



OBAE Awards \$500,000 in Broadband Planning and Engineering Grants

New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion sent this bulletin at 09/25/2024 04:00 PM MDT

Bringing Connectivity to Your Community



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Tribal and Local Governments Will Use State Funding to Help Build and Deploy High-Speed Internet



The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) has announced five awardees that will receive state grants totaling \$500,000 for planning, engineering and grant writing to help deploy broadband service in their communities.

The funds come as part of the state’s Grant Writing, Engineering and Planning program (GWEP). The state had allocated \$5 million in GWEP funds to help tribes, local governments and cooperatives attain grants to help them provide broadband to unserved areas. Awardees will use the funds to help provide broadband infrastructure, planning services and broadband engineering/design projects.

“These state grant awards signify another milestone to help expand broadband across New Mexico,” said Eric Rodgers, OBAE Project Manager. “This funding will help kickstart much-needed projects to bring high-speed internet to broadband-dry regions around the state. We are very excited to award these funds.”

All GWEP awards are assistance and not merit grants, and the money must go toward infrastructure. Internet Service Providers are not eligible to apply for GWEP dollars.

OBAE has awarded the grants to the following:

City of Espanola	\$100,000
Pueblo de Cochiti	\$100,000
Pueblo of Tesuque	\$100,000
Rio Arriba County	\$100,000
Sandoval County	\$100,000

The GWEP grants can also be used to attain other funds, like those available under the federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program. The maximum GWEP award allowed is \$100,000.

OBAE began issuing GWEP grants in July, and there are now 20 entities that have received awards totaling nearly \$2 million. Recipients include 7 tribal communities.

There is still \$3.1 million in GWEP grants still available, and OBAE is urging tribal governments, local governments, rural telephone cooperatives and rural electric cooperatives to submit for these assistance grants. Matching funds are not required.

To submit for a GWEP grant, click here: <https://obae.submittable.com/submit>

For more information about GWEP, click here: <https://connect.nm.gov/obae-funding.html>

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

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