CONNECT new mexico
Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

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New broadband program expands public Wi-Fi access in NM

Local governments, public entities urged to apply by July 15

SANTA FE – More local governments and state agencies in New Mexico will soon be able to provide public Wi-Fi access because of $6 million in U.S. Treasury Department funding for a new community broadband program.

Today the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) launched the New Mexico Community Wi-Fi Digital Connectivity Technology Project, a new program designed to expand and deploy public Wi-Fi in local communities. OBAE will use $5,993,281 available from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Projects Fund.

“Additional funding for Wi-Fi service is another step toward closing the digital divide in our state,” said **Andrew Wilder**, OBAE policy & programs bureau chief. “Local governments and agencies can seize the opportunity to provide broadband accessibility and convenience in public areas. It will also mean vital communication in emergencies.”

Only local and county governments and state agencies are eligible for the Wi-Fi assistance program. No matching funds are required.

State agencies, counties, municipalities, and other public bodies will partner with OBAE to launch Wi-Fi projects in communities with poor levels of connectivity and digital inclusion. All approved projects must be designed to deliver broadband service with a minimum speed performance of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload. All participants must have a cybersecurity risk management plan in place or one ready to be activated upon providing service.

OBAE will accept applications through July 15, 2026, and all projects must be completed by December 31, 2026. OBAE funding for the Wi-Fi program expires at the end of this year.

Projects will be selected based on urgency and the ability of the entity to execute the project quickly to satisfy the issue.

For more information and to apply, visit here.

In October 2025, OBAE launched a separate Community Connect Grant Program, designed to increase public Wi-Fi across the state. OBAE has awarded seven entities—the NM Department of Cultural Affairs, Las Cruces and Raton, Dona Ana and Luna Counties, Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell and SWC Telesolutions Inc.--$7 million to expand free Wi-Fi in public places.

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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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