CONNECT new mexico
Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

Michelle Lujan Grisham
New Mexico Governor

Jeff Lopez
Broadband Director

Aquiles Trujillo
Deputy Director

Contact:
Office of Broadband Access and Expansion
Mike Curtis, michael.curtis@connect.nm.gov; (505) 231-4477

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2026

State broadband office launches free broadband workforce development program

Initiative to provide courses and training for technicians

SANTA FE – The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) today launched a statewide workforce development program that will offer internationally recognized certifications to prepare New Mexicans for high-paying jobs in the growing broadband industry.

The classes and workshops will begin in February and will be free to participants, paid for by the U.S. Congress and administered by OBAE. OBAE has contracted with Building Industry Consulting Service International (BICSI), which will provide lab equipment, workbooks, tools and all teaching equipment. All courses are held monthly and will consist of five days of hands-on training. The courses will be held across the state.

Prospective broadband students can receive training certifications in classes and workshops in the following areas:

- Introductory installation
- Optical fiber installation
- Copper-based cabling installation
- Technician training

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham directed state agencies in 2024 to address the critical need for infrastructure development in New Mexico and ensure that the workforce is prepared to modernize transportation, telecommunications, water and energy systems.

In response, OBAE has teamed up with the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) to create a program to train New Mexico's workforce to construct and maintain broadband networks and other advanced telecommunications infrastructure.

"Broadband is constantly evolving and supports innovative jobs in science and technology in New Mexico. This certified broadband training is invaluable for New Mexico workers to understand and master fiber optics," said **Jeff Lopez**, OBAE's director. "This program will serve as a model to support the next generation of technicians building New Mexico's future."

"The state workforce development plan identifies broadband expansion as a priority sector because the industry is critical to New Mexico's future and offers good jobs with strong career ladders," said DWS Cabinet Secretary **Sarita Nair**. "With historic broadband investments underway, this partnership and training program, together with our other broadband workforce initiatives across the state, are preparing New Mexicans for the jobs needed to build equitable broadband access statewide."

The 3-year broadband workforce program is the result of a $1.99 million federal grant secured by U.S. Senators Ben Ray Lujan and Martin Heinrich in the Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act.

"Expanding broadband access across our communities is essential for accessing health care, job opportunities, and education. That's why I'm proud to have helped secure $2 million in funding for the New Mexico Office of Broadband Workforce Development Program," said **Sen. Ben Ray Luján**. "This program will help train New Mexicans for good-paying jobs, strengthen our workforce, and connect our state to affordable, reliable internet."

"I'm proud to have secured $2 million to create a broadband workforce training program that will prepare New Mexicans in rural communities for in-demand and high-quality careers they can build their families around," said **Sen. Martin Heinrich**. "As New Mexico's senior senator, I will continue fighting to provide New Mexicans with the tools they need to succeed in their careers and grow our rural economies."

For class and contact information, visit here.

###

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.

CONNECT new mexico
Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

Copyright (C) 2026 New Mexico Office of Broadband. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe