NEW MEXICO

Broadband Workforce Development Program

CONNECT new mexico
Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

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Program Purpose

The New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE), in partnership with the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS), is implementing a statewide initiative to prepare certified workers to build, operate, and sustain broadband infrastructure across New Mexico. These hands-on training classes will be provided by Building Industry Consulting Service International (BICSI) that can result in an internationally recognized certification.

Why It Matters

- Over 86,600 homes and businesses lacked adequate broadband access in 2025.
- New Mexico faces a significant shortage of trained broadband technicians and installers.
- New Mexico was awarded a BEAD grant of $382M that will encompass 31 broadband infrastructure projects around the state.
- Rural and tribal communities experience the greatest workforce gaps.

Training Delivery Model

- Two classes monthly being scheduled around New Mexico.
- Classes are 4.5 days of hands-on training. All class materials, manuals and tests are included.
- Training can be hosted onsite by employers, higher education centers or at DWS America's Job Centers.
- If employer-hosted classes are not full, OBAE/DWS enrolls local participants.
- Training prioritized for rural and tribal communities.

BICSI Classes

- ✓ **Installer 1 (INST1):** Foundational installation skills.
- ✓ **Installer 2 – Copper (INSTC):** Copper cabling installation.
- ✓ **Installer 2 – Fiber (INSTF):** Fiber installation, splicing, and testing.
- ✓ **Technician Certification:** Advanced troubleshooting, bonding/grounding, firestopping, and project management.

INFO: connect.nm.gov/workforce-training-opportunities

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Target Populations

- Dislocated workers.
- Unemployed or laid-off workers.
- Electricians and adjacent-skill workers transitioning into broadband.
- Technicians employed and needing additional skills training.

Program Goals (3 Year)

- 250 participants enrolled.
- 200 individuals completing certification.
- Ongoing quality improvement after each training cohort.

Upcoming & Planned Classes / 2026

April 20-24
Installer 1 Basic
San Juan College, West Campus
Kirkland

May 11-15
Installer 1 Basic
Mimbres Learning Center
Deming

June 1-5
Installer 1 Basic
San Juan College, Main Campus
Farmington

June 8-12
Installer 1 Basic
Inn of the Mountain Gods
Ruidoso

July 13-17
Installer 1 Basic
America's Job Center
Las Cruces

July 20- 24
Installer 1 Basic
Southeast New Mexico College
Carlsbad

August 3-7
Installer 1 Basic
America's Job Center
Socorro

August 10-14
Installer 2 Copper
Southeast New Mexico College, Carlsbad

September 14-18
Installer 1 Basic
Pueblos of Acoma & Laguna

September 21-25
Installer 1 Basic
Santo Domingo Pueblo

October 12-16
Installer 1 Basic
Raton

October 19-23
Installer 2 Copper
Available to schedule

November 9-13
Installer 1 Basic
Kit Carson, Taos

November 16-20
Installer 2 Fiber
Available to schedule

December 7-11
Installer 1 Basic
Available to schedule

December 14-18
Installer 2 Copper
Available to schedule

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