CONNECT new mexico
Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

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State broadband office launches digital navigator program

$300,000 investment trains navigators to help residents use internet safely and effectively

SANTA FE – New Mexico is deploying a corps of trained digital navigators to help thousands of residents in rural, low-income and older communities build the internet skills needed to access jobs, healthcare and education online.

The New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) is providing $300,000 to the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) to develop and launch the New MexiCorps Digital Navigator program. Navigators will help New Mexicans use digital tools more confidently and safely.

“Part of OBAE’s vital mission is to address the issue of digital opportunity. Too many New Mexicans don’t possess digital skills and computer knowledge — whether it’s because of age, geography or income level — and we want to change that,” said **Jeff Lopez**, OBAE director, “We are excited and proud that DWS is working with us to help close this digital divide.”

“For broadband expansion to truly level the playing field, we need to make sure all New Mexicans know the tools and resources that the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion is providing,” said **DWS Secretary Sarita Nair**. “A whole new world of work, education and healthcare tools is coming to our rural and frontier communities, and the Digital Navigators will make sure these communities know how to access it. We are excited to be launching our New MexiCorps programs with this innovative and thoughtful initiative.”

OBAE is committed to expanding digital opportunity and to cultivating interagency collaboration to identify and support cooperative digital inclusion, education and literacy initiatives.

DWS will manage the program, including recruiting, training and paying navigators. The program will:

- Develop, facilitate, and manage the Digital Navigator teaching curriculum.
- Recruit, train, coordinate and manage the digital navigators.
- Coordinate community outreach and program promotion.
- Provide one-on-one mentoring and coordinate group trainings and workshops.
- Distribute education materials.

The program launches this summer as part of OBAE's broader digital opportunity strategy outlined in the agency's Three-Year Statewide Broadband Plan.

OBAE will receive regular program updates and monitor progress throughout implementation.

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The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion is dedicated to serving New Mexico with a commitment to make high-speed broadband accessible to all New Mexicans. OBAE’s mission is to expand and improve high-speed internet service with passionate leadership that drives bold, equitable, affordable and inclusive broadband solutions. OBAE seeks results that honor the state’s rich heritage and elevate quality of life for all.

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