



ATTENTION! New "PINON" Digital Equity Grant Available in January

New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion sent this bulletin at 12/09/2024 11:18 AM MST

Bringing Connectivity to Your Community



New "PINON" Grant Becomes Available Next Month: Aims to Close the Digital Divide

OBAE Encourages Entities to Apply for Available Funds to Help Level the Broadband Playing Field



The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) is excited to announce the **Promoting Internet Needs of New Mexicans (PINON) Grant**--an initiative designed to help bring more digital equity to residents and communities across the state.

Awarded funds will range from \$25,000 to \$500,000 to support subgrantees in enhancing their digital equity programs. OBAE plans to award more than \$7.3 million through the PINON Grant.

Funding and application information will be available **January 13** on OBAE's website, and entities may begin to apply on **January 21**.

Entities eligible to apply include:

- Municipal, county, and regional governments
- Tribal governments and Tribal-led entities
- Community-based organizations, non-profits, and foundations
- Higher education institutions
- State agencies and institutions

OBAE will award the funds to New Mexico entities to implement digital inclusion activities. Eligible activities under this grant may include digital skills activities, digital navigator activities, device distribution activities, technical support, and capacity-building.

To receive a PINON Grant, subgrantees must engage individuals from one or more of eight covered populations identified in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.

These include:

- Households with incomes below 150% of the poverty line
- Seniors
- Veterans
- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals facing language barriers
- Members of racial and ethnic minority groups
- Residents who live in rural areas
- Incarcerated individuals

More than 90% of New Mexicans are included in one or more of these categories.

Eligible programs that use the PINON Grant must support the implementation of [New Mexico's Digital Equity Plan](#) and assist the state in achieving its measurable objectives.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) also requires that OBAE's PINON Grants be used for at least one of the following: economic and workforce development, education, health, civic and social engagement and delivery of other essential services.

Designated awardees must enter into a Grant Agreement with OBAE to receive funding, and awardees will have 1 to 3 years to complete programming and to expend grant funding.

Tentative Timeline for Prospective Awardees:

- NOFO Release--Monday, January 13, 2025
- **Grant Portal Opens--Tuesday, January 21, 2025**
- Grant Orientation Webinar--Tuesday, January 21, 2025, from 2-3:30pm.
- Office Hours:
 - Tuesday, January 28, 2025, from 10-11am
 - Tuesday, February 4, 2025, from 2-3pm
 - Additional office hours may be scheduled as needed.
- **Application Due Date: Friday, March 21, 2025**, by 12 noon.
 - Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.
- Award Announcements: initial announcements anticipated in June and July 2025
 - OBAE must submit selected projects to NTIA by August 31, 2025, and are subject to NTIA final approval.

Here is the site to apply and to receive Digital Equity updates and information:

<https://connect.nm.gov/digital-equity.html>

If you have any questions, please contact:

Neala Krueger
OBAE Digital Equity Coordinator neala.krueger@connect.nm.gov 505-538-0929

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

You are receiving this email due to your participation in a past broadband event, or your interest in the importance of connectivity for your organization or the communities you serve. You can unsubscribe below.

Office of Broadband Access and Expansion | 715 Alta Vista St, Santa Fe, NM 87505

Subscribe to updates from New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

Email Address

e.g. name@example.com

SUBSCRIBE

Share Bulletin



POWERED BY



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookie Statement](#) | [Help](#)