



Tomorrow State Broadband Office to Request \$70 Million at Budget Hearing

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Bringing Connectivity to Your Community



Tomorrow the State's Broadband Office Will Request \$70 Million to Increase Satellite Connections to Improve New Mexican Lives

OBAE Leadership to Testify at Legislative Budget Hearing



Tomorrow, the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) will call on the Legislative Finance Committee to provide \$70 million in nonrecurring funds to help fulfill the agency’s mission to expand high-speed internet and expedite infrastructure deployment across the state.

If funded, the request will create a near-term affordable pathway for many New Mexicans to access high-speed internet, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach parts of the state.

As of today, there are approximately 95,000 locations in New Mexico that are in areas eligible for satellite service, yet they meet the definition of “unserved” or “underserved.” “Unserved” locations receive 25mbps download and 3mbps upload speeds or less, while “underserved” receive between 25mbps/3mbps and 100mbps download and 20mbps upload.

The \$70 million one-time request would go toward a proposed initiative called *Accelerate Connect NM*, which would subsidize the cost of connecting to satellite high-speed internet service for qualifying unserved or underserved households. *Accelerate Connect NM* will bridge the accessibility gap for tens of thousands of New Mexicans while multi-year broadband infrastructure, such as fiber, is being built out across the state.

“Our funding request reflects the short-term needs for connectivity and affordability, while advancing dozens of projects that will deliver on the long-term needs of the State,” said Drew Lovelace, Acting Director of OBAE. “Nobody in New Mexico should lack high-speed internet. *Accelerate Connect NM* will be vital to achieving inclusivity for rural homes and businesses.”

The \$70 million would support the following investments during state fiscal years 2026 and 2027:

- Up to 95,000 household vouchers for necessary hardware.
- Monthly subsidy for low-income households to make their satellite service bill more affordable.

“We must look to the future while working hard to meet connectivity needs today,” said Lovelace. “It can take years to build scalable and sustainable high-speed internet in our state with so many challenges and federal requirements. We need long-term funding to properly assess the best ways to make broadband accessible throughout New Mexico.”

OBAE’s current FY ’25 operating budget is \$2,388,700. The agency is asking for an increase of \$650,000 in FY ’26. Most of the budget increase will go to paying the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) for administrative support to align with the growth of OBAE’s staff, programs and projects. OBAE currently manages approximately \$1 billion of state and federal funding and is administratively attached to DoIT.

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

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