



State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

May 4, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
U. S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230-0001

RE: State of New Mexico Integrated Strategic Broadband Initiative (ISBI)

Dear National Telecommunications and Information Administration:

The State of New Mexico strongly supports and encourages your consideration of the proposals from New Mexico to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) under the Department of Commerce. As Governor, I believe the broadband initiative will have an immediate and long-lasting impact on our state's economy. In addition, it will improve education and health care and provide communication services to our rural communities.

Over the past year and a half, the State of New Mexico has orchestrated a statewide planning process for integrated, strategic broadband deployment that has involved a wide range of interests and entities. Our weekly meetings included representatives from service providers in the state, regional coalitions, tribal governments, local governments, state government agencies, educational institutions, technology partners, and legislators. Through these meetings, multiple discussions and opportunities have been created among different entities to help ensure that the broadband initiative is a more cohesive effort.

We believe our planning efforts have resulted in grant applications that include long-term, comprehensive solutions and cost efficiencies. These applications also support multiple uses, including economic development, education and distance learning, health care and telemedicine, and sustainable energy development. As such, the State of New Mexico believes these projects will be sound investments of federal funds from which New Mexico will greatly benefit for generations to come. Please consider the summarized applicants as a key ingredient of our Integrated Strategic Broadband Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico

BR/fal

State of New Mexico NTIA Round Two Strategic Broadband Recommendations

Executive Summary

The state of New Mexico is very excited to be a participant in the Broadband Stimulus Initiative. We fully believe this program will not only provide an economic stimulus for the immediate term, but will also have significant impact on the state's economic development and growth over the next generation. Broadband deployment across our vast state will provide benefit in all areas of education, healthcare, public safety, government services, business development, and citizen welfare.

New Mexico is a rural state and many of our citizens do not have access to high speed broadband services. The Obama administration, including the Federal Departments of Commerce and Agriculture, realize long term economic development is dependent on a sustainable infrastructure in technology, as well as in more traditional areas of capital investment. We also recognize the value that broadband access provides to our businesses, citizens and public institutions.

The New Mexico recommendations include all BTOP categories. We reviewed the BTOP applications as contained in the federal data base. We recommend full funding for 15 of these grant applications as follows:

<u>Group 1</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Category</u>
ENMR Telephone Coop	\$16,460,816	CCI
PVT – Penasco Valley Telecom	\$21,100,020	CCI
NM Economic Development Dept. Dept of Information Technology	\$ 2,865,158	PCC
Dona Ana County	\$38,699,997	CCI
NM Highlands Univ.	\$15,463,414	CCI
North Central NM Economic Dev. Dist.	\$ 2,295,927	Adoption
University of NM	\$10,565,792	CCI
	\$ 978,656	CCI
<u>Group 2</u>		
Sandoval County	\$ 192,200	CCI
NM Telehealth Alliance	\$ 8,600,000	Adoption
NM Rural Development Council	\$ 1,776,292	Adoption
Dona Ana County	\$ 414,726	Adoption
Action Intellex	\$14,253,000	CCI
GridPlex Networks (\$80m total)	\$17,500,000 (NM)	CCI
City of Albuquerque	\$ 1,693,329	PCC

Background and Approach

New Mexico embarked on a statewide broadband initiative in the summer of 2008 and began to develop a strategy for infrastructure improvement, service development and cooperative deployment of technology. Coordinated through the Governor's Office of Science and Technology and the Department of Information Technology, a task force was established to develop plans and strategies. New Mexico telecommunication service providers began to meet with the task force to discuss long term requirements, barriers to success, and current broadband capabilities.

The announcement of a broadband stimulus program by the Obama administration was very timely and exciting for the New Mexico team. Beginning in February, 2009, weekly meetings between the task force and all interested service providers were conducted. Over 250 people representing some 40 companies met to discuss strategies, options, collaborative approaches and statewide needs. It is from this multi-partner approach that we offer our evaluation of grant applications and recommendations. We have attached a brief description of this planning process for review. We believe our statewide view provides an important insight into the New Mexico applications and their cooperative working relationships. Our analysis used the following criteria for review.

1. Will the service proposed by the applicant improve broadband access to New Mexico's un-served and under-served?
2. Does the service fit within the overall state strategy for broadband?
3. Is the technology to be deployed reasonable and cost effective?
4. Is the budget proposed reasonable, consistent with the technology and area served and does the applicant have demonstrated ability to perform?
5. Is the proposed service affordable?
6. Does the proposed service overlap with other proposals and if so, which ones?
7. Does the proposed service offer an improvement in quality and is it sustainable?

The state of New Mexico is the 5th largest state by geographic size. One of our objectives in reviewing the applications was to recommend proposals that covered as large an area as possible. We attempted to select the best proposal when many covered the same area and customer base. The recommendations as stated address these 7 evaluation points.