

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities



Funding Amount: **\$70 million**

Program Details

Program Name: Connect New Mexico Fund

Administrator: New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion (OBAE)

Authorizing Legislation:

- House Bill 10: Establishing the Connect New Mexico Fund
- Senate Bill 377: Appropriation of \$70 million

Funding Details

Award: \$250,000 (minimum) - \$6,000,000 (maximum)

Match Requirement: 25% minimum

Key Dates

December 12 - NOFO and program materials issued

March 11, 2024 - Applications Due (11:59 pm MT)

March – April 2024 - Application Review and Due Diligence

May 2024 - Award Announced

June 30, 2024 - Contract Execution for Award Agreement

Eligible Applicants

- **Entity Types:** Local and Tribal governments, State Agencies, Public Education Institutions, entities created by Joint Powers Agreements Act, and Private Entities for Broadband Infrastructure to provide residential service
- **Private Entities:** Non-profits, For-profits, Cooperatives or Mutual Organizations, and Utilities
- **Consortium:** Collaborations among multiple Entities, with one partner identified as the lead applicant

Eligible Areas

- 80% of households & business locations in the Proposed Project Area are **unserved** or **underserved**
- Note: Served locations may be included if they are incidental toward serving unserved and/or underserved locations

Eligible Projects

- **Last-Mile Networks:** Provide direct connectivity to unserved and underserved resident, businesses, and community institutions
- **Middle-Mile Networks:** Provide backhaul to Last-Mile networks that lack open-access, high-capacity transport networks to aggregate and deliver traffic to the Internet backbone
- **5G Wireless Networks:** Provide 5G coverage in areas lacking reliable signal strength AND having a concentration of unserved and underserved locations
- **Special Network Projects:** Aim to support the deployment of infrastructure to unserved and underserved locations. These may include: network facility replacement in communities impacted by wildfires; fiber and conduit for Dig Once projects; pole replacement costs; public safety networks that support fixed broadband solutions

Eligible Costs

- Application Preparation
- Market Assessment
- Permitting and Regulatory Reviews
- Network Planning and Design
- Network Infrastructure Deployment
- Network Facilities
- Long-term Leases
- Personnel
- Project Management
- Grants Administration and Reporting

Selection Criteria

Scoring (maximum of 200 points):

- Project Impact – up to **36 Points**
- Community Engagement – up to **20 Points**
- Economic Efficiency – up to **28 Points**
- Project Readiness – up to **20 Points**
- Organization Qualifications – up to **16 Points**
- Marketing & Services Strategy – up to **32 Points**
- Adoption Assistance Programs – up to **24 Points**
- Project Sustainability – up to **24 Points**

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- A Track Record of Success

Application Process

- Submit applications through the OBAE web-based tool on the [Connect New Mexico Fund](#) website
- Applications accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis
- Award announcements may occur on a rolling basis
- Any unused funds will be applied in a subsequent round of funding that may compliment the BEAD program

Links & Contacts

- [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#)
- [Connect New Mexico Fund Application](#)
- [Connect New Mexico Fund Scoring Guide](#)
- Submit questions about this program and application at: broadband@connect.nm.gov

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- A Track Record of Success