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**Federal government awards state \$8.67 million for vital  
broadband digital equity solutions**  
*Funding will help close the digital divide for populations lacking  
broadband*

**ALBUQUERQUE**—Today, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded \$8.67 million to New Mexico through the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, one of several Digital Equity Act grant programs created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) will use the federal funds to implement its Digital Equity Plan, addressing barriers to broadband access, affordability, and meaningful and safe internet usage. NTIA accepted New Mexico's Digital Equity Plan in April 2024.

“My administration is dedicated to ensuring that every New Mexican, regardless of their location or background, has access to reliable broadband, essential technology, and the digital skills needed to thrive in today's economy,” said **Gov. Lujan Grisham**. “This federal funding is a critical step toward closing the digital divide in our state, and we're committed to using it to create lasting, meaningful change for our communities.”

OBAE will award the funds to New Mexico entities to implement digital inclusion activities. The money will be used to help New Mexicans with device access, online accessibility and tech support, digital skills training, as well as privacy and cybersecurity.

“This Digital Equity Capacity Grant is truly a godsend for New Mexicans who lack access to the internet and who are unable to interact with so many invaluable services,” said **Drew Lovelace, Acting Director of OBAE**. “This money will help thousands of people connect to a new world and have safe and meaningful access to high-speed internet.”

Lovelace stressed that broadband is no longer a luxury but a necessity in today’s world.

The funds target solutions that address the needs of eight covered populations disproportionately affected by digital inequity. More than 91% of New Mexicans fall into one or more “covered populations.”

These populations include:

- Rural residents
- Members of racial or ethnic minority groups
- Individuals with language barriers
- Individuals with disabilities
- Veterans
- Incarcerated individuals
- Aging individuals (60 or older)
- Low-income households

There are still other pending NTIA digital equity funding opportunities, including the Native Entities Digital Equity Capacity Grant and the Digital Equity Competitive Grant.

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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.*