

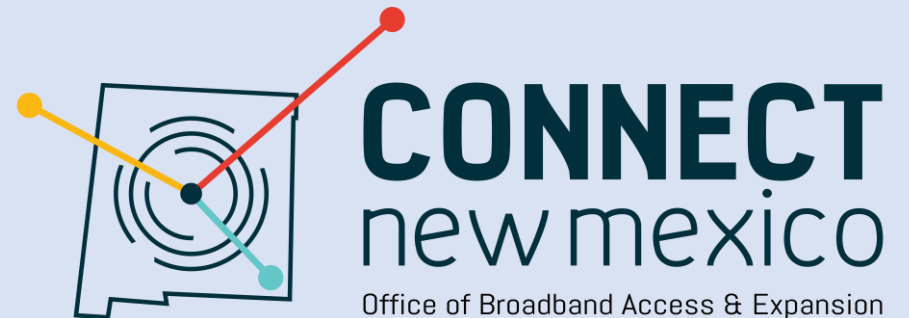
NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF BROADBAND ACCESS AND EXPANSION COGS

October 16, 2024

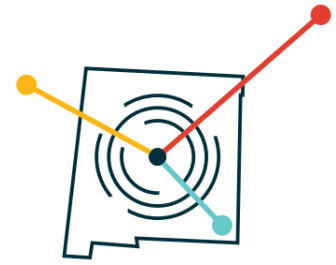
Drew Lovelace, Acting Director

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Discussion Points

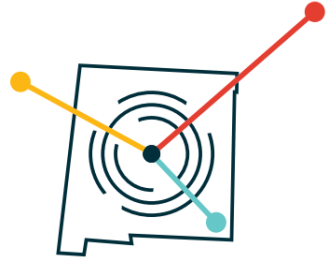


- **Key Take aways**
- **Broadband Programs Existing**
 - ARPA
 - CNM
 - GWEP
- **Update on BEAD**
 - Project Area Units
- **Status of Digital Equity Funds**
 - State Plan
- **Upcoming Funding Opportunities**
 - Student Connect

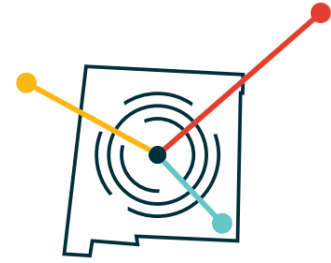


Key Takeaways

- Grant Writing Engineering and Planning
- Student Connect



Broadband Programs

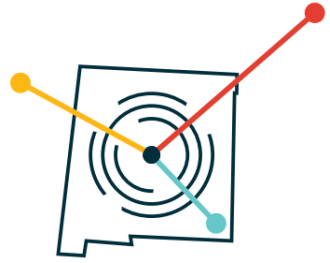


Various Federal and State Funding Opportunities

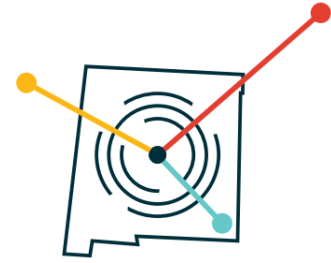
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - \$117M
- Connect New Mexico Fund Infrastructure (CNMF) - \$70
- Grant Writing, Engineering and Planning (GWEP) - \$5M

GWEP

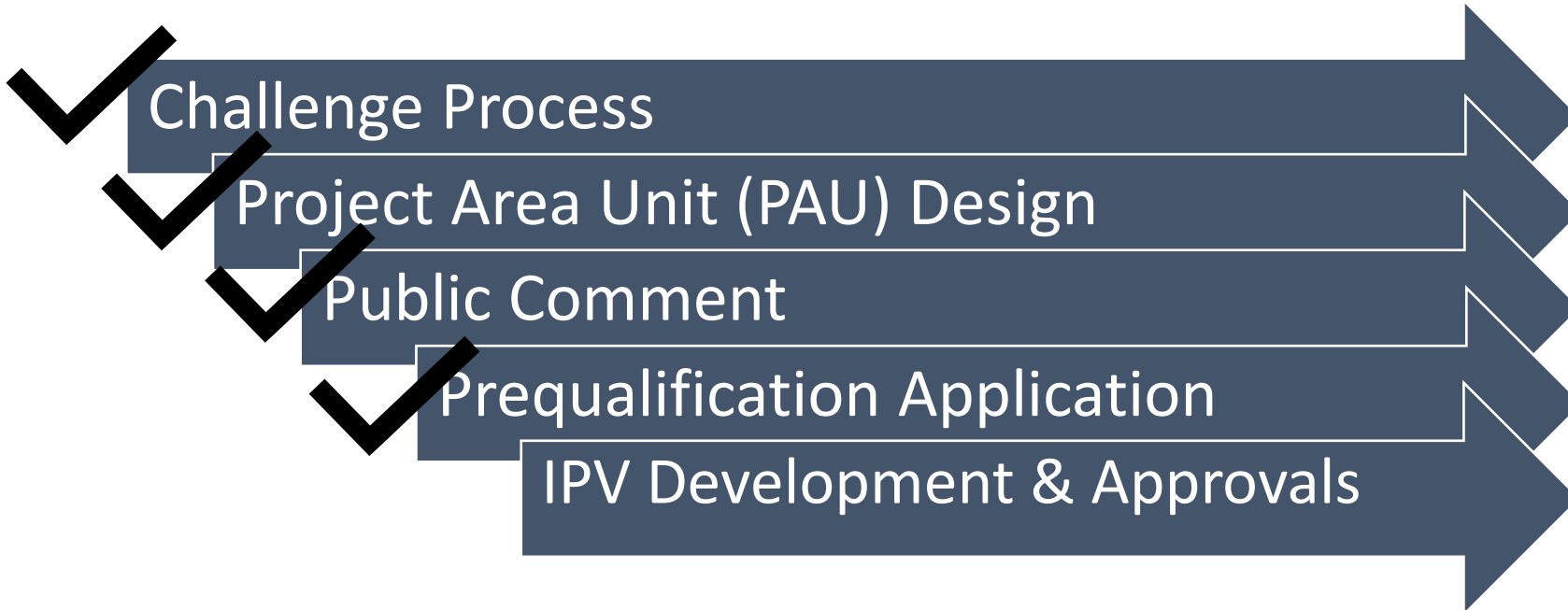
- \$2.5M already awarded
- \$2.5M available
- <https://connect.nm.gov/gwep.html>



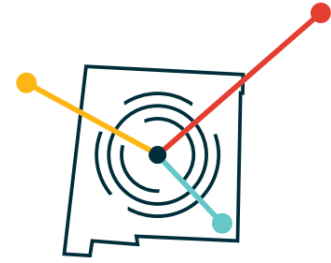
Update on BEAD



Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD)

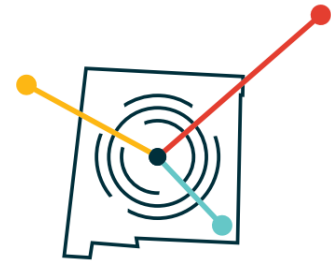


BEAD: Challenge Process



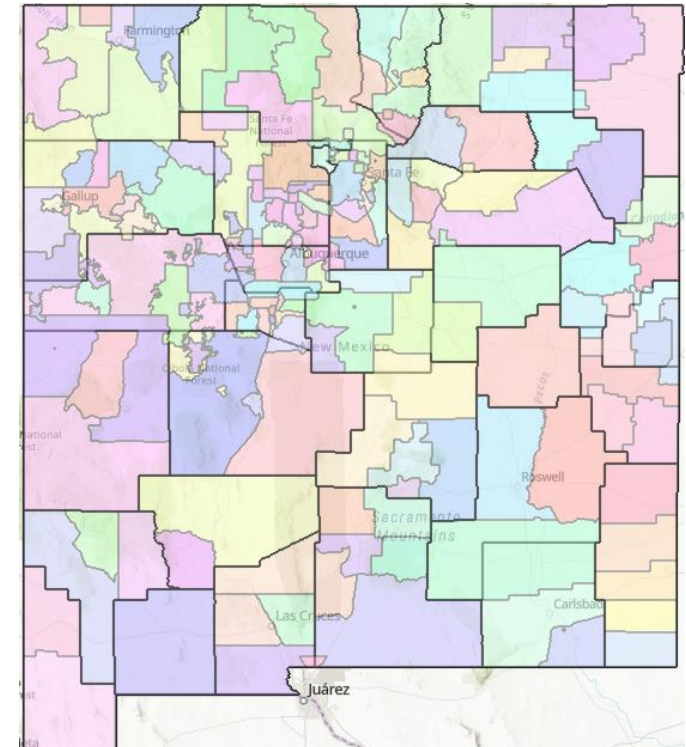
- <https://connect.nm.gov/bead-plan.html>
- Challenge Process
 - Determined the final list of locations eligible for BEAD funding
 - Launched in early April
 - 30-Day Challenge Phase & 30-Day Rebuttal Phase
 - Office Hours
 - > 600 Challenges impacting 68,456 locations were submitted
 - Insert Tribal 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: PAU Design Process

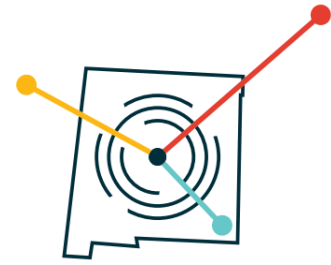


<https://connect.nm.gov/bead.html>

- 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

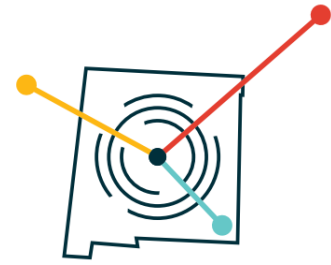


- Tribal Engagement
 - APCG
 - Navajo Nation
 - OBAE Contractors



- 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



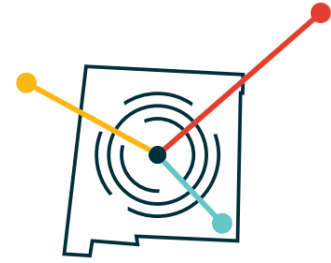
[BEAD Resource Page](#)

BEAD: 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

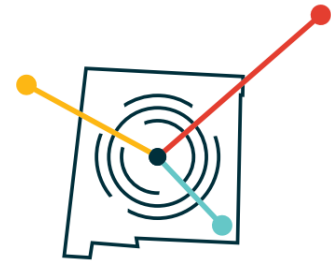
BEAD: Initial Proposal Volume 2



• **OBAE Letter of Credit**

- Providers continue to voice concerns about match funding
- Municipalities and counties could be a partner
- Permitting will be a large amount of the time to build
 - Look at streamlining for broadband projects

BEAD: Prequalification Application

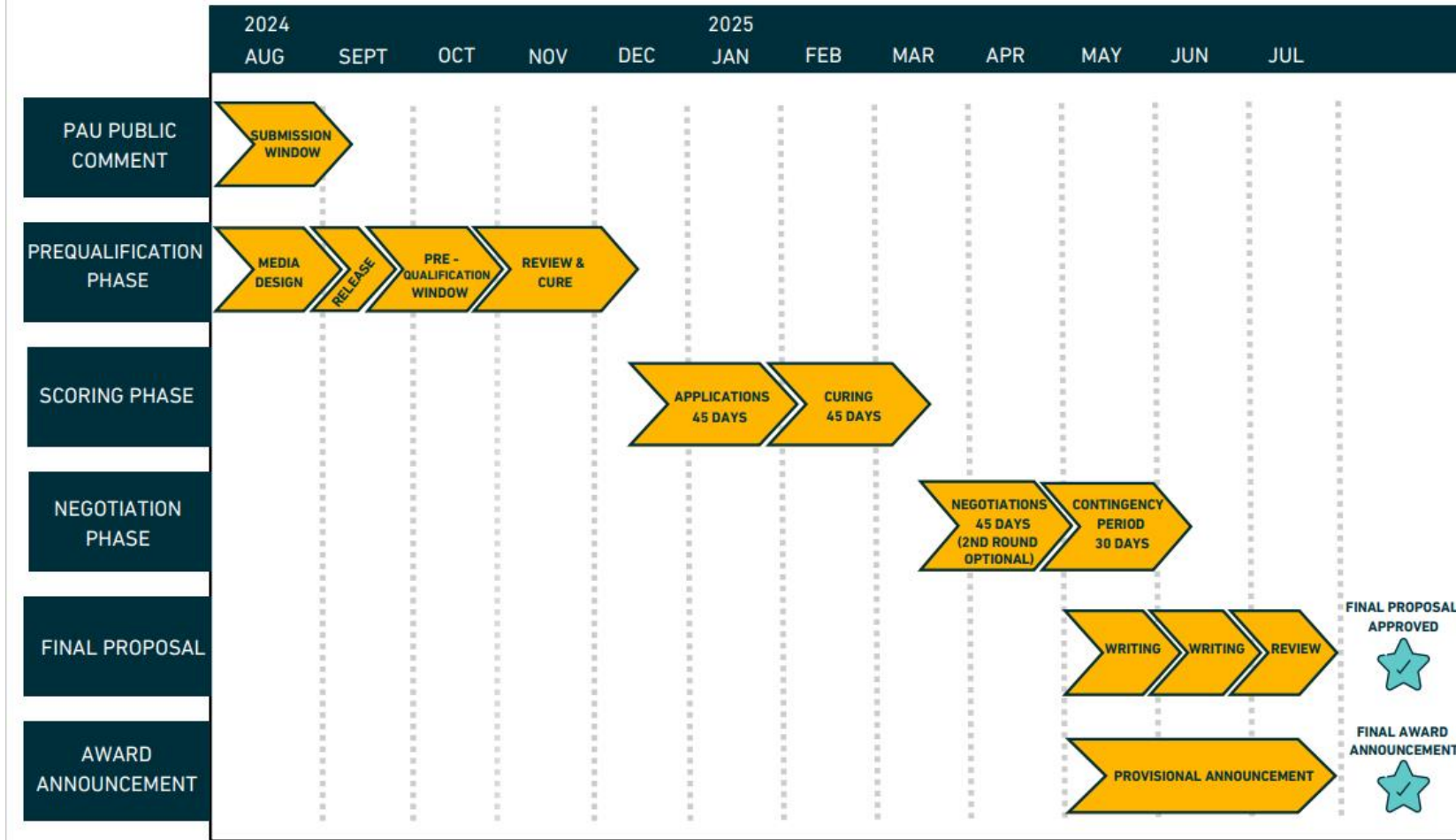
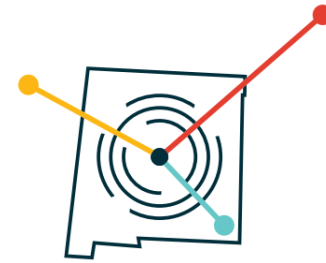


BEAD Prequalification Application

- 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

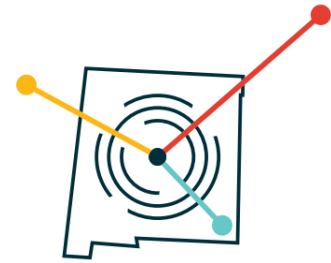
Application made available on September 1

[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)

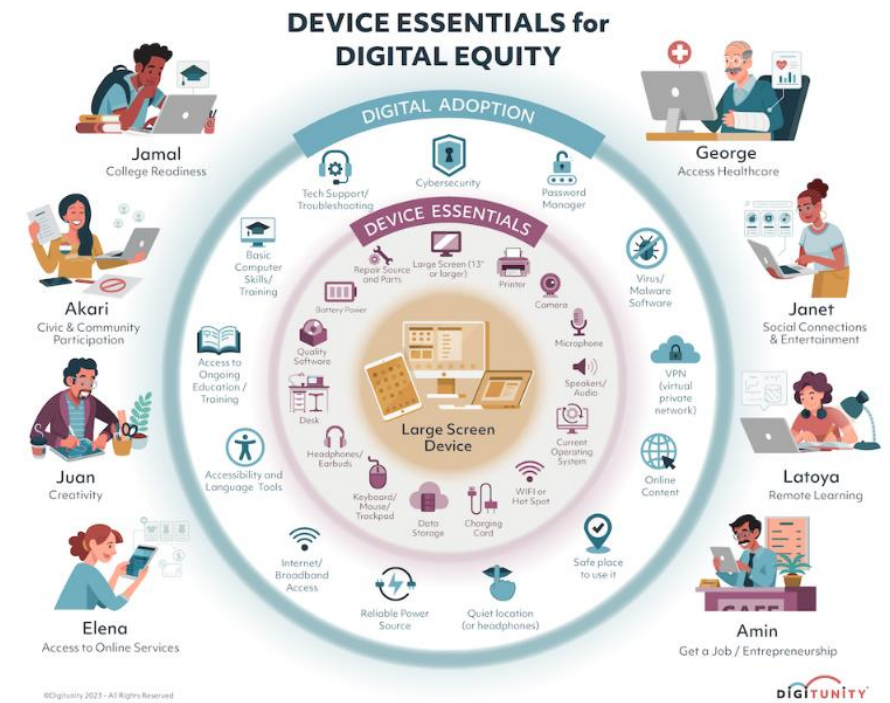


14 *Timelines subject to change based on Federal approvals

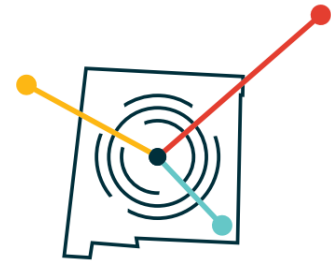
Digital Equity (DE)



- 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

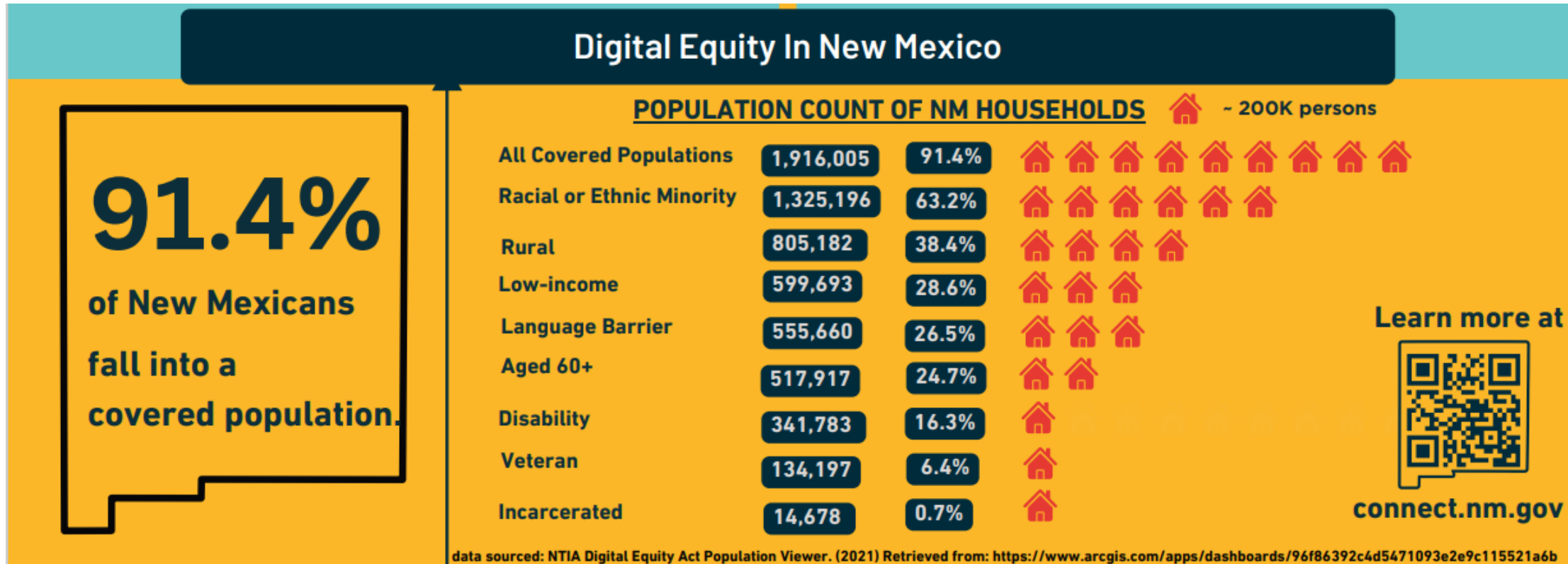
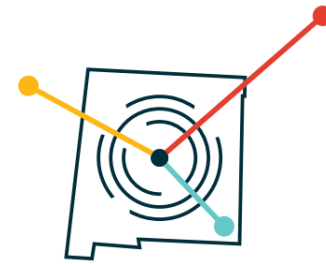


Digital Equity in New Mexico

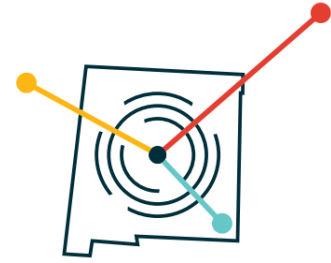


Limitations on DE	Key Barriers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited internet access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Internet availability & affordability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Device quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Online accessibility and affordability
<ul style="list-style-type: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

DE: Covered Populations



DE: Status of Digital Equity in NM



OBAE Digital Equity (DE) State Plan Approved

* Approved in April 2024

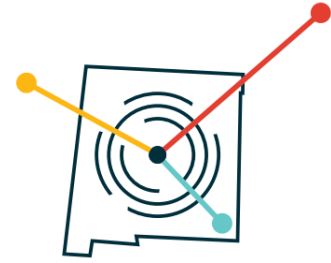
* Green Light to apply for Capacity Grant

OBAE Digital Equity Capacity Grant Application

* Submitted end of May 2024

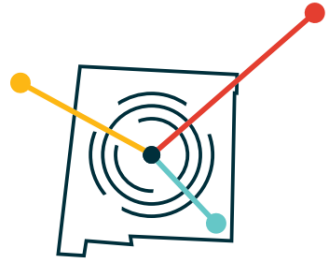
OBAE Plans to Subgrant 85% of \$8.67M

Student Connect



- Launches in the next few days
- Targets students with no connectivity at home
- ISP partners with School district for connectivity in the home to a device
- Uses the State Education Network
- Look for announcement in coming days

Questions?



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