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**State Broadband Office to ask 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 proposals to the Senate Finance Committee, seeking to connect nearly 100,000 locations and complete essential broadband projects.

OBAE Acting Director **Drew Lovelace** will testify before the committee.

“These initiatives are vital to connecting New Mexico,” said **Lovelace**. “We are urging state lawmakers to understand broadband’s key role in transforming lives and driving community growth in our state.”

Key proposals:

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.

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 9am in Room 322 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.

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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.