their data privacy and online security

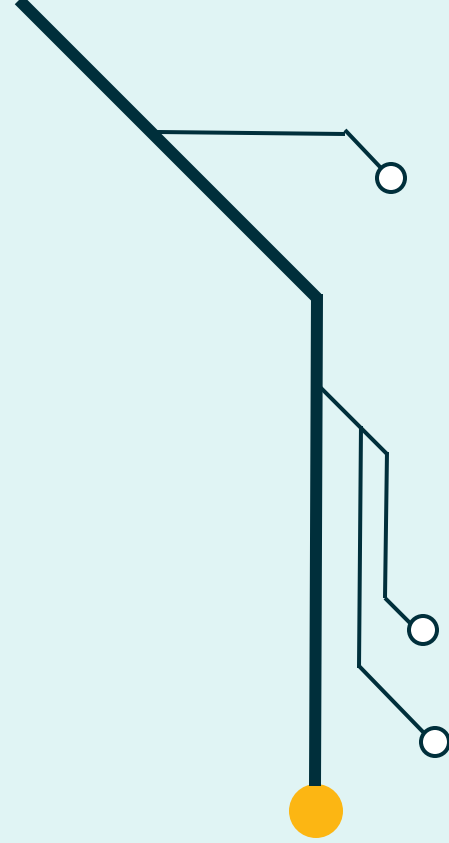
Covered Populations:

- Rural residents
- Low-income individuals
- Veterans
- Seniors
- Individuals with disabilities
- English learners
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Incarcerated individuals

Discussion

- How can OBAE support your organization's efforts to connect your community to broadband?
- Is your organization open to partnerships to improve broadband access and affordability?

Opportunities for Engagement



Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

FCC subsidy program
helps households better
afford internet services
and devices

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service

Benefits for eligible households:

- Up to \$30/month internet service discount
- Up to \$75/month internet service discount of qualifying Tribal lands
- One-time discount up to \$100 for a device
- Some low-cost service plans can be entirely subsidized

Household income and federal assistance programs determine eligibility*

Apply for ACP: affordableconnectivity.gov

Stakeholder Surveys



State & Local Government Asset Inventory

Infrastructure-related assets that may help facilitate or reduce the cost of broadband deployment in the state



Community Anchor Connectivity

Barriers and obstacles to clients, facility access, criticality of internet to mission and program capacity



ISP Workforce Preparedness

Sources for hiring, workforce programs, ACP, internet skills and adoption, collaboration in community, deployment approaches, disaster recovery plans



Workforce Programs Inventory

Workforce programs profile, barriers to developing diverse & skilled workforce, ISP workforce-related questions



Digital Equity Program Inventory

Program details, planned program types & areas of focus, broadband impacts on programmatic outcomes



Barriers & Obstacles for Covered Populations

Internet, computer & content access, digital skills, data security, barriers & obstacles, broadband impacts on programmatic outcomes

Covered Populations Survey

- **Internet access:** Individuals in covered populations' experience with internet service.
- **Computer access:** Individuals' experience in accessing computers
- **Digital literacy and skills:** Individuals' ability to effectively use technologies, get information, and use the internet
- **Inclusive and accessible content:** Individuals' access to meaningful website content
- **Data privacy and cyber security:** Individuals' ability to secure their information and computers
- **Barriers and obstacles:** Unique barriers to accessing broadband internet, home computers, and website content; acquiring digital skills; and securing their information and how to address these
- **Programmatic impacts** of access to broadband. Metrics used to measure progress on programmatic outcomes.



Digital Equity Programs Inventory

- **Profile:** Groups your organization serves, broadband/digital equity plans, part of a broadband coalition?
- **Existing programs:** Details on digital equity programs or services you offer, aspects of digital equity addressed, populations served, length of program activity, budget range, scope, scale, and so on
- **Planned programs:** New programs you may be developing
- **Programmatic impacts** of access to broadband by communities you serve. Metrics used to measure progress. Metrics the state should consider for economic and workforce, education, health, and civic and social engagement outcomes

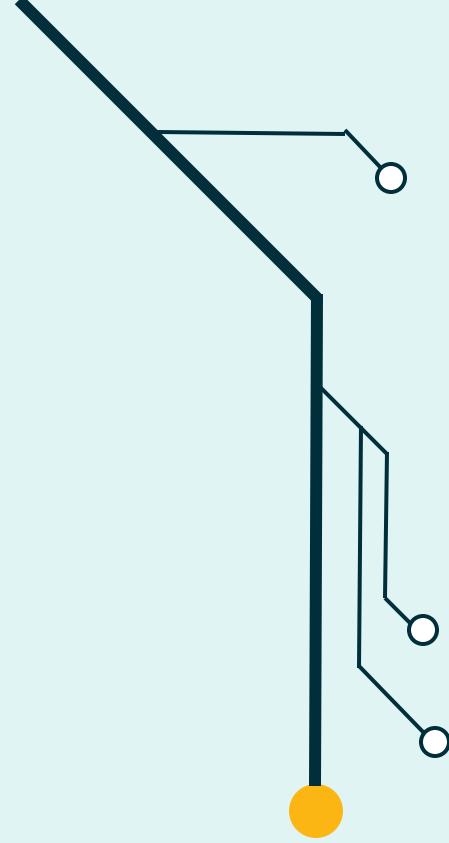


Community Anchor Institutions Survey

- **Profile:** Organization focus, groups you serve, and programs or services that facilitate use of broadband internet services by your clients
- **Barriers and obstacles:** Describe what prevents members of the communities you serve from accessing or using broadband internet
- **Facility access:** Level of internet access your organization's locations have and need. Can you get at least 1 Gigabit per second? If not, why not?
- **Criticality of service:** Criticality of broadband internet service to your mission. Has your organization been consulted in emergency or resilience planning?
- **Workforce development:** Is your organization involved in telecom or technology workforce programs?



Next steps and Questions



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