



Hundreds of Homes in Rural New Mexico to Receive High-Speed Internet

New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion sent this bulletin at 09/13/2024 08:17 AM MDT

Bringing Connectivity to Your Community



\$5.6 Million Grant Will Make High-Speed Internet Service Available in Hidalgo and Grant County Communities



OBAE Acting Director Drew Lovelace, NM State Representative Jenifer Jones, Valley Telephone Cooperative CEO Troy Judd and other Cooperative officials cut the ribbon last night at an Animas High School football game to celebrate the future arrival of high-speed internet to the area.

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) has announced that three rural Southwestern New Mexico communities will soon have high-speed internet, thanks to a state-issued grant totaling more than \$5.6 million.

The funding was awarded through the state's Connect New Mexico Fund to Valley Telephone Cooperative, which will provide fiber broadband connections to hundreds of residents in Animas, Cotton City and Hachita.

"This project will have a generational impact for residents in this rural corner of the state. No one should lack access to broadband, and this important connectivity is a sign of real progress," said Drew Lovelace, Acting Director of OBAE.

The Valley Telephone Cooperative project will build fiber to 324 homes and 101 local businesses. The broadband will be constructed to 170 unserved and 255 underserved locations. An underserved location is one that does not have access to broadband speeds of at least 100Mbps download and 20 Mbps uploads.

Valley Telephone Cooperative will build nearly 135 miles of fiber for this project. Construction will begin as soon as Valley Telephone Cooperative completes preliminary work such as permitting, right of way and labor contracts.

The project could be completed as early as spring 2025.

Last night residents in Animas celebrated the prospect of high-speed internet during a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Animas High School football game.

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

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