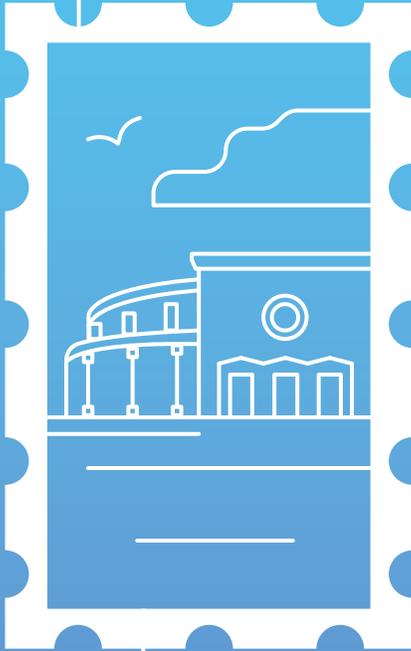


NEW MEXICO

POPULATION: 2.11 MILLION
33 COUNTIES AND 1 CONSOLIDATED CITY-COUNTY GOVERNMENT



25% of households in New Mexico do not have broadband of any kind. In 2021, the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion was established to help centralize deployment strategies and funding opportunities.

New Mexico is a beautiful and culturally diverse state, but like many other states with largely rural areas, broadband access is not available to all residents equitably. In particular, rural areas lag far behind urban areas in terms of both fixed broadband and mobile Internet connectivity.

The Commission evaluated 2.1 million residents and found that 1.8 million (87.1%) had access to a fixed broadband connection at minimum 25/3 Mbps speeds. In rural New Mexico, it evaluated 509,000 people and found that 295,000 (58%) have access to a fixed connection at minimum speeds. Among urban residents, 1.5 of 1.6 million (96.5%) had access to fixed broadband at minimum speeds.

New Mexico Broadband Program's (NMBB) [broadband map](#) includes locations of WiFi hotspots across the state as well as charting broadband coverage, areas eligible for funding and those with ongoing state-funded projects, and public facilities. Residents can research providers through an address search feature. The data are provided by providers and verified through public feedback and field verification. The NMBB recommends that residents complete its [speed test](#) several times a week at different times of day to capture the differences in speeds during peak hours.

At the local level, University of New Mexico researchers are working to expand broadband in an initiative called [Albuquerque GigaPoP](#), which works to connect city and school services, educators, and parents to data and information.

Microsoft data show that approximately [1.5 million people](#) (just under 75% of the state's population) in New Mexico do not use the Internet at broadband speeds. While this is partially due to a lack of network access, affordability may also be a reason that so many New Mexicans do not use the Internet at broadband speeds. [BroadbandNow estimates](#) that terrestrial broadband is available to even fewer residents than the FCC, showing 66.5% coverage, and that only 12.5% of the state has access to a wired plan priced at or below \$60 a month.

Upon introducing a broadband bill in the state legislature in 2019, Governor Lujan Grisham [said](#):

Investments in broadband will be an incredible boon to rural New Mexico. Public-private broadband partnerships will expand this essential element of a modern, efficient and effective infrastructure system. I'm thrilled we can take action here and, as a result, see improvements in education and public safety while also boosting productivity and incomes across the state.

Additional Resources:

- [Legislators Ready For 2021 Session Despite Difficult And Challenging Year](#)
- [‘These maps are bogus’: U.S. lawmakers tear into telecom execs over spotty rural coverage](#)
- [Next Century Cities Case Study: Albuquerque, New Mexico](#)