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New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

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CONNECT new mexico

Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

Connect New Mexico Pilot Grant Announces 3rd Wave of Awards!

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) announces grant awards for 11 projects to deliver high-speed Internet to unserved and underserved communities across New Mexico.

These projects are funded by the Connect New Mexico Pilot Program. The Pilot Program is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act's Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury ("Treasury").

The 11 projects involve budgets amounting to \$106.3 million, which includes grant funding of \$66.8 million and leveraged by cash and in-kind matching contribution of \$39.5 million, yielding a match percentage of 37%. These funds will support the deployment of 803 miles of fiber to serve over 10,300 residential premises, businesses, and community institutions. The projects span across 23 communities.

All the projects utilize fiber to create a future-proof network to serve future generations, and can offer speeds reaching at least gigabit-level service today. OBAE followed guidelines issued by the Treasury, which noted that states should prioritize fiber-optic infrastructure where feasible, as such advanced networks can better support future needs.

Congratulations to the Awardees!

Pueblos

Jemez: Connects unserved units through the deployment of a 45-mile fiber network, and leverages several existing middle-mile assets to reach the Internet backbone.

Laguna: Serves the state's largest-sized pueblo (and 2nd in terms of population) and connects unserved premises through 193 miles of fiber.

Nambe: Deploys 30 fiber miles to connect unserved units and leverages Redinet's middle-mile backbone; also constructs one cell tower to enable reliable wireless capabilities for public safety within remote areas of the Pueblo.

Santa Ana: Connects unserved premises through 18 new fiber miles, and leverages ARPA funding provided to the Pueblo.

Santo Domingo: Connects the Pueblo and surrounding communities of Sile and Peña Blanca with 50 miles of fiber. Project complements a separate fiber span funded by the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

Tribal Affiliated

Oso Internet: Leverages 10-year history in serving the Ramah Navajo reservation by connecting 109 unserved members in Pine Meadows through 49 miles of fiber and complements two other federal projects to fiberize the tribal region.

Non-Tribal

Comcast: Extends Comcast's existing network in San Juan County to further connect unserved and underserved premises across the communities of Aztec and Bloomfield, which face economic distress, with 234 fiber miles (two distinct applications).

Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative: Catalyzes the electric cooperatives entry into broadband by connecting 10 communities, representing 3,171 premises, with 105 fiber miles – including communities of Alcalde, Canova, Chamita, El Duende, Española, Hernandez, La Villita, Los Luceros, Ohkay Owingeh, Velarde. Positions JMEC for future expansion to connect 18,000 additional unserved units in its electrical service footprint.

Penasco Valley Telephone Cooperative: Constructs 12.5 miles of fiber to connect unserved premises in Hagerman, building upon 60 years of experience in serving Southeast New Mexico.

Tularosa Communications: Deploys 63 fiber miles to connect unserved premises across the communities of Dog Canyon and Dog Ranch.

Read the complete Connect NM Press Release [here](#).

Award Ceremony Photos

Pueblo of Laguna





Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative



Oso Internet



New Mexico Tribal Broadband

Previous New Mexico Tribal Broadband Newsletters are available [here](#).