

NEW MEXICO  
OFFICE OF BROADBAND ACCESS AND EXPANSION

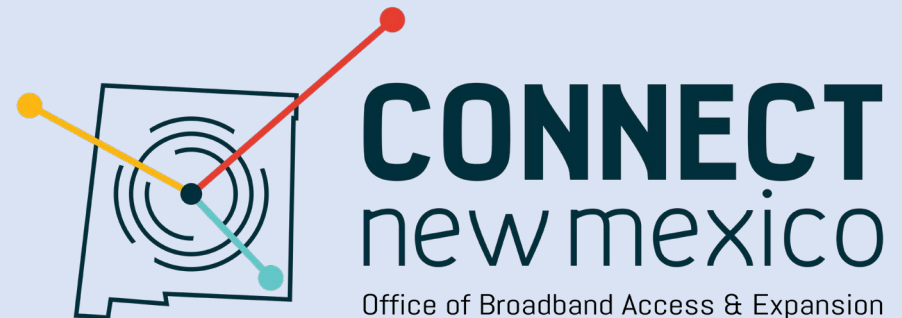
UPDATE  
INDIAN AFFAIRS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

September 6, 2024

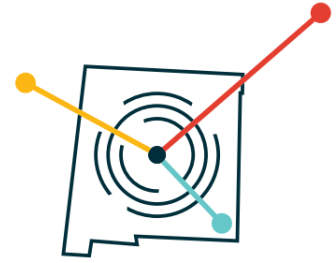
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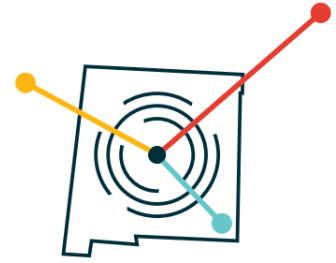
# Discussion Points



- **Broadband \$ to NM Tribes**
  - ARPA
  - CNM
  - GWEP
- **Update on BEAD**
  - Project Area Units
  - Public Comment Period
- **Status of Digital Equity Funds**
  - State Plan
- **Upcoming Funding Opportunities**



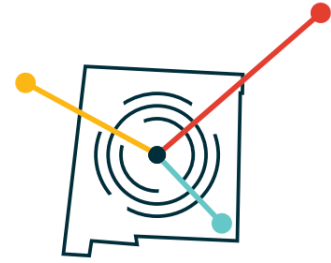
# Broadband \$ to NM Tribes



## Various Federal and State Funding Opportunities

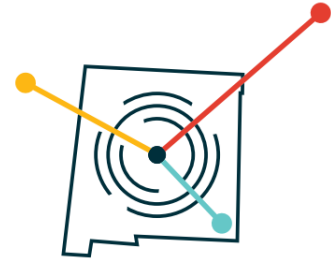
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- Connect New Mexico
- Grant Writing, Engineering and Planning (GWEP)

# Federal Funding OBAE Manages



- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**
  - Capital Funds Project
    - The Connect NM Pilot Program
    - \$117M
    - Infrastructure for Broadband deployment to Un- & Underserved
  - 5 NM Tribes (Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo/Kewa)
    - > \$60M

# State Funding OBAE Manages



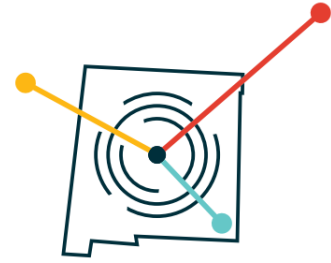
- **Connect New Mexico**

- \$70M
- Expand high-speed internet access & deploy infrastructure to un- & underserved
- Award Notices Have Begun
- 5 NM Tribes → \$20M

- **Grant Writing, Engineering & Planning (GWEP)**

- \$5M - \$100K max award
- 5 Tribes out of 15 Awardees (\$500K)
- Still taking applications – encouraging Tribes to apply

# Update on BEAD



## Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD)

Challenge Process

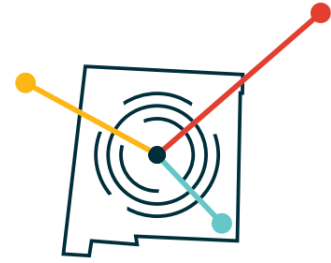
Project Area Unit (PAU) Design

Public Comment

Prequalification Application

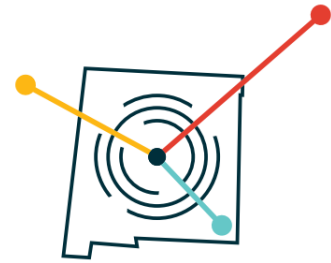
IPV Development & Approvals

# BEAD: Challenge Process



- <https://connect.nm.gov/bead-plan.html>
- Challenge Process
  - Determined the final list of locations eligible for BEAD funding
  - Launched in early April
  - 30-Day Challenge Phase & 30-Day Rebuttal Phase
    - Office Hours
    - > 600 Challenges impacting 68,456 locations were submitted
    - Insert Tribal challenges
  - 30-Day Final Determination Phase (July 4 – Aug 3)
  - Results submitted to the National Telecomm & Information Admin (NTIA)
    - Aug. 29
    - Waiting approval
  - Tribal Support
    - OBAE ran 9 regional events, including a tribal event at Jemez
    - Hired two contractors to run independently to support challengers through the process
    - 6 tribes used support
    - Office hours with OBAE staff

# BEAD: Challenge Process Cont.

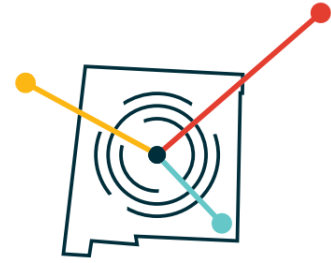


## Tribal Challenges

- 58 Tribal Challenges for a total of 10,243 locations
- 7 Tribes and 2 ISPs challenging on behalf of Tribes
  - Navajo Nation Broadband Office
  - Pueblo de Cochiti
  - Pueblo of Jemez
  - Pueblo of Zia
  - Taos Pueblo
  - Tesuque Pueblo
  - Jicarilla Apache Nation
  - Oso Internet Solutions (on behalf of Ramah)
  - TrueNet Internet Services, LLC (on behalf of Okhay Owingeh)

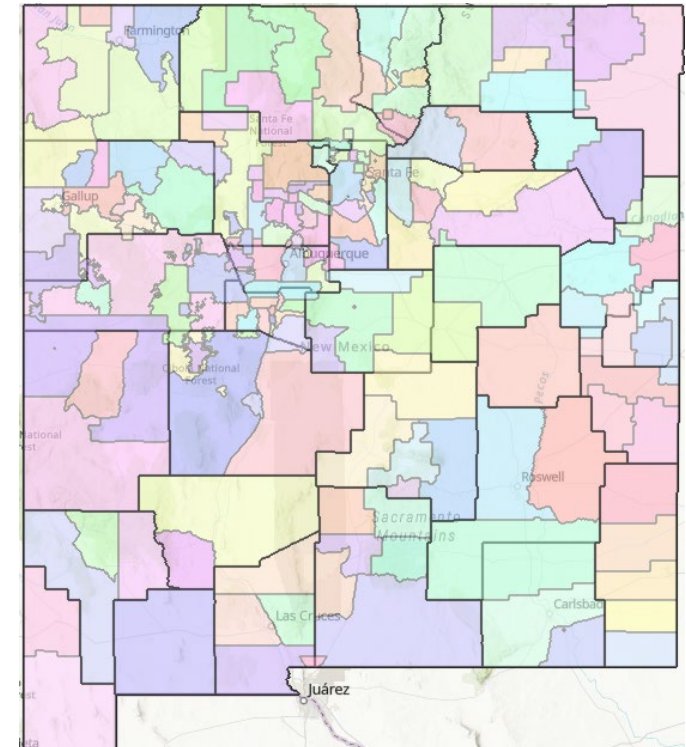


# BEAD: PAU Design Process

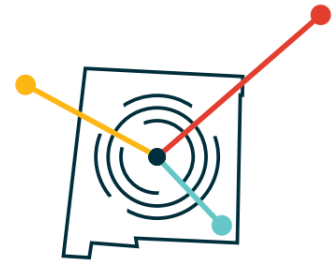


<https://connect.nm.gov/bead.html>

- Project Area Units (PAU)
  - Clusters of locations that applicants will apply for BEAD funding
  - Draft PAUs published June 26
- Design Criteria
  - Geographic boundaries
  - Underserved locations relative to unserved locations
  - Proximity of existing network infrastructure
  - Geographic/topographic factors
  - Potential for competition
  - Economic and technical viability/efficiency
  - Community needs
- 165 PAUs in total



# BEAD: PAU Design Process – Tribal

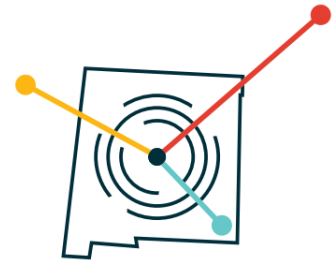


- Tribal Engagement
  - APCG
  - Navajo Nation
  - OBAE Contractors



- Tribal Lands are their own PAU
  - New Mexico's 23 Nations, Pueblos & Tribes each have their own PAUs
  - Navajo Nation = Navajo Delegate District boundaries
  - Facilitates requirement for Tribal Consent
  - Zero Match requirement for Hi-Cost Areas
    - Not all Tribal areas are Hi-Cost Areas per NTIA

# BEAD: PAU Public Comment

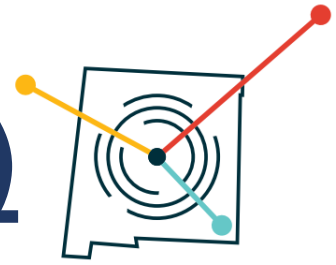


- Public Comment Period OPEN
  - September 1 – 30
  - Participant Guide & Submission Template available on OBAE website
- Webinar Held Aug. 30
  - Slide Deck & Recording Links on OBAE Website
- Office Hours
  - Every Tuesday Morning in September
  - Virtual on Microsoft Teams
  - Link is on OBAE Website



[BEAD Resource Page](#)

# BEAD:PAU Public Comment (cont'd)



- OBAE will meet with participants individually, upon request
  - [broadband@connect.nm.gov](mailto:broadband@connect.nm.gov) with “PAU RFC, [Party Name]” in subject line
- OBAE welcomes Tribal Consultation regarding PAUs
  - Contact Victory if you would like to arrange a Tribal Consultation

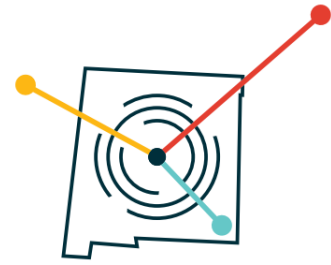


# BEAD: Initial Proposal Volumes 1 & 2



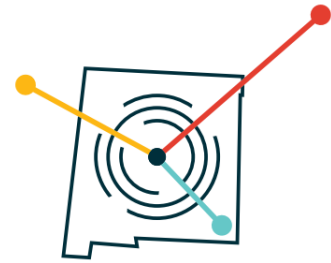
- Approved by the National Telecomm & Information Admin (NTIA)
  - Proposals lay out how OBAE will structure and conduct grant-making efforts
    - maximize the allocation of \$675M
    - Letter of Credit Waiver for Tribes
- Grant Program Design
  - Once approved, OBAE has 1-year to
    - design and execute our grant program for subgrantee selection
    - submit a Final Proposal to NTIA
  - Once Final Proposal is approved, OBAE can make the awards and begin deployment
- Period of Performance for subgrantees
  - 4 years

# BEAD: Initial Proposal Volume 2



- **OBAE offering a Letter of Credit Waiver for Tribes**
  - BEAD Program rules require subgrantees to obtain an irrevocable standby letter of credit from a qualified financial institution or a performance bond executed by a surety company listed on the Department of Treasury's list of approved surety companies
    - Demonstration of financial capability to participate in the program and successfully complete a project.
  - OBAE recognizes the unique sovereign status of New Mexico's twenty-three Tribes and Pueblos. In addition to NTIA's letter of credit guidance for subgrantees, OBAE will allow a Letter of Credit Waiver from Tribal entities.
    - The waiver will require self-certification by council resolution
    - The waiver only applies to the letter of credit. Other financials reviews must be completed during the pre-qualification and curing processes

# BEAD: Prequalification Application



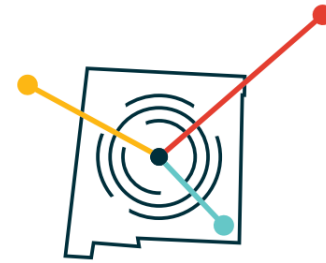
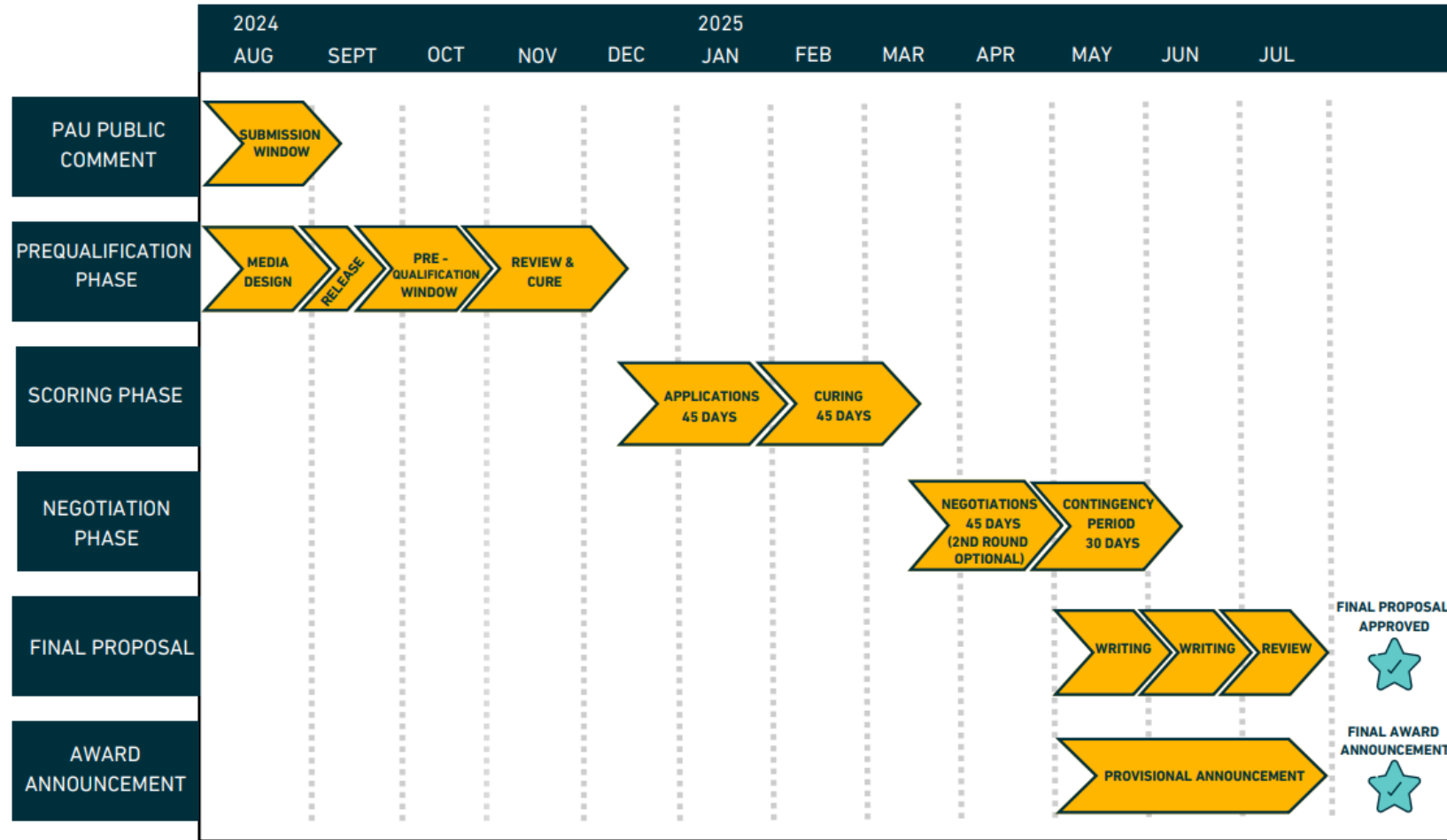
## BEAD Prequalification Application

- First step of subgrantee selection process for BEAD
- Applications are based on OBAE's IPV2 framework
- Process enables prospective applicants to establish their qualifications and capabilities to plan, finance, deploy, and maintain broadband networks
- Allows OBAE to review specific projects separately from organizational qualifications
  - Applicants can demonstrate their organizational qualifications only once, rather than provide that information with every individual project application

Application made available on September 1

[Connect.nm.gov/uploads/1/4/1/9/141989814/nm\\_bead\\_prequalification\\_application\\_-\\_version\\_1.0.pdf](https://connect.nm.gov/uploads/1/4/1/9/141989814/nm_bead_prequalification_application_-_version_1.0.pdf)

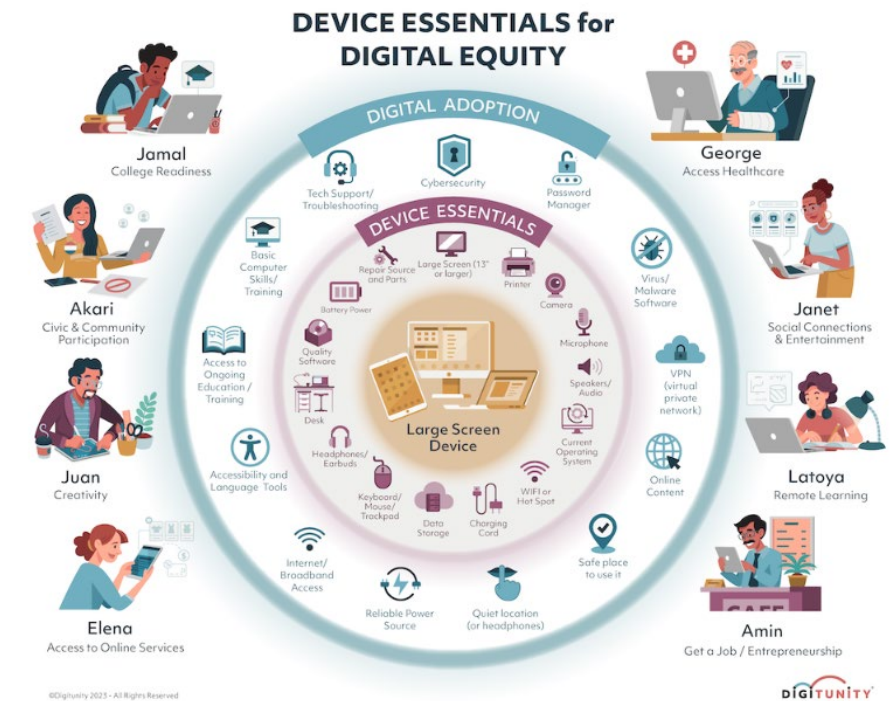
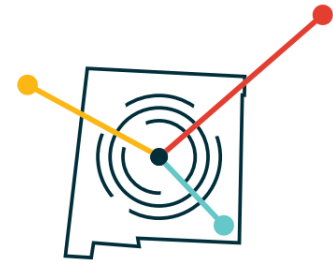
# BEAD Program Timeline \*



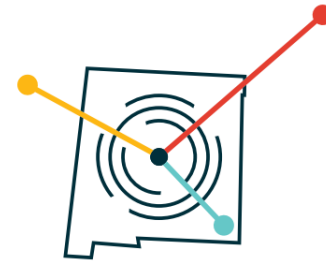


# Digital Equity (DE)

- Digital Equity Act
  - Part of the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (2021)
- DE is essential for providing equal opportunities in:
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Healthcare
  - Civic Engagement
- DE ensures fair access to and effective use of digital technologies

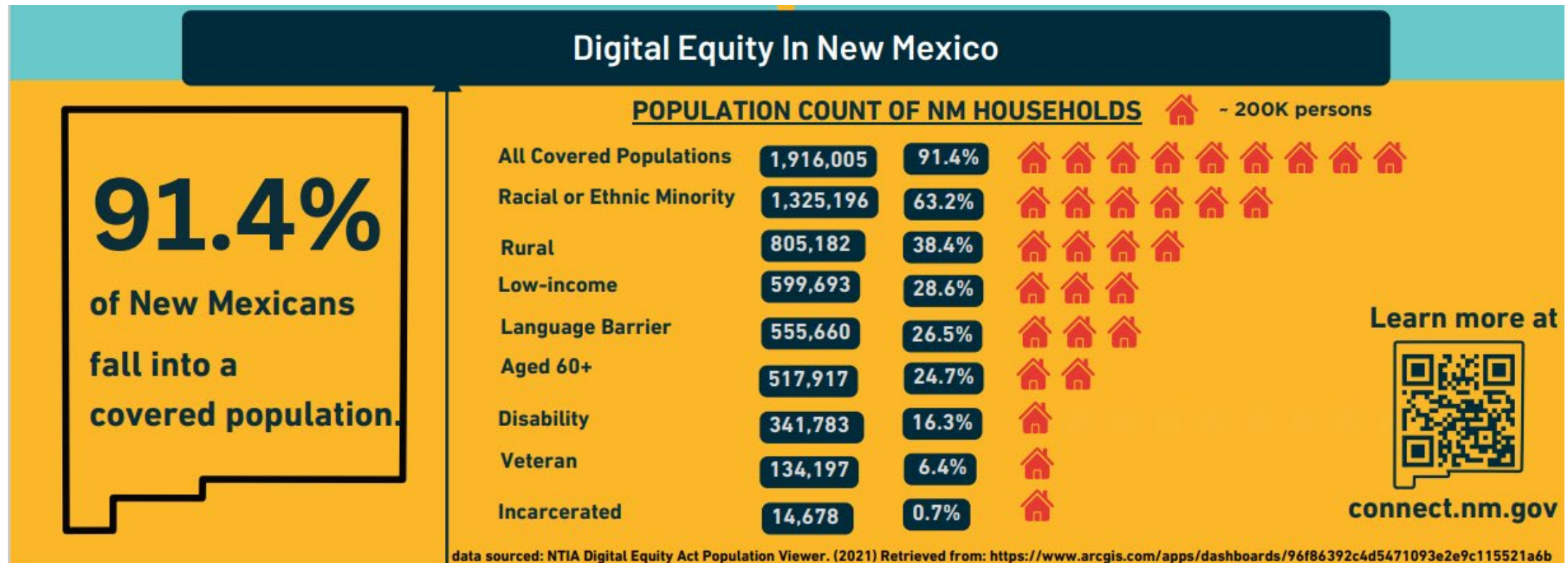
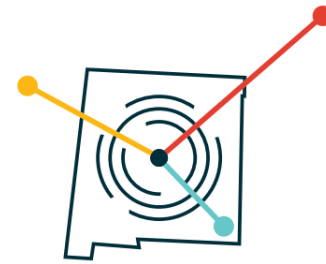


# Digital Equity in New Mexico

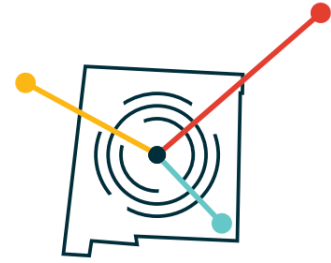


Limitations on DE	Key Barriers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Limited internet access</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Internet availability &amp; affordability</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Device quality</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Online accessibility and affordability</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Skill acquisition</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Digital literacy</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Technical support</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Online privacy and cybersecurity</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Device availability and affordability</li></ul>

# DE: Covered Populations

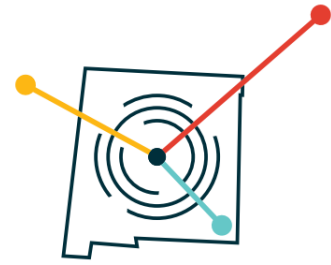


# DE: Inclusion for Tribal Communities



- OBAE developed and aggressively implemented a comprehensive plan to foster DE for Tribal communities
  - Hosted Tribal consultations with Tribal Leadership
    - Tribal consultations with 100% of 23 NM Nations, Pueblos and Tribes
  - Planned and launched several Summits
    - Co-hosted “Internet for All: NM Broadband Summit” and Tribal Roundtable with NTIA Director Alan Davidson
    - Highest-attended local coordination event with NTIA in the nation (372 participants)
    - Launched Inaugural statewide Tribal broadband convening
      - Over 80 attendees
  - Held mapping sessions to confirm unserved and underserved premises

# DE: Inclusion for Tribes (cont'd)



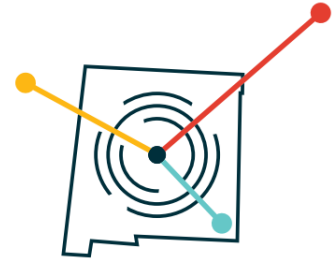
- Continuous Resources & Active Participation
  - Connect New Mexico Tribal Working Group
  - Tribal Broadband Newsletter
  - Tribal Broadband Resource Library
  - Standing meetings with Navajo Nation
  - Active Engagement in Indian Affairs Department's monthly Tribal Leaders meetings
  - Attend Indian Affairs Department's State Tribal Leaders Summit
  - Present & attend monthly All Pueblo Council of Governor's meetings
  - Participate in the National Tribal Telecommunications Association



Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#)

**New Mexico  
Tribal Broadband  
News & Updates**

# DE: Status of Digital Equity in NM



OBAE Digital Equity (DE) State Plan Approved

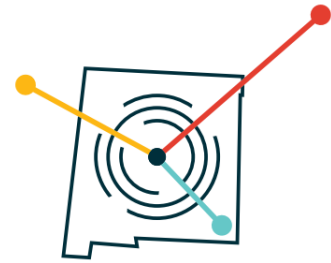
- \* Approved in April 2024
- \* Green Light to apply for Capacity Grant

OBAE Digital Equity Capacity Grant Application

- \* Submitted end of May 2024

OBAE Plans to Subgrant 85% of \$8.67M

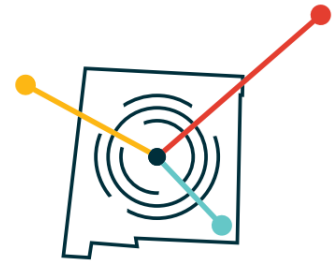
# DE: OBAE Tribal Support



- Virtual Workshops
- Virtual Office Hours
- GWEP Award Kick-Off
- One-pager “Tribal Focus”
- Site visits with Project Managers
- Coordinate special meetings upon request
- Direct calls and emails
  - Inform about funding opportunities
  - Offer TA
- Community Events



# Upcoming Federal Grants to Tribes



## NTIA's Tribal Digital Equity Capacity Grant

- \$1.44B
- Award Range = \$500k - \$2M
- Grant Opens Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>

## NTIA's Digital Equity Competitive Grant

- \$1.25B with Set-Aside funds of \$37.5M for Tribes
- Matching Funds Required (10%)
- Applications Due Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>

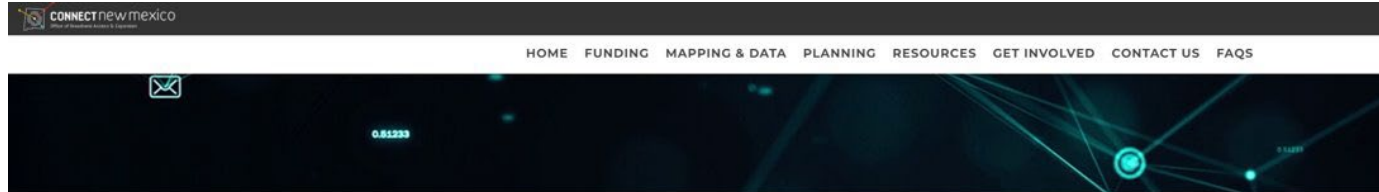
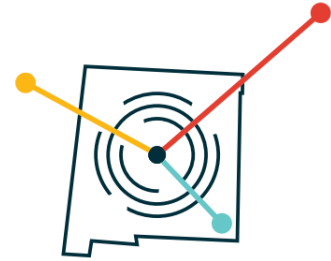
## Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP)

- Round 1 = \$237M NM Tribes
- Round 2 = \$980M available – waiting for announcements

Deployment of Internet Infrastructure, Affordability Programs, Telehealth, and Distance Learning Initiatives



# Questions?



## TRIBAL BROADBAND RESOURCE LIBRARY

### Overview

The Tribal Broadband Resource Library is a collaborative project between the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) and the New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion (OBAE). Supported by the Tribal Broadband Task Force, it demonstrates New Mexico's dedication to enhancing Tribal connectivity through infrastructure development, adoption programs, and effective digital resource utilization. The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion is committed to providing dependable, affordable, and equitable Internet access to all 23 sovereign Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations while respecting their unique needs and cultural diversity.

This webpage serves as a comprehensive resource center tailored for Tribal entities. It offers valuable information, including federal and state funding statistics, workforce development resources, and funding opportunities for connectivity initiatives.

## OBAE Connections

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