

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 6, 2024 Contact: Alison Riley 505-795-3253 Alison.Riley@Connect.nm.gov

Deadline Extension: Connect New Mexico Fund Submission Deadline Extended to March 18, 2024

Santa Fe, NM– The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) announces an extension of the submission deadline for the Connect New Mexico Fund. The deadline has been extended from March 11 to March 18, 2024.

The decision to extend the deadline comes following feedback from multiple applicants who expressed the need for additional time to finalize and submit their proposals. OBAE will also issue guidance regarding the current provision that limits grant reimbursement for those expenditures processed by the end of fiscal year 2025.

Despite the absence of a funding extension provided by the legislature, OBAE remains committed to supporting applicants during this critical phase of the Connect New Mexico Fund process. To assist applicants in navigating the shortened timeline, OBAE will be releasing guidance and resources to provide clarity and support throughout the submission process.

For any inquiries or assistance regarding the Connect New Mexico Fund or the submission process, interested parties are encouraged to <u>visit our website</u> or reach out via email to <u>broadband@connect.nm.gov</u>. Applicants with additional questions are encouraged to attend office hours <u>via zoom on March 8th at 11:00 am MT</u>.

OBAE remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing broadband access and connectivity initiatives throughout New Mexico and looks forward to receiving innovative proposals from across the state.

OBAE has extended the deadline for the Connect New Mexico Fund. We heard from many of you who needed some extra time to put the finishing touches on your proposals, and we want to make sure everyone has a fair shot. So, we're pushing the deadline back to March 18, 2024. Got questions? We've got answers! Shoot us an email at <u>broadband@connect.nm.gov</u>, and we'll be happy to assist. Also, mark your calendars for our Zoom office hours on March 8th at 11:00 am MT – we'll be there to chat and answer any questions you might have. Refer to our website for the official press release. <u>More information about the Connect New Mexico Fund</u> will also be available.