

# NEW MEXICO BROADBAND OVERVIEW

Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force  
August 16, 2021

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# *Broadband Legislation: HB10*

## **HOUSE BILL 10: Connect New Mexico Act** (Laws 2021, Ch. 120)

- Creates the Connect New Mexico Council
  - Meet Monthly and four-year terms (staggered)
  - Coordinate state agency broadband programs/projects
  - Evaluate, prioritize, and award grant proposals
  - Adopt rules to establish a competitive grant program
- Develop a Digital Equity Analysis and Plan inclusive of local/state/tribal entities
  - Address affordability, training, and education
  - Identify state/federal/private sector programs to close the digital equity gap
  - Progress Report due August 1, 2023, to be incorporated in the Statewide Broadband Plan by January 1, 2024
- Creates the non-reverting Connect New Mexico Fund (appropriations, gifts, grants, donations)
- Annual Report due October 1<sup>st</sup> each year
- Increases amount of the PRC Rural Universal Services Fund to a minimum of \$8M



Motorola Nitro LTE Transmitter

HB10: <https://nmlegis.gov/Sessions/21%20Regular/final/HB0010.pdf>



# Broadband Legislation: SB377

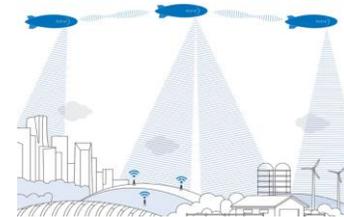
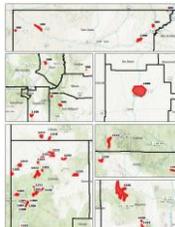


## SENATE BILL 377: Broadband Appropriations - \$110M (Laws 2021, Ch. 140, Section 17)

- Broadband Appropriations to the Connect New Mexico Fund (FY2021-2026)
  - Plan, design, engineer, construct, and purchase, and equip broadband infrastructure (\$70M)
    - No more than seven million (\$7M) to be spent contingent on submittal of an expenditure plan
    - Development of a Broadband Office (\$500K)
  - Grants to local governments, tribes, electric/telephone cooperatives for planning/grant writing support (\$5M)
    - No more than \$500K be spent contingent on submittal of an expenditure plan
  - Plan, design, engineer, construct, purchase, and equip broadband infrastructure for schools (\$25M) from the Public-School Reform Fund
    - No more than \$2.5M to be spent contingent on submittal of an expenditure plan
  - Appropriation of \$10M to Economic Development Department to support “Emerging Broadband Technology”



Motorola Nitro LTE Transmitter

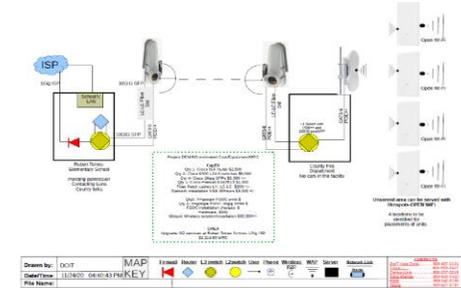


SB377: <https://nmlegis.gov/Sessions/21%20Regular/final/SB0377.pdf>

# Broadband EDA Grant

## NEW MEXICO TECHNICAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM

- Economic Development Grant of \$1.5M for three years
  - Provide technical assistance to entities seeking to deploy or expand broadband infrastructure and/or services
  - Funding to support up to 5 communities or organizations as a pilot for the first year
  - Cap of \$100K for each project
  - Applications will be based on a Request for Information (RFI)
  - Types of Assistance
    - Identify and engage stakeholders and non-physical assets
    - Educate community leaders
    - Assess recipient communities' current broadband infrastructure and market
    - Evaluate current and future demand for broadband (needs assessment)
    - Prepare high-level design and cost estimate for broadband deployment
    - Evaluate funding options and develop strategic approaches to acquire needed funding



COLONIA	COUNTY	UNSERVED	UNSERVED
Lordsburg	Hidalgo	1568	338
Timberon	Otero	752	12
Columbus	Luna	581	17
Keeler Farm	Luna	545	89
Vado	Dona Ana	397	71

NM TAP: [New Mexico Broadband Program - Technical Assistance Program \(state.nm.us\)](http://New Mexico Broadband Program - Technical Assistance Program (state.nm.us))

# Broadband SWPA and Community Surveys

## Broadband Statewide Price Agreements

- Price Agreements to support Grant Writing, Planning, and Infrastructure
  - Nine Vendors
    - Broadband Planning (6 Vendors)
    - Broadband Grant Writing (2 Vendors)
    - Broadband Infrastructure (3 Vendors)

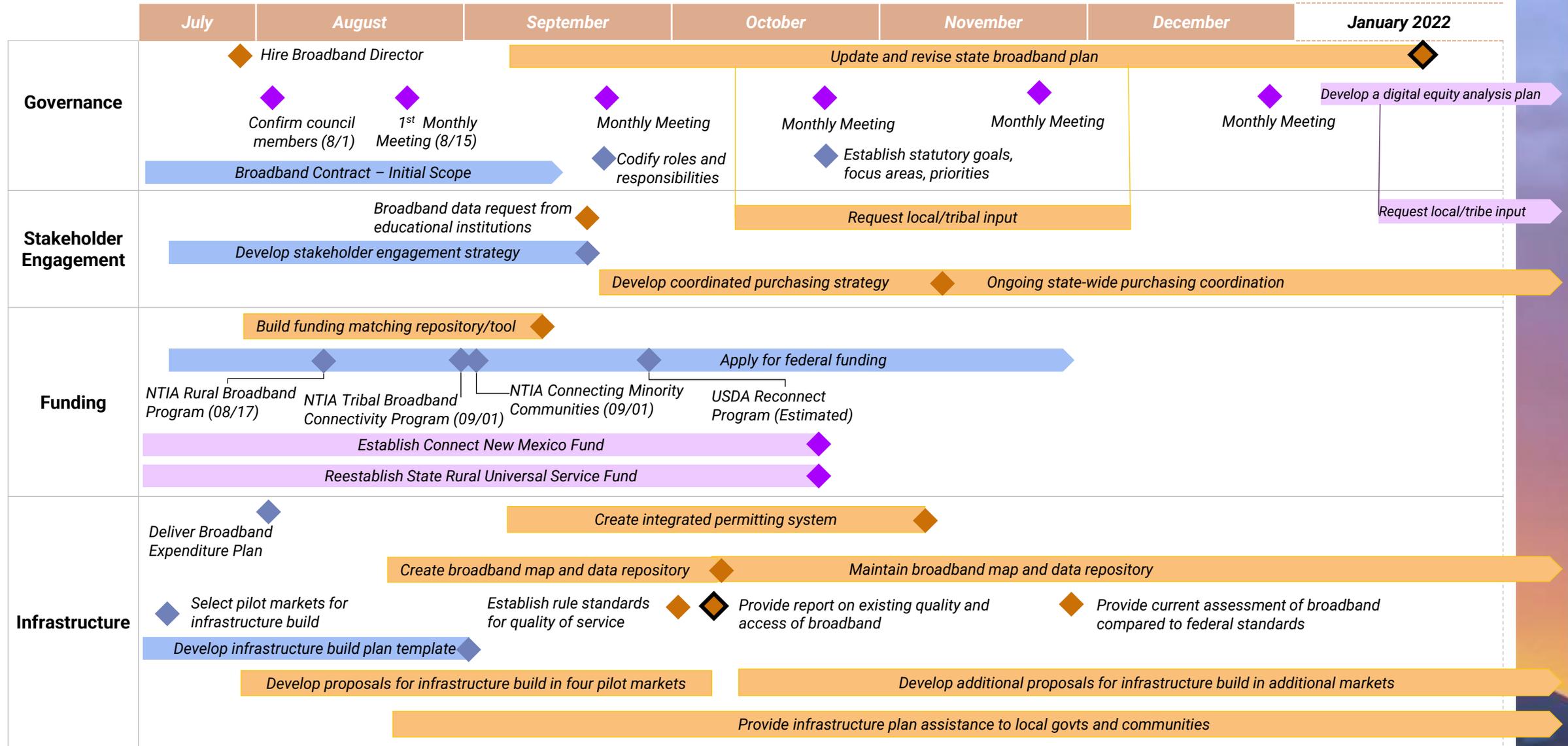
## Broadband Community Surveys

- Contract to conduct Community Surveys
  - Pilot with Dona Ana County
  - Survey Instrument Components
    - Merge Location with DoIT's Speed Tester
    - Targets Students, Resident, Seniors, and Businesses
  - Intention is to launch in other communities statewide



10-00000-21-00080	SWC TELESOLUTIONS INC
10-00000-21-00080 AA	COBB FENDLEY & ASSOCIATES INC
10-00000-21-00080 AB	COLUMBIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
10-00000-21-00080 AC	CONNECTED NATION INC
10-00000-21-00080 AD	FINLEY ENGINEERING CO INC
10-00000-21-00080 AE	GARTNER INC
10-00000-21-00080 AF	GUIDEHOUSE INC
10-00000-21-00080 AG	HARMONIX TECHNOLOGIES INC
10-00000-21-00080 AH	PLATEAU TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC

# New Mexico Broadband Path Forward



# Broadband Connectivity in the State

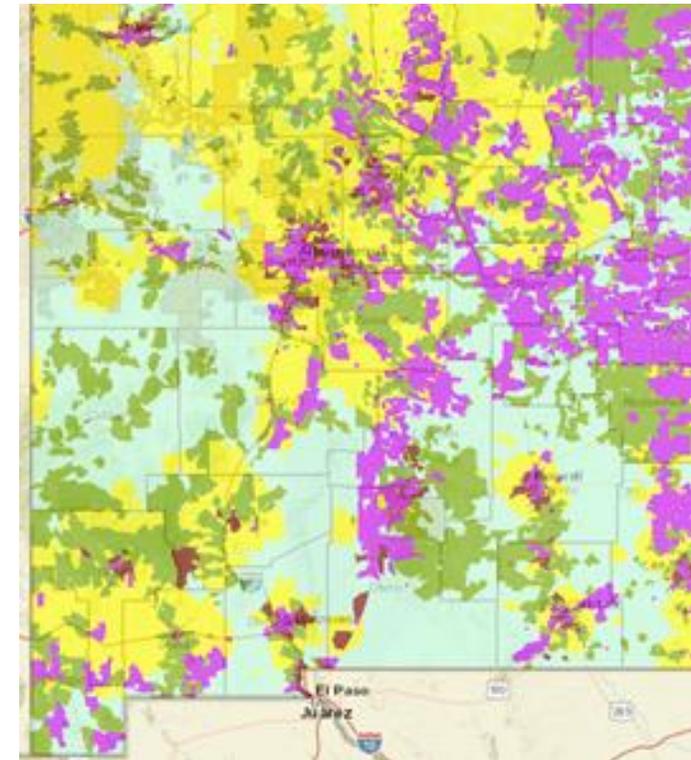
## Current Condition

- Ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationally measured to access, pricing, and average download.
- Approximately 700,000 residents are **unserved**
- Approximately 126,000 locations (business/residential) are **unserved**

## Current Activities

- Broadband Budget of \$133.4M for four years
- National search for a NM Broadband Director
- Governor's Office compiling list for the **Connect New Mexico Council**
- Launching a broadband technical assistance program RFI, 3 seminars tentatively scheduled (August).
- Ongoing funded broadband projects in Sierra County, Jal/Carlsbad, Edgewood, Cochiti Pueblo, and Navajo Nation.
- Extended a mapping contract to support broadband requirements for the next two years.
- Executed a community broadband survey contract.
- Completing an RFP offering to provide grant writing, planning, and construction to support broadband projects.

## New Mexico Coverage Map



New Mexico Broadband Map [NM DoIT Offices of Broadband and Geospatial Technology]

# Existing State Funding and Gap

**Current broadband budget can fund 17% - 33% of the cost and provide service to approximately 95,000 locations.**

NM DoIT Statewide Broadband Strategic Plan and Rural Assessment  
July 2020

**Deployment Cost Estimate**  
\$405M to \$780M

**Current Budget**  
\$133.46M

**Funding Gap**  
\$272M to \$647M

- Combination of fiber and fixed wireless technology

- Recent appropriations and previous balance

- Gap Closure will require Federal Funds

## Federal Broadband Grant Programs

Currently approximately \$37 Billion

### General Use Broadband Funding Programs (**\$23 Billion**)

- Use: Building of broadband infrastructure
- Source: USDA, US Treasury, FCC, Commerce, and NTIA

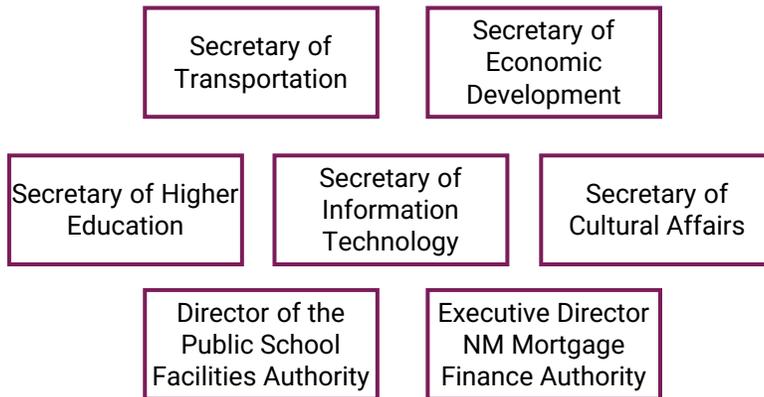
### Broadband Subsidy Programs (**\$14 Billion**)

- Use: To subsidize some of the cost of broadband and includes other purposes such as education and health care
- Source: FCC

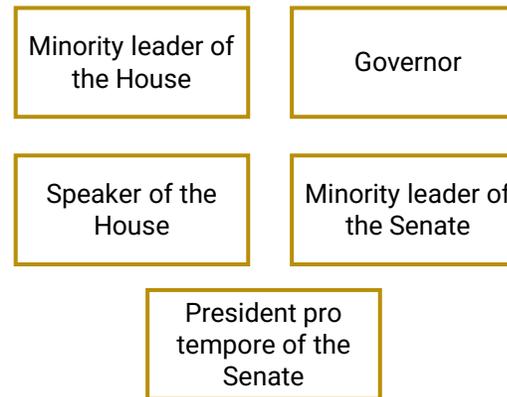
# Connect New Mexico Council

The *Connect New Mexico Council* will collaborate with the *Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE)*.  
*The OBAE is Administratively attached to DoIT, reporting to the Governor's office.*

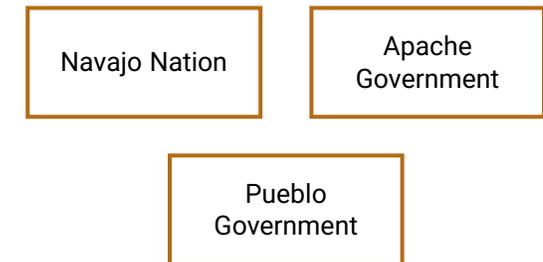
## STATE AGENCY MEMBERS



## LEGISLATOR AND GOVERNOR MEMBERS



## TRIBAL MEMBERS



# NM Broadband Advisory Committee

The *Connect New Mexico Council* will engage the expertise from the NM Broadband Advisory Committee.

Engage representatives from county, municipal, and regional organizations.



Local Government



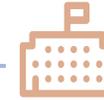
State Government

Engage subject matter experts from state agencies.

Engage representatives from the telecom industry and business organizations.



Industry



Educational

Engage representatives from early childhood, K12, Higher Education, and Career Training organizations.

Engage representatives from community organizations and non-profit foundations.

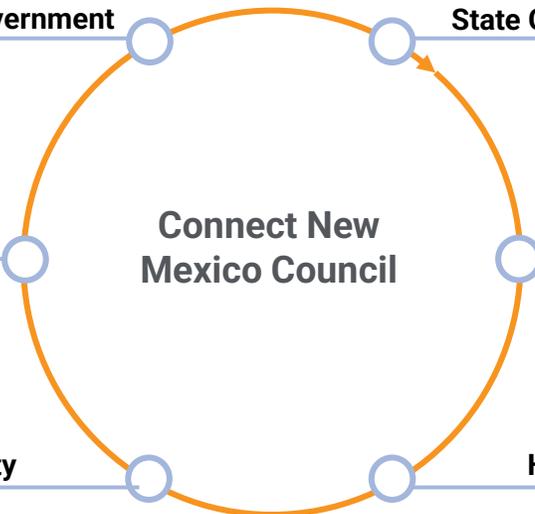


Community



Health

Engage representatives from the Telehealth arena.



## Next Steps



- Create and execute a multi-year **infrastructure implementation plan** that encapsulates the best use of available state funds, technology agnostic, and leverages emerging technologies



- Provide **technical assistance** to all entities that include feasibility studies, planning, grant writing, network architecture, and engineering support
- Establish a **Digital Inclusion** presence that provides digital literacy opportunities.



- Manage state grant requirements, applications, and awards to provide **improved governance**
- Manage federal grant program timelines and requirements to **ensure timely submissions**



- Establish a dedicated broadband office to improve **collaboration and integration of broadband efforts**
- Expand the **broadband mapping program**, utilize national-level data, and conduct verification with Internet Service Providers, third-party vendors, and/or citizens using crowd-sourcing data



- Empower municipalities to **take ownership of broadband construction or operation at a local level**



- Establish **legislation that outline rules, procedures, and addresses regulatory requirements** to support standardized broadband adoption
- Establish strategies to **focus on economic development, telemedicine, and agriculture**

*THANK YOU*

**QUESTIONS?**

