



# New Mexico Finance Authority 2024 Presentation



Presented by:

Donna Venable, Regulatory and Rate Manager



**CONTINENTAL**DIVIDE  
AN ENERGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

**REDBOLT**®  
BROADBAND

# What is Red Bolt Broadband?

- A growing division of Continental Divide, an Energy and Telecommunications Cooperative
- Experienced Local Telecommunications staff
- Focused on sustainability and member satisfaction
- Community Driven Not-For-Profit

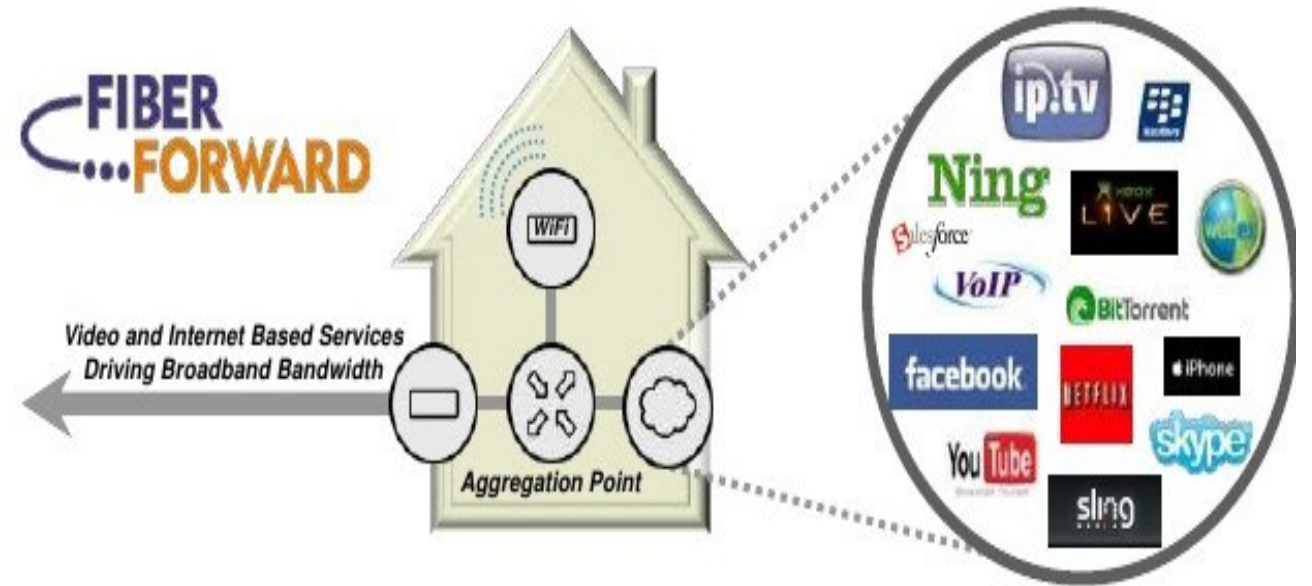


# How it Began for Continental Divide

- In 2015 Continental Divide Electric membership asked the Cooperative to investigate providing internet service
- Received a grant from the State of New Mexico for a feasibility study
  - Study showed that existing options in the cooperative's service area were subpar, reinforcing the need for broadband internet.
  - The cooperative would be able to provide broadband internet service using Fiber To The Home (FTTH) as a not-for-profit
  - Prices would be below the national average making the internet affordable

# Why Fiber-to-the-Premises?

- Reliable hardline connectivity
  - Minimum 20-year lifespan
  - Provides Internet that “Just Works”
- Supports all modern technologies
  - Streaming Video
  - Voice over IP – telephony
  - Large data transfers
  - Remote computing



# Continental Divide Pursued Funding

- 2017 – CDEC worked with Finance New Mexico to build out the City of Grants. First internet customer connected June 2018. (\$10M) 63% of locations served as of July 1, 2024
- 2019 – CDEC worked with Finance New Mexico to build out the Village of Milan. (\$5M) 42% of locations served as of July 1, 2024
- The money provided the backbone infrastructure for CDEC to build out to neighboring rural areas (Bluewater and San Rafael).
- 2020 – CDEC awarded a New Mexico Public Regulation Commission Broadband Grant to provide internet service to the Pueblo of Zuni. (\$4M)
- The Pueblo of Zuni committed ARPA funds to pay for every residents internet for 3 years.
- 2020 – CDEC awarded a Rural Utility Services grant (ReConnect 2) to provide internet to Oso Ridge. (\$1.2M)

# Continental Divide Pursued More Funding

- 2020 – CDEC participated in the Federal Communication Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction. (\$38M)
- 2020 – CDEC awarded Rural Utility Services grant (ReConnect 2) to  
• Provide internet to San Fidel, Oso Ridge (\$1.2M).
- 2022 – CDEC awarded Rural Utility Services grant (ReConnect 3) to provide internet to San Fidel, San Mateo, and Cubero (\$3.2M)
- 2022 – CDEC awarded \$1.2M by Cibola County ARPA funds for Seboyeta and middle mile to San Mateo.
- 2023 – CDEC awarded a Rural Utility Services grant (ReConnect 4) to provide internet to Thoreau. (\$21.7M)

- We have been successful because of the dedication of our employees, our choice of partners, and our membership. We stay safe, work hard and are providing life-changing experiences to our members by bridging the “digital divide”
- CDEC’s ultimate goal is to provide FTTP to all it’s members. This will require more partnerships to apply for grant funding



# Map of Grant Awards

