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State awards \$40 million in grants to help deploy broadband infrastructure

Grants issued through the state's Connect New Mexico Fund

ALBUQUERQUE—Today, the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) announced that it has awarded more than \$40 million in state grants to internet service providers, telephone cooperatives, pueblos and a tribal company to deploy broadband across the state.

Grant recipients include seven entities, some of which will handle multiple projects. The grants are being released through the state's Connect New Mexico Fund. This \$70 million state-led broadband grant program is designed to expand high-speed internet access and deploy infrastructure to unserved and underserved communities. An underserved area is one that has access to a broadband connection less than 100 download/20 Mbps upload.

“These state grants signify tremendous progress towards building reliable broadband infrastructure that helps connect communities in rural parts of New Mexico,” said **Gov. Lujan Grisham**. “New Mexicans can rest assured that my administration will remain aggressive about delivering scalable and sustainable high-speed internet to broadband-dry areas of the state.”

The grantees include Comcast Corporation, Resound Networks, Penasco Valley Telephone Cooperative, Valley Telephone Cooperative, Isleta Pueblo, Picuris Pueblo and San Ildefonso Services, the business arm of the San Ildefonso Pueblo.

Several award recipients will be building multiple broadband projects across the state.

Connect New Mexico Fund grants awarded:

Comcast Corporation	\$12,532,773 (4 projects)
Resound Networks	\$8,100,000 (3 projects)
Valley Telephone Cooperative	\$5,682,261
Penasco Valley Telephone Cooperative	\$4,858,602 (2 projects)
Picuris Pueblo	\$4,072,430
San Ildefonso Services, LLC	\$3,474,312
Isleta Pueblo	\$1,554,891
Total awards:	\$40,275,269

The state grants will be used for broadband deployment in 16 counties throughout the state. Nearly 400 miles of fiber will be constructed to complete the projects. Construction will begin as soon as awardees complete preliminary work including permitting, right of way access, labor contracts and supply purchases.

OBAE is planning to award more Connect New Mexico Fund state grants soon, totaling millions of dollars.

The Connect New Mexico Fund was established in 2021 by the legislature through the Connect New Mexico Act.

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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.