



CNMEC Awarded Multi-Million Dollar Grant for Broadband



The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) visited the rural community of Mountain-air to celebrate the recently announced grant award to Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative.

The grant award is funded through the Connect New Mexico Pilot Program, which involves a \$123 million grant program to foster the deployment of broadband access across unserved and under-served areas in New Mexico through sustainable, scalable networks.

The project involves an 85-mile fiber network that will connect over 2,000 premises comprising residents, businesses, and community institutions, impacting over 4,700 people living in the service area. The project also positions CNMEC to serve its larger member base in the future.

CNMEC will receive \$6.57 million from the Pilot Program and will match the funding with \$2.19 million for a total project budget of \$8.76 million. The project will leverage local resources to plan, construct, and maintain the network. CNMEC will also launch several programs to foster broadband adoption, including free Wi-Fi and computer classes to residents and price subsidies for low-income residents.

CNMEC has diligently performed broadband feasibility studies, visited various entities that perform these functions and spoken with other experts in gathering facts prior to getting into broadband for our members. CNMEC has the territory base, grid infrastructure to string on our distribution poles, in-house expertise on make-ready, software availability and its own dispatch center to help strengthen our position. CNMEC is hopeful to acquire grants for this intensive capital outlay. Some grants are available in the State while others are Federal. The process for grant application can be demanding and tedious so CNMEC is utilizing a third-party broadband expert to assist with this endeavor. Some grants require matching. This simply means that CNMEC would also need to put its own funds into the project as well.

Please know that grants are designed in a manner that dictate parameters on what they can be used for; both, where the monies will be utilized and in most cases the type of transaction that is allowed to occur within a specified area as well. CNMEC's intent is to provide broadband to those areas that need a quality, reliable and affordable solution, but please know, it will take time to get there. It has been strongly advised that we must start in the areas that indicate highest under-served areas first as those are the grants more easily obtainable for CNMEC at this time. The most recent grant we were awarded is just the beginning as the overall investment for this pursuit will require many more funds in making it successful.

Many of the organizations providing grants are not currently in possession the funding. Those entities are not certain when the funds will be available for disbursement but are hopeful for a near future availability.

CNMEC

Mickey Waite of CNMEC is Named the PRC Pipeline Safety Bureau Locator of the Year!

At the 2022 New Mexico Regional Common Ground Alliance Damage Prevention Summit Mickey Waite of CNMEC received the Doug Webber Locator of the Year Award from the New Mexico PRC for his commitment to “Sharing the Responsibility” of damage prevention by providing quality locating services.



CNMEC is Currently in the process of upgrading components in our Moriarty Sub-Station believed to be contributing factors in recent power outages in Moriarty and surrounding areas. Although outages can be caused by many things, such as high winds, thunder storms, trees in the line and even rodents and birds, These upgrades will help reduce the number of outages experienced.



CNMEC
Scholarship Foundation

Deadline for CNMEC Scholarship Applications is January 20, 2023.

Scholarship applications can be obtained through your school guidance counselor or may be picked up at our Moriarty or Mountainair office. Applications may also be found on the CNMEC Website at www.cnmec.org.

Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative, Inc., is seeking outstanding high school Juniors and Seniors with leadership potential to represent their schools, communities and CNMEC in Washington D.C.

These students will join other New Mexico representatives for a tour to our Nation's Capitol. They will join nearly 2,000 other participants from across the nation for an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. where they will meet with Congressional Leaders and tour sites like the Smithsonian, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the National Archives, and the FBI Building.

All the High Schools in the CNMEC service area will have the opportunity to send a representative. The area includes Vaughn, Corona, Estancia, Mountainair, and Moriarty High Schools.

This is truly an adventure of a lifetime and all expenses are paid by CNMEC.

The trip for 2023 is scheduled for June 13-18, 2023. Applications can be found at www.cnmec.org.

Applications must be submitted by January 15, 2023.

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CNMEC offices will be closed Thursday, December, 22nd and Monday, December, 26th