



Michelle Lujan Grisham
New Mexico Governor

Jeff Lopez
Broadband Director
Aquiles Trujillo
Deputy Director

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Contact:

Office of Broadband Access and Expansion

Mike Curtis, Michael.curtis@connect.nm.gov; (505) 231-4477

Jemez's broadband project begins to connect hundreds of homes

SANTA FE – The first homes in a new broadband development project on the Pueblo of Jemez are now receiving high-speed internet.

The fiber connections are being installed because of a multimillion-dollar broadband project grant. Currently 21 homes have been connected directly to fiber on the new network. The project will eventually provide fiber broadband to more than 670 unserved and underserved homes, Tribal departments, programs, and businesses upon completion.

“Technology, like art, is a measure of our human advancement,” said Governor **George Shendo Jr.** of Jemez Pueblo. “This partnership reflects a shared commitment to ensuring that all New Mexicans, including those in our Tribal communities, have the tools and resources needed to thrive in today’s world. Jemez is honored to be a part of this effort and looks forward to the opportunities this project will bring to current and future generations.”

The New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) awarded Jemez an \$8.6 million grant through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The total budget for the project is \$15 million.

JNET, the internet provider established and operated by Jemez Pueblo, has been building its Tribal Network since 2000, initially investing in a wireless network and the current fiber to the home project since January 2024.

“This project demonstrates the ongoing cooperation and collaboration between the Pueblo of Jemez and the State of New Mexico,” said **Jeff Lopez**, director of OBAE. “It’s imperative that Tribal communities have reliable and sustainable broadband to ensure they thrive and receive crucial information and services.”

JNET is currently building more than 45 miles of fiber to complete the broadband project. The project is expected to be finished in December.

The Tribal community has been using fixed wireless service for its broadband needs where it was available. Some areas were unable to get it due to logistical challenges and difficult terrain.

The U.S. Treasury awarded New Mexico with \$117 million in grants through ARPA to expand and deploy broadband to unserved and underserved areas.

OBAE has awarded ARPA broadband grants to more than 20 entities, including 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.