



NEW MEXICO
**PUBLIC REGULATION
COMMISSION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NMPRC awards over \$11.8 million to expand high-speed internet access in underserved and unserved communities

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) recently awarded \$11,827,661.49 in funding through the state’s Broadband Program for the development of 18 projects to expand broadband access in unserved and underserved areas. These Commission-approved investments will eventually provide high-speed internet access to an additional 49,895 customers across 26 communities in New Mexico, including 2,877 broadband users in schools and libraries. Funding for these infrastructure projects is supported by the State Rural Universal Service Fund (SRUSF).

“The NMPRC is honored to fulfill its State Rural Universal Service Fund Broadband Program responsibilities to bring high-quality broadband service to New Mexicans in rural areas. The NMPRC meticulously evaluates proposed projects eligible for SRUSF funds, giving priority to those dedicated to serving unserved communities, and maximizing outreach to underserved areas while maintaining fair and reasonable costs,” said Commissioner Gabriel Aguilera.

Since 2018, the Broadband Program has provided annual financial support to increase broadband networks and services to unserved and underserved communities. The NMPRC Telecommunications Bureau in May began accepting grant applications for the program in 2024 from eligible telecommunications carriers to fund the construction and maintenance of facilities capable of providing high-quality broadband internet access for these areas of the state. Each grant award provides up to 75% of the budgeted project price tag, with the carriers expected to cover any remaining costs.

The Commission received and considered 38 projects from 10 applicants, with a proposed projected total cost of \$39,755,756 and a total funding request of \$29,683,227. The SRUSF has an annual funding cap of \$30 million, with the third-party administrator of the fund, VantagePoint Solutions, having determined that \$11,895,263 will be made available for Broadband Projects in 2024, after subtracting the projected amount of funding needed to satisfy other statutory obligations.

During a [special open meeting](#) on October 10, the Commission approved 14 applications for projects in unserved areas and four applications for projects in underserved areas. The order granting and denying applications for these projects, along with a list of proposed projects, can be found [here](#).

In accordance with the [SRUSF rule](#), selected broadband projects must support internet access service at speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 3 Mbps upload to all households and businesses in the planned project area. Broadband Program applicants who receive approval for projects will

be paid in three installments until projects are completed, which must be within a three-year period.

Over the past five years, the state's Broadband Program has awarded nearly \$47 million for broadband projects across the state. The SRUSF is funded by a surcharge levied on all customer voice connections in the state, currently set at 97 cents per connection.

An online copy of this press release can be found [here](#).

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*The **New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC)** regulates the utilities, telecommunications, and motor carrier industries to ensure fair and reasonable rates, and to assure reasonable and adequate services to the public as provided by law. The PRC also promotes public safety through the Pipeline Safety Bureau and Transportation Division.*