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NM OBAE Submits Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program Application Ahead of Schedule

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) recently met an important digital equity milestone. Last week OBAE officials submitted the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) several days ahead of the May 28, 2024 deadline. The submission represents an important step in New Mexico’s pursuit of equitable access to technology and resources for all New Mexicans.

The State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program is the second of three digital equity programs authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, also known as the Digital Equity Act, to promote digital inclusion activities and achieve digital equity. New Mexico completed the first step toward meeting its DE goals with the submission of the state’s Digital Equity Plan which was accepted by NTIA in April of this year.

The state’s funding request in the amount of \$8.67 million is critical for ensuring implementation of New Mexico’s Digital Equity Plan and digital inclusion activities. NTIA expects to begin issuing awards to eligible states no later than August 28, 2024.

According to Acting Director Drew Lovelace, “Despite inherent barriers that may exist, all New Mexicans deserve equal access to fundamental digital resources. With our application submission, we’ve made a compelling case demonstrating New Mexico’s need for federal support in order to achieve meaningful equity.”

OBAE intends to subgrant approximately 85% of New Mexico’s funding allotment to eligible New Mexico entities to implement digital equity projects. To learn more about New Mexico’s digital equity initiatives, please visit the OBAE [website](#).