



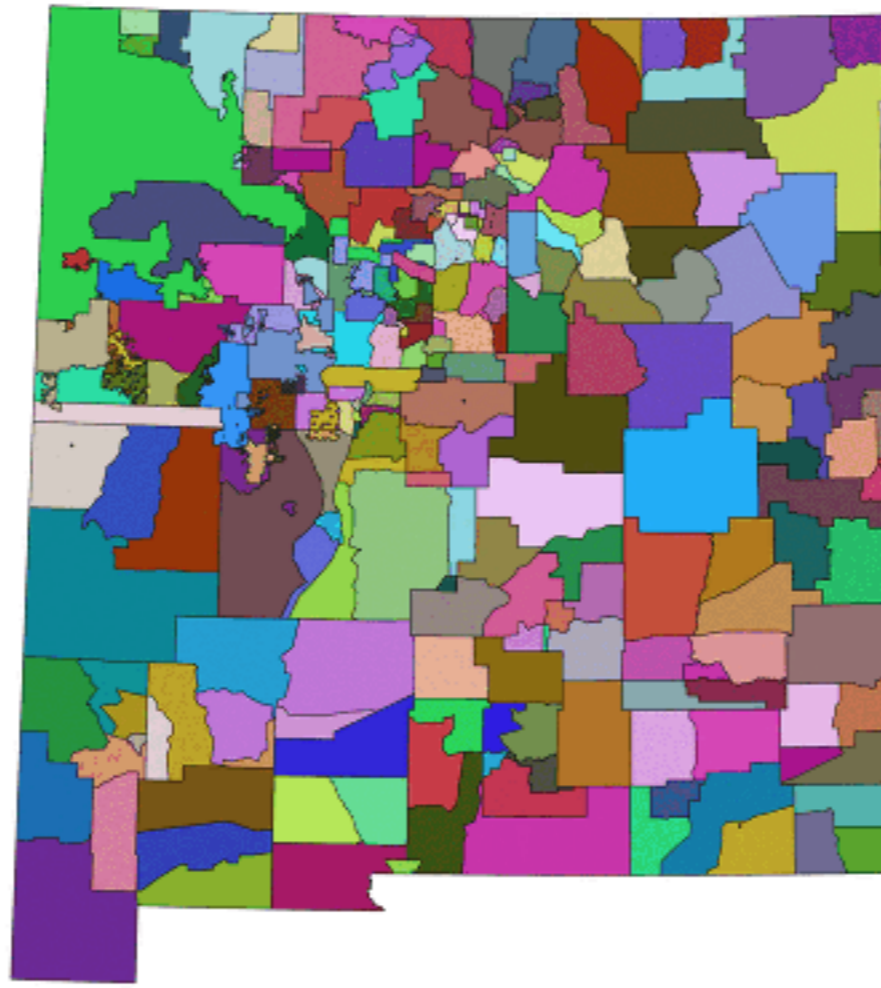
## OBAE Reaches Milestone in \$675 Million Federal BEAD Program

New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion sent this bulletin at 12/16/2024 02:13 PM MST

Bringing Connectivity to Your Community



## State Broadband Office Reaches Major Milestone in \$675 Million High-Speed Internet Deployment Program



The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) has announced that the federal government has approved the results of the State's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Challenge Process, enabling OBAE to publish the map of areas where prospective applicants can bid for funding and move forward with selecting awardees.

The state will be awarding \$675 million in grants through BEAD, the state's largest broadband funding program, to build and expand broadband infrastructure in New Mexico. The program will help connect more than 31,000 unserved locations.

The Challenge Process is a key requirement for all 50 states participating in the BEAD program. The process allowed OBAE to develop a more accurate view of broadband availability across the state and to determine which locations will be eligible for BEAD funding. With the results cleared by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), OBAE will soon begin the competitive selection process to award grants to applicants.

New Mexico becomes the 25<sup>th</sup> state to be approved by NTIA.

Approval of the vital Challenge Process has also enabled OBAE to publish the final Project Area Units (PAUs), which are regions across the state for which entities will bid for BEAD funding. The final version of the PAUs comes after OBAE made extensive changes following public comments and suggestions. These changes resulted in a greater number of areas that better reflect existing network infrastructure, helping applicants to design successful BEAD projects.

The PAUs were designed using various factors such as geographic boundaries, proximity to existing network infrastructure, economic and technical viability, and community needs. Tribal lands and high-cost areas designated by NTIA were assigned their own PAUs.

Prequalified internet service providers, Tribal entities, nonprofits, cooperatives and other organizations will apply for BEAD grants.

Formal applications will start January 3.

At present, all states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories are taking part in the \$42.5 billion BEAD program which targets unserved locations.

"Unserved" locations receive 25mbps download and 3mbps upload speeds or less, while "underserved" receive between 25mbps/3mbps and 100mbps download and 20mbps uploads.

For more information about BEAD, [CLICK HERE](#).

To view OBAE's Mapping Hub, [CLICK HERE](#).

If you have questions about any of these opportunities, please contact us via email at [Broadband@doit.nm.gov](mailto: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](#)