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Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

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Governor signs historic broadband affordability bill into law

Thousands of low-income New Mexico families to receive internet assistance

SANTA FE – With the stroke of her pen, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has signed a landmark bill that will make broadband affordable to as many as 27,000 low-income New Mexico families in the first year.

The governor signed Senate Bill 152, broadband affordability legislation that established the Low-Income Telecommunications Assistance Program (LITAP).

SB 152 authorizes $10 million in broadband funding to help low-income families afford broadband service. The funding would come from the State Rural Universal Service Fund, administered by the Public Regulation Commission which has $40 million specifically earmarked for broadband programs by statute.

“This law sends a clear message that all New Mexicans deserve access to broadband despite their income,” said **Jeff Lopez**, director of the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE). “The governor’s signature ensures that tens of thousands of New Mexicans will now be able to afford high-speed internet. I am grateful the governor and the Legislature took action on this important bipartisan issue to help low-income families pay for this vital infrastructure.”

The new law specifies that after the first year up to $45 million may be authorized to provide broadband subsidies. That could mean more than 100,000 low-income families would receive broadband assistance.

New Mexico is one of the first states to enact a law to replace the now defunct federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which had provided broadband discounts for millions of Americans.

Delivering broadband infrastructure across the state remains an essential part of OBAE’s mission, but affordability is a key component in its goal of universal connectivity.

The New Mexico Senate unanimously passed SB 152 by a vote of 38-0. The House approved the legislation 48-14.

Sen. Majority Whip Michael Padilla, a strong broadband proponent, who helped create the state broadband office, introduced the bill. Representatives Pamelya Herndon, (D-28) and Debra Sariñana (D-21) co-sponsored it.

The legislation was prepared by OBAE in consultation with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission.

The new law goes into effect May 20, 2026.

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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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