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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 9, 2024

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Broadband Office and Albuquerque nonprofit distribute donated computers to Ruidoso disaster victims

RUIDOSO, NM—Today, the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) and Adelante DiverseIT, an Albuquerque nonprofit, distributed 40 donated computers to victims of the Salt and South Fork Fires and subsequent flooding in Ruidoso.

Adelante DiverseIT repaired, refurbished and prepared the computers for use. The unique program teaches people with disabilities, seniors, people of color and women how to use and service computer technology.

“This computer donation campaign is targeting New Mexicans in need, particularly those impacted by disasters,” said **Jennifer Nevarez**, a member of OBAE's Broadband and Digital Equity Support Team. “What’s vital here is to get these computers into their hands, and we need more donations to help New Mexicans.”

The donated computers were distributed by OBAE and Adelante DiverseIT throughout the day at a church in Ruidoso. Nonprofits and emergency recovery organizations in the region collaborated to identify local residents and organizations in need. Adelante DiverseIT technicians provided hands-on training and assistance at the distribution site. Windstream, a local internet service provider, supported the effort with funding.

“Adelante is focused on moving our communities forward,” said **Jill Beets, vice president of marketing** for Adelante DiverseIT. “We’re happy to partner with OBAE during this national Digital Inclusion Week. The Ruidoso area has suffered great losses this year, and we are happy to give something back to that community.”

Access to computer and other hardware is a key barrier identified in New Mexico's Digital Equity Plan, which outlines a range of goals and initiatives to ensure that all New Mexicans and communities have the technology, skills and capacity needed to benefit in the digital world.

As part of the state's commitment to support digital equity and inclusion, OBAE continues to work with Digitunity, a national nonprofit organization focused on advancing digital equity through computer ownership. OBAE and Digitunity are connecting individual and corporate donors with regional nonprofits that can help get donated computers refurbished and distributed to New Mexicans.

If you have a computer you’d like to donate, go to: <https://connect.nm.gov/computers>.

If you have any questions about the donation campaign, you can contact Jennifer Nevarez at Jennifer.nevarez@connect.nm.gov

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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.