



FUNDING ALERT!

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Program Name

Connect New Mexico Grant Program

Funding Amount

- \$123 million from ARPA Capital Projects Fund

Key Dates

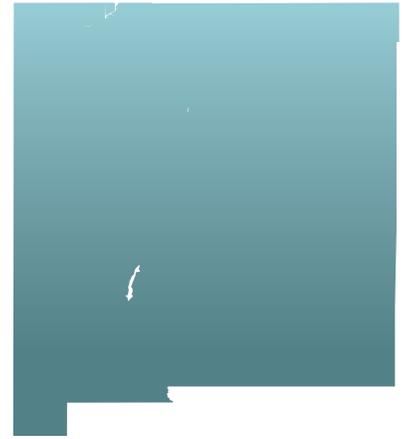
- There will be 3 application waves
 - Wave 1 - **September 23, 2022**
 - Wave 2 - **December 9, 2022**
 - Wave 3 - **DEADLINE EXTENDED: April 3, 2023** (contingent upon available funds)
- Applications accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis
- Award announcements may occur on a rolling basis

Eligible Applicants

- Tribal governments
- Local units of government (e.g., municipalities, counties and other political subdivisions)
- Local and state agencies
- Non-profit entities
- For-profit entities
- Limited liability corporations
- Cooperative or mutual organizations
- Utilities
- Collaborations among two or more eligible entities (One partner must be identified as lead Applicant)

Eligible Areas

- **Unserviced** - household or business locations lacking access to a wireline-based broadband connection of at least 25/3 Mbps
- **Underserved** - household or business locations with access to a wireline-based broadband connection of at least 25/3 Mbps but no greater than 100/20 Mbps
- **Eligible Service Area** - includes areas in which 80% of the household and business locations in applicant's proposed funded service area are unserved or underserved



New Mexico

\$123 Million

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Eligible Projects

- \$10 million application cap
- 25% match required
- Last-mile networks that provide connectivity to unserved and underserved households and businesses
 - Includes network facilities complementary to last-mile networks (e.g., middle-mile, community Wi-Fi networks)
- Delivers 100 Mbps symmetrical speeds and supports low latency to enable real-time, interactive applications
 - Networks not meeting this standard may be funded when impracticable to deploy due to geography, topography, or excessive cost barriers. If so, network must reliably offer at least 100/20Mbps and be scalable to 100 Mbps symmetrical
- Fiber-optic wireline, fixed wireless, and alternative technologies meeting speed and latency thresholds

Eligible Costs

- Application preparation, market assessment (e.g., data gathering, feasibility studies)
- Permitting and regulatory reviews (e.g., rights of way, easement, environmental, historical, and cultural assessment)
- Network planning & design
- Infrastructure deployment
- Network facilities & equipment
- Long-term leases
- Grants administration and reporting

Ineligible Costs

- Acquisition of spectrum licenses
- Operations and maintenance costs (other than grant administration costs)
- Short-term operating leases
- Payment of interest or principal on outstanding debt instruments, or other debt service costs incurred prior to March 15, 2021
- Fees or issuance costs associated with issuance of new debt
- Satisfaction of any obligation arising under or pursuant to a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring plan in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding
- To support or oppose collective bargaining. (Note: this does not affect the ability to use funds to comply with 41 C.F.R. 60-1.4.)
- Expenditures related to land buildings, structures, improvements, or equipment not directly used to support the deployment of a broadband network
- Passthrough expenditures to subcontractors or third parties that are not the result of arm's length transactions or are not reflective of fair market rates

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Buildout Requirements

- Projects must be completed within 3 years after signing grant Award Agreement
 - Extensions may be granted under exceptional circumstances
- 5-year Service Agreements
- Low-Cost Service Option
- Participation in Price Subsidy Programs
- Open Network Requirements
- Reporting Requirements
- Worker and Contractor Employment Guidelines
- Competitive Procurement Requirements
- Network Performance Testing Requirements Post-Commercial Service Launch
- Tax Obligations

Mapping Issues

New Mexico Broadband Map

- Map illustrates qualifying service areas based on unserved and underserved
- Applicants may include areas outside qualifying areas but must provide data that indicates the area is unserved or underserved
- NM State Broadband Map

NTIA Indicators of Broadband Need

- Applies several data layers to indicate broadband availability. Includes:
 - Ookla
 - Measurement Lab (M-Lab)
 - Microsoft
 - FCC mapping data

Application Contents

- Applicant Summary
- Project Dashboard
- Executive Summaries
- Map and Location Data
- Project Impact
- Community Engagement
- Matching Contribution and Demonstration of Financial Need
- Project Budget
- Project Plan
- Organizational and Personnel Background
- Contractors and Vendor Management
- Labor and Employment Practices
- Technology and Network Design

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Application Contents (continued)

- Marketing and Services Strategy
- Affordability and Adoption Assistance
- Financial Standing
- Appendix for Attachments

Scoring Framework

Project Impact: 36 points

- Broadband Impact: 16 points
- Comprehensive Community Impact: 12 points
- Socioeconomic Development: 4 points
- Degree of Economic Hardship: 4 points

Community Engagement: 20 points

- Local and Regional Partnerships: 8 points
- Community Support: 8 points
- Community Financial Contribution: 4 points

Economic Efficiency: 20 points

- Matching Contribution Degree: 8 points
- Project Cost Efficiency: 8 points
- Leveraging Existing Assets: 4 points

Project Readiness: 24 points

- Network and Technology Details: 8 points
- Detailed Project Schedule: 8 points
- Detailed Budget: 4 points
- Comprehensive Risk Mitigation Strategy: 4 points

Organization Qualifications: 20 points

- Organizational Experience: 8 points
- Business Structure: 8 points
- Local/Regional Workforce Participation: 4 points

Marketing and Services Strategy: 32 points

- Price Competitiveness: 12 points
- Diverse Set of Service Offerings: 8 points
- Customer Acquisition and Retention Strategy: 8 points
- Open Access Policies: 4 points

Adoption Assistance Programs: 24 points

- Affordability Assistance Program: 12 points
- Digital Inclusion Programs: 12 points

Project Sustainability: 24 points

- Financial Viability: 12 points
- Network Capacity and Scalability: 12 points

Connect New Mexico Act scoring considerations:

- Meets or exceeds FCC baseline standards
- Leverages existing infrastructure

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Scoring Framework (continued)

- Complements or coordinates with statewide broadband plan
- Leverages regional collaboration
- Fosters digital inclusion
- Stimulates in-state economic development (job creation and apprenticeships)
- Leverages in-kind or financial support from local agencies/entities or federal assistance funding

Additional points awarded to proposals that offer at least 100 Mbps symmetrical, and additional consideration for networks offering 1 Gbps

Links & Emails

- [Connect New Mexico Pilot Program - New Mexico Department of Information Technology \(nm.gov\)](#)
- [Pilot Program NOFO](#)
- [Pilot Program Scoring Guide](#)
- [Pilot Program Application](#)
- [NM State Broadband Map](#)
- Please submit questions to broadbandpilot@state.nm.us

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