

Broadband Equity Fund



Who We Are

The New Mexico Broadband Collective was established in March 2021 to help communities address the digital divide. The Collective's goal is to support a statewide approach to ensuring all New Mexicans — especially those in rural communities, Native communities, and other “hard-to-connect” communities — have access to broadband. The Collective is managed by a steering committee and includes representatives from foundations, nonprofit organizations, government entities, and private providers.

It comprises various workgroups focused on: providing funding and technical assistance to support community and regional efforts; ensuring there is equitable and effective use of technology statewide; engaging in advocacy; and coordinating federal and state broadband resources and opportunities.



Focus

The New Mexico Broadband Equity Fund, managed by New Mexico Foundation, will award grants up to \$75,000 to nonprofit organizations, tribes, nations and pueblos, organizations with a fiscal sponsor, and eligible local government entities to support community and regional efforts to develop and improve broadband.

The Challenge

Many tribal, rural, low-income, and communities of color in New Mexico lack the resources and support they need to complete the steps required to access federal and state funding so their residents can have reliable and affordable broadband.

Communities Are Being Left Behind

New Mexico's significant digital divide deprives people of access to jobs, educational opportunities and telehealth services. At least 196,000 homes and businesses across New Mexico don't have broadband. These communities need both funding and technical assistance now to create solutions that will work best for them and enable them to compete for the unprecedented federal and state broadband funds becoming available. Without support, these communities will continue to be left behind and risk experiencing less economic growth and mobility, higher unemployment rates, and greater racial inequities.

What Else We Can Do

The Collective is supporting technical assistance efforts, helping communities apply for and secure federal funds, supporting regional and collaborative efforts and grassroots communications campaigns, and facilitating coalition building, consensus-building and inclusion of community voices.

Grant Application Details

Application Opens: April 1, 2022

Deadline to Apply: Noon, May 13, 2022

Organizations Notified: mid-June 2022

Eligible Entities

Grants may be given to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, federally recognized New Mexico-based tribes, pueblos and nations, community groups/cooperatives/organizations with a fiscal sponsor, and eligible local government entities. If you have questions, or your group is not a 501(c)(3) and you are unsure how to apply, email edavila@newmexicofoundation.org to discuss.

Name of group applying for funds:

Address1

Address2

City

State

Zip Code

Executive Director

Executive Director Email

Project Lead (Grant Contact)

Project Lead Title

Project Lead Email

Project Lead Phone

How would you describe your organization

-501(c)(3) nonprofit (Add federal tax identification number)

-Organization, community group or cooperative with a fiscal sponsor (List name, address, and federal tax identification number of fiscal sponsor)

-Federally recognized tribe, pueblo or nation

-Government entity

Proposal - Proposals should be 2 pages long, with an additional page for the budget attachment. Please separate response by number and letter in your document

1. Target Community and County

Which community do you hope to serve and in which New Mexico county is it located? How many people would your project serve within the community?

2. Community Description

A. Describe key demographics of the community, such as income level, poverty rates, ethnicity, etc.

B. Describe the connectivity challenges and concerns the community faces. Has the community begun to address the challenges? If so, how would you describe the progress (planning, implementing, expanding) in addressing the challenges?

C. Describe the community's broadband landscape and needs, plus efforts underway.

E. Describe the community's assets and strengths.

F. Is this a community already being supported by NM DoIT TAP program? Please elaborate.

3. Project Activities:

A. Describe the project you are seeking funding for and the activities you will implement with the funding.

B. How much funding are you requesting and how much do you need to complete this project? Have you applied for additional funds for this project? If so, list the source, amount, and status (committed, applied, etc.).

C. List any other collaborating entities.

D. Provide a budget narrative describing how funds would be spent (you will have to attach a budget below).

4. Impact and Intended Outcomes:

A. How could this grant funding help address connectivity challenges and concerns and broadband needs in this community?

B. How will this project facilitate digital equity, digital inclusion, digital literacy, and/or broadband adoption, access and use?

C. How will you measure results or how will you know whether your project is successful?

5. Attach a detailed project budget.