



NEW MEXICO
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NEWS RELEASE

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New Mexico Telecom Company to Receive \$11 Million Grant for Broadband Investment in Eastern New Mexico

SANTA FE— Former Governor Toney Anaya today highlighted the news that a telephone cooperative in Eastern New Mexico has received more than \$11 million to expand broadband (high-speed Internet access) in rural New Mexico.

The \$11,252,066 award to ENMR-Plateau was announced by the U.S. Department of Commerce earlier today. The award is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The company plans to use the award to enhance existing broadband networks that serve eastern and central New Mexico and to construct 74 miles of new fiber optic cable to critical community institutions like schools and medical facilities.

“Today’s announcement adds to the estimated \$1.2 billion New Mexico is expected to receive for infrastructure investments through the Recovery Act,” said former Governor Anaya, executive director of the New Mexico Office of Recovery and Reinvestment. “This award will create better broadband access for rural New Mexico, which can improve opportunities for distance learning, economic development and telehealth.”

New Mexico’s Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Cabinet Secretary Marlin Mackey has been working with providers and local government representatives over the past year to help them coordinate their grant applications with the ultimate goal of expanding broadband service throughout the state.

“This award to ENMR-Plateau is a big step towards meeting the goal of providing broadband service to our rural areas where service is limited or even nonexistent,” Secretary Mackey said. “ENMR has a long history of serving New Mexico’s telecommunications needs, and I have no doubt they will use this grant to improve the lives of New Mexicans.”

“ENMR-Plateau is very pleased to have been named a broadband grant recipient,” said Tom Phelps, CEO of ENMR-Plateau Telecommunications. “This grant will allow ENMR-Plateau to continue its aggressive efforts to provide high-speed broadband access to rural communities in eastern and central New Mexico. ENMR-Plateau has long been committed to economic development, job growth and education throughout its service area and this project will further enhance those efforts.”

Current estimates show New Mexico will receive more than \$3.3 billion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, plus hundreds of millions in tax breaks and new bonding and loan authority. Go to www.recovery.state.nm.us for more information.

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