



**Michelle Lujan Grisham**  
Governor

**Drew Lovelace**  
Broadband Acting Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 30, 2025

**Contact:** Mike Curtis  
Public Relations Coordinator  
Office of Broadband Access and Expansion  
Michael.curtis@connect.nm.gov  
(505) 231-4477

**State Broadband Office urges lawmakers to approve  
funding**

*Legislative proposals expand broadband access and complete major  
infrastructure projects*

SANTA FE—Tomorrow, the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) will present two key proposals to the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, seeking approval for initiatives that would connect nearly 100,000 locations and ensure the completion of essential broadband projects.

OBAE Acting Director **Drew Lovelace** will testify before the Committee on two vital initiatives.

“These proposals are key to bridging the digital divide in our state,” said **Lovelace**. “High-speed internet is a necessity. We urge lawmakers to recognize broadband’s role in transforming lives and driving community growth.”

**Key proposals:**

1. **Accelerate Connect NM — \$70 million** satellite initiative.
  - Designed to provide high-speed internet service for qualifying unserved or underserved households.
  - Aims to connect nearly 100,000 New Mexicans, particularly in rural areas, while fiber and other long-term technologies are deployed.

- Ensures affordability through hardware vouchers and monthly subsidies for low-income households.
- Helps stimulate local economies by enabling job creation and online business opportunities.

## 2. **Extension of state broadband funds deadline**

- Current regulations require state broadband funds to be spent by **June 30, 2025**— OBAE is requesting a multi-year extension.
- Broadband projects are complex and time-sensitive; this extension will ensure long-term infrastructure is completed.
- Expanding broadband access will improve telehealth, education, government services, and economic opportunities for thousands of New Mexicans.
- Protects the investment in broadband infrastructure, ensuring projects are not rushed or left incomplete.

“This fiscal extension is essential to delivering high-quality, long-lasting broadband solutions for New Mexico,” said **Lovelace**. “Without it, critical projects could be left unfinished, delaying access to vital services.”

**The hearing is tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. in Room 307 at the Roundhouse.**

In 2024, OBAE awarded \$75 million in state funds across 55 projects, benefiting local and county governments, tribal communities, internet service providers and cooperatives.

###

*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.*