

Technical Assistance Program New Mexico Department of Information Technology

Webinar

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AGENDA

Opening Remarks and Introductions:

Rand Tilton, Broadband Program Manager

Overview

- U.S. Economic Development Administration Grant

New Mexico Technical Assistance Program

- Overview of the program
- Eligible entities and eligible areas
- Details about the services offered
- Schedule

AGENDA (cont.)

Request for Information (RFI) Process

- RFI content
- RFI questions and use of map
- Anticipated schedule

Recent Broadband Legislation

- Connect New Mexico Act: Council, Advisory Committee, Funding

Questions and Answers

Closing Remarks:

Raja Sambandam, Acting Cabinet Secretary/CIO

U.S. EDA Grant Award – EDA CARES Act (PWEAA2020)



EDA Grant Focus and Requirements

- “Special Need” eligibility from CARES Act – entire country
- Application area - entire state of New Mexico
- Economic-focused requirements
 - Promotes economic recovery from pandemic
 - Promotes resilience
 - Creates of jobs
 - Primary – construction
 - Secondary – from having broadband
 - Considers distressed areas criteria
 - Introduced broadband as a new focus for EDA

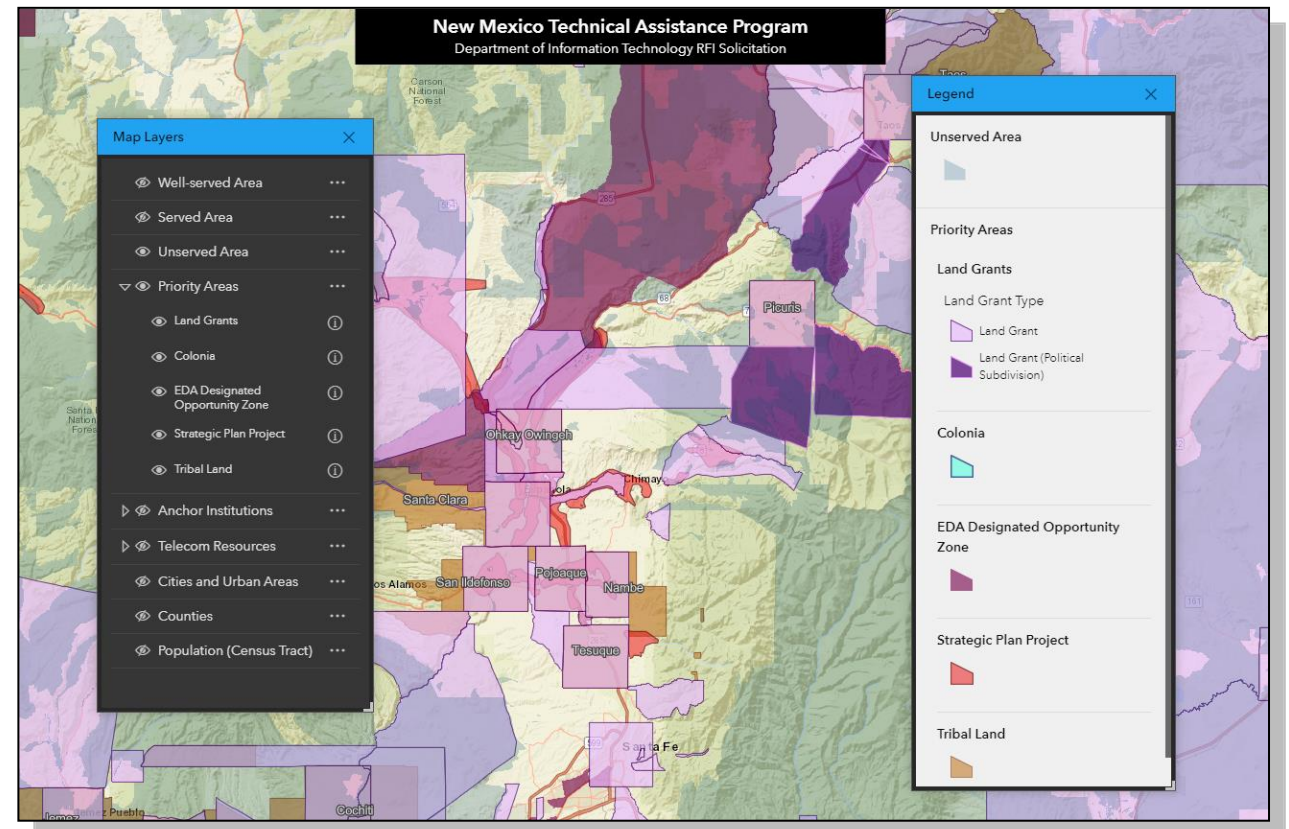
Application Language to Promote Broadband

An Economic Recovery and Resilience Tool

- Due to the coronavirus crisis, communities have had a **brutal awakening to the need for broadband** to support **telework, economic activity, education, and health care**.
- This is **indeed a crisis** and community development stakeholders must (and are) paying attention.
- In addition, broadband's value and a sustainable broadband plan will be most impactful when it is **integrated into a broader community development vision**.

EDA's Funding Priorities

- Recovery and resilience
- Critical infrastructure
- Opportunity zones
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy documents (CEDS)



New Mexico Technical Assistance Program (NM TAP)



NM TAP Program Overview

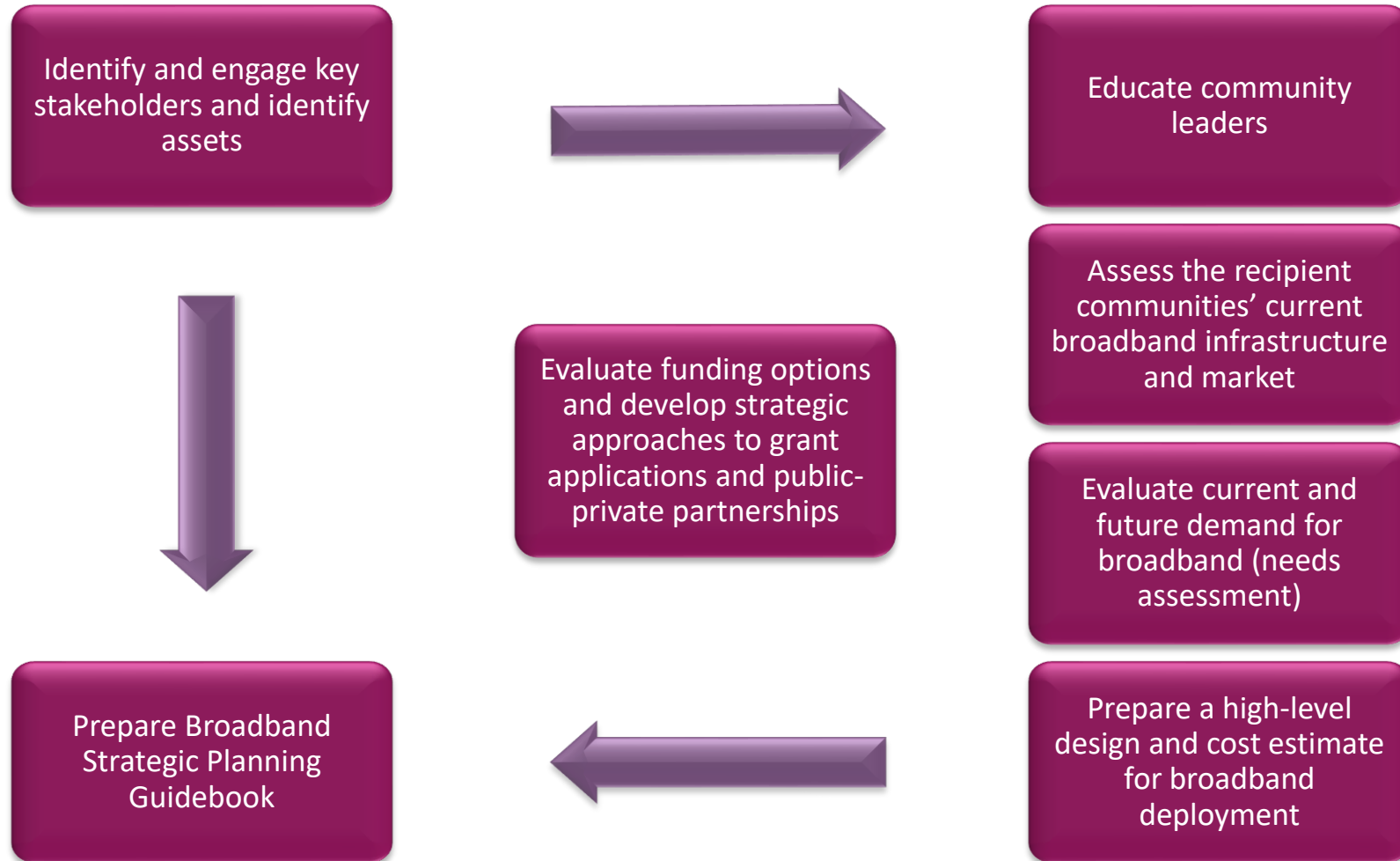
- \$1.5M over three years
- Provide technical assistance to entities seeking to deploy or expand broadband infrastructure and/or services
- Funding to support 12-15 communities or organizations
- Cap of \$100K for each project
- Applications will be based on a Request for Information instrument
- Services provided by CTC Technology & Energy, overseen by DoIT

Eligible Entities

- Local governments
- Councils of Governments (COG)
- Economic Development Districts (EDD)
- Tribal governments
- Utility cooperatives
- Non-profit organizations
- Businesses
- Colonias
- Land grants

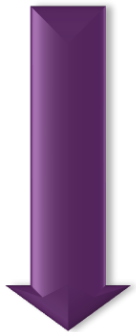
...who are planning the deployment or expansion of broadband infrastructure and/or services.

Services Offered



Initial Service

Identify and engage key stakeholders and identify assets



- Stakeholders
 - Identify those that will be impacted
 - Identify those that can contribute
 - From a variety of sectors
- Identify Assets
- Conduct outreach, information sharing, needs discovery

Funding

- Look at available federal and state funding opportunities
- Consider partnerships with private and/or public entities for both funding and operations
- Understand role of recipient community/organization



Evaluate funding options and develop strategic approaches to grant applications and public-private partnerships

Goal is to minimize costs and risks while achieving your broadband objectives.

- Develop funding strategy
 - Grants, loans, other sources
 - Consider application timelines
- Consider value and benefits
- Outline risks
- Determine control/ownership of assets and resources

Community Leader Education



- Share the understanding that connectivity is critical
- Planning in different aspects:
 - Technical
 - Financial
 - Policy



- Goal is an executable, sustainable strategy
- Share different models and lessons learned from other communities
- Establish relationships for ongoing broadband support

Infrastructure and Market Assessment



- Identify current broadband usage
- Gather information on available services
- Understand what is served, unserved, well-served

Assess the recipient communities' current broadband infrastructure and market

- Goal is an understanding of the infrastructure and market gaps



Needs Assessment – Current and Future

- Interaction with broadband users
- Discussion groups
 - Local governments
 - Educational institutions
 - Businesses
 - Healthcare
 - ISPs
 - Other regional stakeholders
- Statistically valid market study



- Goal is an understanding of a specific communities needs, constraints, challenges, impact of pandemic

Evaluate current and future demand for broadband (needs assessment)



High-Level Design and Cost Estimate

- Candidate design to fill gaps
 - Considers overall strategy
 - Considers funding strategy
 - Cost-effective
 - Resilient and survivable
 - Reflects best practices
- Cost estimate based on design and local costs



- Goal is to develop a design and cost estimate that can be used for planning deployment and/or funding opportunity applications



Prepare a high-level design and cost estimate for broadband deployment

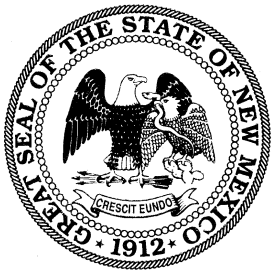
Final Deliverable

- Incorporates previous activities
- Customized
- Strategy for getting broadband to your community
- Actionable roadmap with next steps



Prepare Broadband Strategic
Planning Guidebook

Request for Information (RFI) Highlights

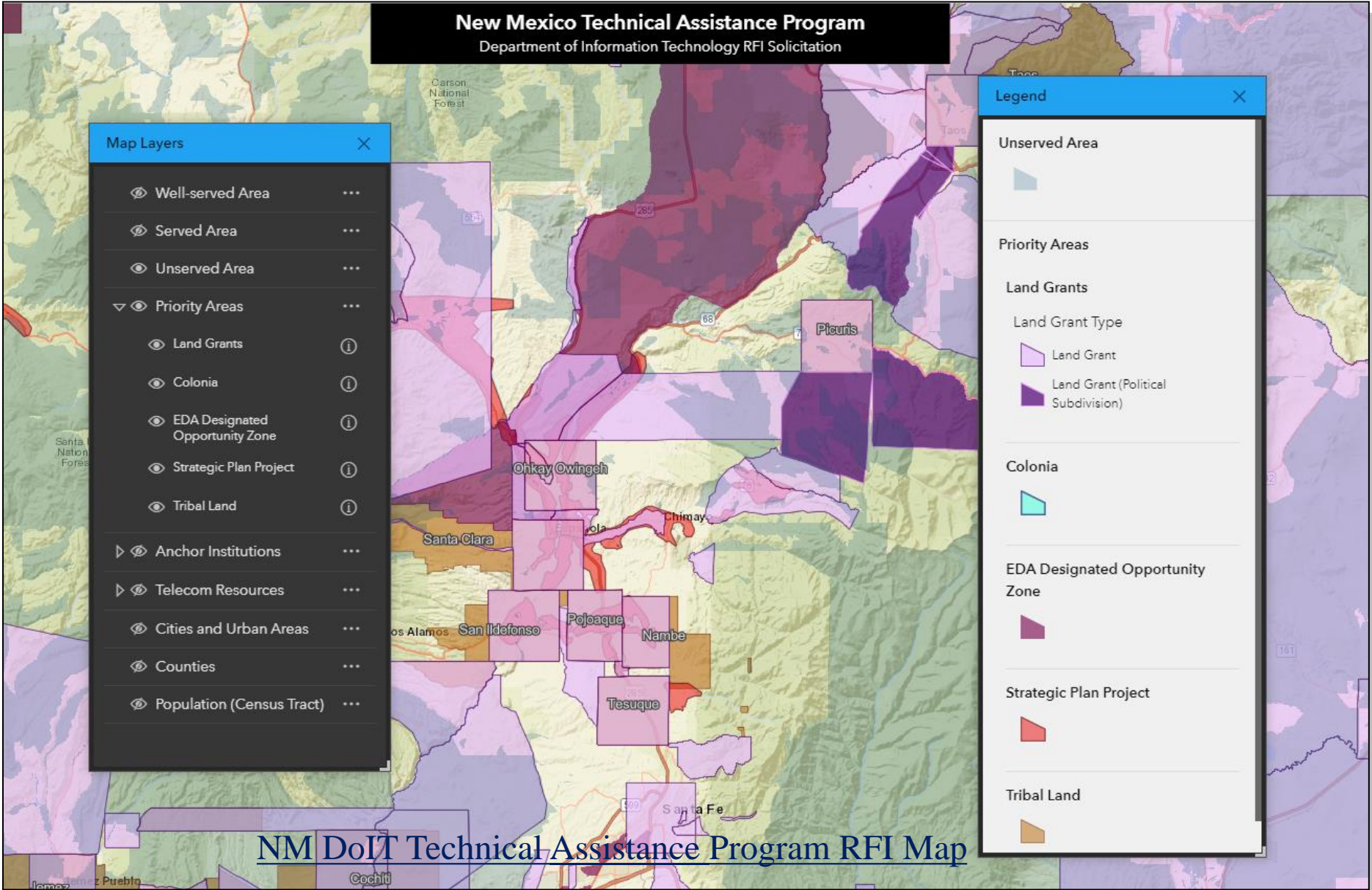


REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Request for Information

- **Objective:** Solicit and gather information from eligible entities about their needs for technical assistance
- **Requirements:** Complete questions provided in the RFI
- **Map:** Tool for answering questions
- **Schedule:**
 - Issue RFI 9/16/21
 - Responses Due 10/10/21
 - Recipients Selected 10/29/21

RFI Map Tool



RFI Questions

1. What is the name of your entity or jurisdiction?
2. Who is the point of contact for this response?
3. What specific area/community would you like to target? Does the area include an Opportunity Zone, colonia, land grant, or Tribal land? Please provide a map outlining the boundary of your project area.
4. Which service category (served, well-served, unserved) does your project area fall within? (See map.)
5. Will your project area connect anchor institutions such as schools, healthcare facilities, or government entities? If so, how many and what institutions will it connect?
6. What are your broadband needs or gaps, as you understand them?
 - a) Access, availability, lack of services in area
 - b) Affordability
 - c) Devices
 - d) Digital skills or literacy (the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills).

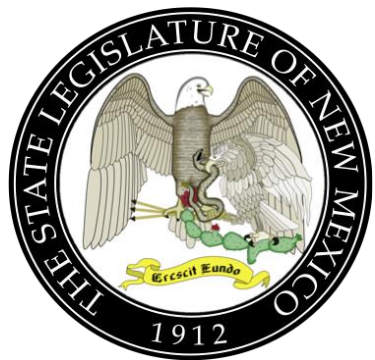
RFI Questions

7. What business, economic, technical, and other objectives do you have for participating in this program? Please be specific regarding the targeted project area in your community.
 - a) Job creation/enablement for specific disciplines
 - b) Recovery from the pandemic
 - c) Resilience against future crises
 - d) Supporting critical infrastructure
 - e) Work from home provisions
 - f) Distance learning – K-12, higher education, skills training
 - g) Other specific economic objectives
8. What is the estimated number of primary and secondary jobs that the deployment of broadband infrastructure in your target area would engender and what methodology did you use to calculate that estimation? Primary and secondary jobs are delineated as follows:
 - a) Primary jobs are those created as a direct result of the deployment, such as jobs related to the construction of a network or to the continued operation of such a network.
 - b) Secondary jobs are those that the deployment would indirectly create, such as jobs in new or expanded industries—like education, telehealth, telework—and related economic impact.

RFI Questions

9. What prior related studies or plans have you conducted, if any? Please attach them. Examples include:
 - a) Needs assessment
 - b) Feasibility assessment
 - c) Network design
 - d) Strategic plan
 - e) Other (please specify)
10. Which of the technical support services being offered by this program would you be seeking and why?
11. The State prefers that there be a collaboration between a government and private entity with an interest in expanding broadband in the project area/community. Do you have any type of engagement in place or planned? If so, please provide details and any supporting documentation.
12. Is there anything else, not mentioned in this RFI, that you would like to share?

New Legislation



Broadband Legislation : HB10

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

- Creates the Connect New Mexico Council (7 Select Cabinet Secretaries, 4 by Legislators, 1 by Governor, Three Tribal)
 - 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
 - Support Digital Inclusion
 - Follow eight criteria when awarding funds
- 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 1 August 2023 to include into the Statewide Broadband Plan by 1 January 2024
- Create the non-reverting Connect New Mexico Fund (appropriations, gifts, grants, donations)
- Annual Report due 1 October each year with five requirements
- Increases the amount of the PRC Rural Universal Services Fund to a minimum of \$8M

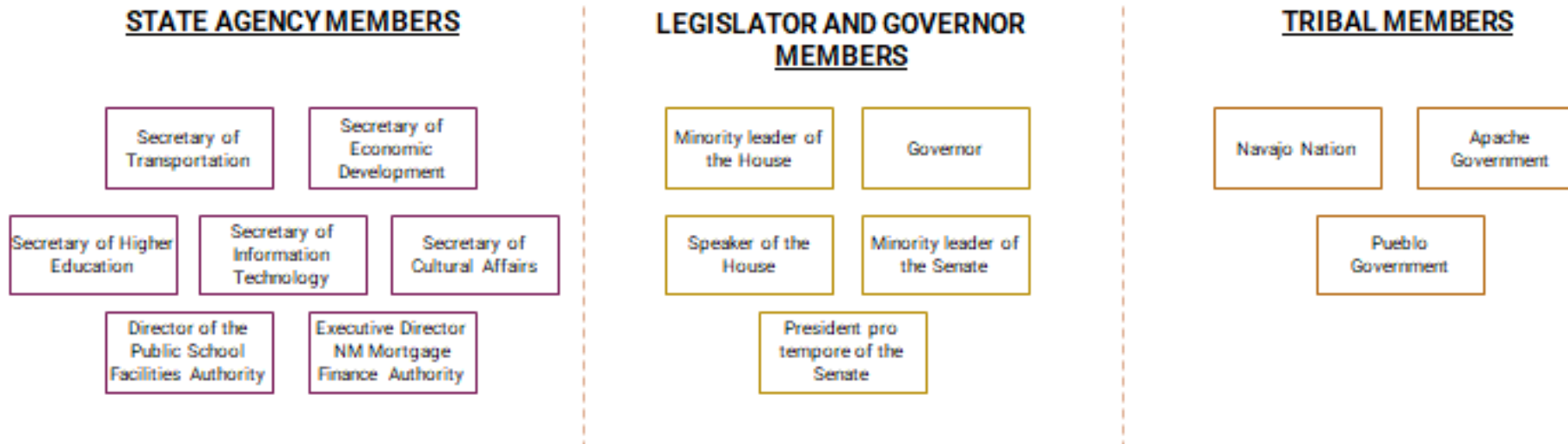


Broadband Legislation : HB10

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.



Broadband Legislation : SB93

SENATE BILL 93: Broadband Access and Expansion Act (Laws 2021, Chapter 123)

- Office created and administrated by the NM Department of Information Technology (NM DoIT)
- Office managed by a director appointed by the governor
- Duties include
 - Establish Standards for quality of service (homes, businesses, public facilities)
 - Maintain the online NM Broadband Map
 - Create and maintain a repository for broadband data/information
 - Develop a three-year statewide broadband plan (First due 1 January 2022)
 - Update that plan annually and report to the Governor
 - Plan to be inclusive of state/local agencies, tribes, and public education input
 - Office will provide technical and planning assistance with a focus on regional planning
 - Office will form an advisory committee inclusive of state/local/tribal entities and the public
 - Office will identify federal and other funding sources
 - State agencies required to coordinate with the Office

SB93: <https://nmlegis.gov/Sessions/21%20Regular/final/SB0093.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) 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)
 - No more than \$2.5M be spent contingent on submittal of an Expenditure Plan
 - Appropriation of \$10M to Economic Development Department to support “Emerging Broadband Technology”

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

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



Engage subject matter experts from state agencies.

Engage representatives from the telecom industry and business organizations.



Industry

Connect New Mexico Council

Educational



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

Engage representatives from community organizations and non-profit foundations.



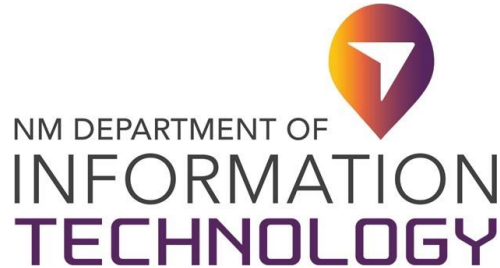
Community

Health



Engage representatives from the TeleHealth arena.

Questions?



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A recording of this webinar and a copy of the presentation deck will be available on the [New Mexico DoIT State Office of Broadband website](#).