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State awards \$500,000 in broadband grants
Funds will help tribal, local governments build, deploy high-speed internet

SANTA FE—Today, the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) announced five communities will receive state grants totaling \$500,000 for planning, engineering and grant writing to help them deploy broadband service in their areas.

The awards were made under the state’s Grant Writing, Engineering and Planning Program (GWEP). The state allocated \$5 million to the program to help tribes, local governments and cooperatives attain grants to help them provide broadband to unserved areas. Awardees can use the funds for broadband infrastructure, planning services and broadband engineering/design projects.

“These state grant awards signify another milestone to help expand broadband across New Mexico,” said Eric Rodgers, OBAE Project Manager. “This funding will help kickstart much-needed projects to bring high-speed internet to broadband-dry regions around the state. We are very excited to award these funds.”

In the latest round, OBAE awarded grants of \$100,000 each to the City of Espanola, Pueblo de Cochiti, Pueblo of Tesuque, Rio Arriba County and Sandoval County.

All GWEP awards are assistance, not merit grants, meaning entities do not need to compete for the funding. Internet Service Providers are not eligible for the funds.

The GWEP grants can also be used to attain other funds, like those available under the federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program.

The maximum award allowed under the state program is \$100,000.

OBAE began issuing GWEP grants in July, and 20 entities have now received awards totaling nearly \$2 million. Recipients include seven tribal communities.

There is still \$3.1 million in GWEP grants available, and OBAE is urging tribal governments, local governments, rural telephone cooperatives and rural electric cooperatives to submit applications. Matching funds are not required.

To apply for a GWEP grant, click here: <https://obae.submittable.com/submit>

For more information about the state grant program, click here: <https://connect.nm.gov/obae-funding.html>

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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.