



NEW MEXICO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Bill Richardson  
Governor

Marlin Mackey  
Secretary

Conny Maki  
Deputy Secretary  
Enterprise Services

Thomas McQuillan  
Deputy Secretary  
Enterprise Operations

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### **Broadband Stimulus Awards Will Create up to 50 Jobs in Rural NM** **Two longtime New Mexico companies awarded total of almost \$15-million**

Santa Fe, NM -- The New Mexico Department of Information Technology today announced that two telecommunications providers in New Mexico are among eleven broadband infrastructure projects in nine states awarded grants and loans that will enable rural residents to have access to improved economic and educational opportunities. The awards were announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC

Western New Mexico Telephone Company was awarded a broadband infrastructure project grant worth \$11,516,679. The funding will provide last mile broadband services to remote and unserved locations and critical community facilities throughout Western New Mexico. Executive Vice President John Francis said the grant award will allow the company to extend fiber optic infrastructure and provide wireless technology in very remote areas where Internet is not currently available. Francis anticipates 25-35 jobs will be created to carry out the project, including four to five permanent positions.

Baca Valley Telephone Company, Inc. was awarded a loan for \$1.651-million, and a grant for \$1.586-million. The funding will expand fiber optics to Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) nodes in rural Northeastern New Mexico, replacing outdated deteriorating copper wire and low bandwidth microwave transport systems in some areas, while providing new connectivity in others, and enabling advanced, high-speed DSL service throughout the area. Baca Valley general manager Paul Briesch thanked Governor Bill Richardson for his support of the company's USDA Rural Utilities Service loan and grant applications that he says will result in 25 jobs during the engineering and construction phases of its projects.

#### About Western New Mexico Telephone Company

Western serves more than 6,000 customers over more than 15,000 mountainous square miles, networking nine





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smaller exchanges with its main office in Cliff in southwestern New Mexico, about 30 miles northwest of Silver City. Western, founded in 1975, and is one of 14 rural phone companies throughout New Mexico that serve small populations over large rural distances. The company's website is at [www.wnmt.com](http://www.wnmt.com)

#### About Baca Valley Telephone

Baca Valley Telephone Company, Inc. was founded in 1974 in Des Moines, New Mexico. Baca Valley has a service area covering more than 2,600 square miles. In addition to residential service in the Des Moines and Maxwell exchanges, the company provides cellular service, local Internet access, business telephone systems, security systems, and network cabling throughout northeastern New Mexico and southeastern Colorado. Baca Valley's website is at [www.bacavalley.com](http://www.bacavalley.com)

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