

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS STUDY | 2021



Due Soon!

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration: Broadband Infrastructure Program

Deadline: August 17, 2021

The Broadband Infrastructure Program provides new federal funding to make grants for the deployment of broadband infrastructure. Grants will support covered partnerships for covered broadband projects, defined as competitively and technologically neutral projects for the deployment of fixed broadband service that provides qualifying broadband service in an eligible service area. Priority will be given to applications for covered broadband projects as follows, in decreasing order of priority:

1. Covered broadband projects designed to provide broadband service to the greatest number of households in an eligible service area;
2. Covered broadband projects designed to provide broadband service in an eligible service area that is wholly within any area other than:(i) a county, city, or town that has a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants; and (ii) the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town of more than 50,000 inhabitants;
3. Covered broadband projects that are the most cost-effective, prioritizing such projects in areas that are the most rural;
4. Covered broadband projects designed to provide broadband service with a download speed of not less than 100 megabits per second and an upload speed of not less than 20 megabits per second; and
5. Any other covered broadband project that meets the requirements detailed in the solicitation.

Additionally, there is an interest in ensuring that any broadband infrastructure deployed under this grant program will have the ability to evolve, sustain, and scale for future advanced services that will also be important to the U.S. economy. In the years ahead, emerging technologies such as cloud technologies, artificial intelligence, health IoT and telemedicine, smart grid, and 5G, will all require broadband networks capable of delivering much faster speeds, lower latency, and higher reliability than those now codified by various federal agencies. Thus, the submission of project proposals that deploy future-proof infrastructure (e.g., fiber).

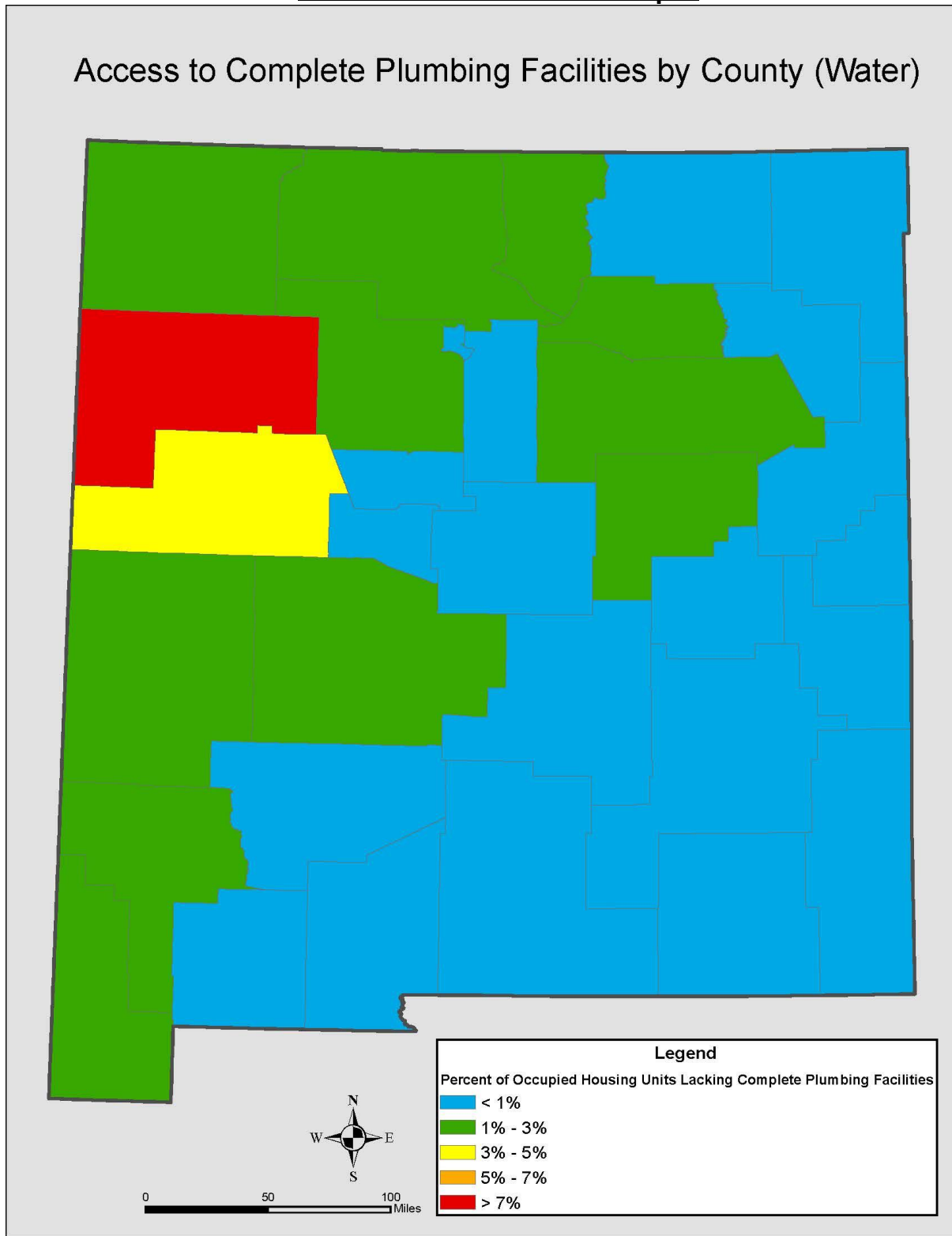
Amount: \$288,000,000 is available to make awards that typically range from \$5,000,000 - \$30,000,000. The period of performance is one year.

Eligibility: Covered partnerships, defined as a partnership between: (A) a State, or one or more political subdivisions of a State; and (B) a provider of fixed broadband service. A covered partnership may include more than one provider of fixed broadband service as part of its application. Additionally, a provider of fixed broadband service may participate in more than one covered partnership.

Link: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/grant-programs/broadband-infrastructure-program>

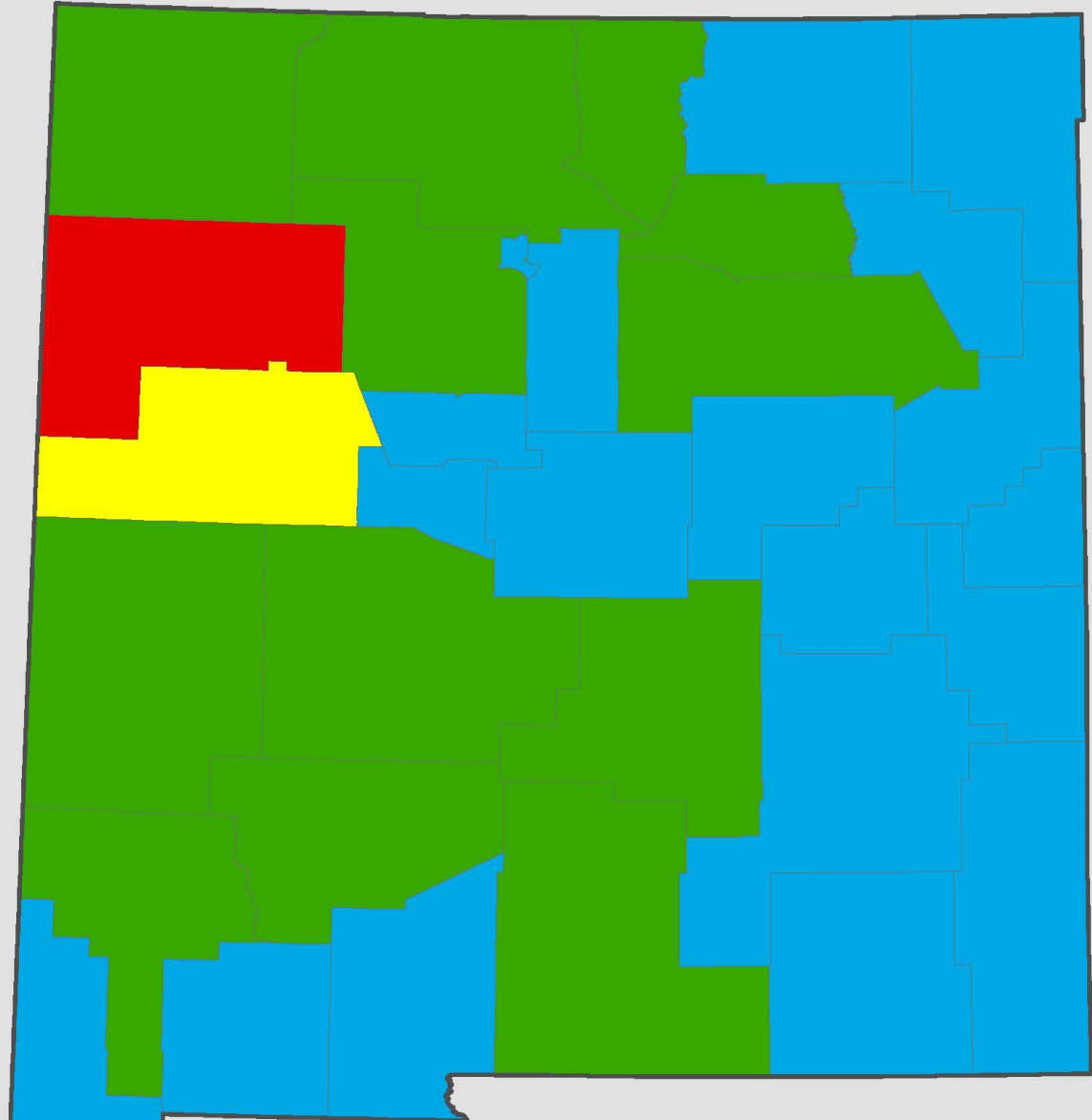
Infrastructure Access Maps¹

Access to Complete Plumbing Facilities by County (Water)



¹ Data sources for maps: U.S. Census American Community Survey, NM Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and NTIA

Access to Complete Plumbing Facilities by County (Sewer)



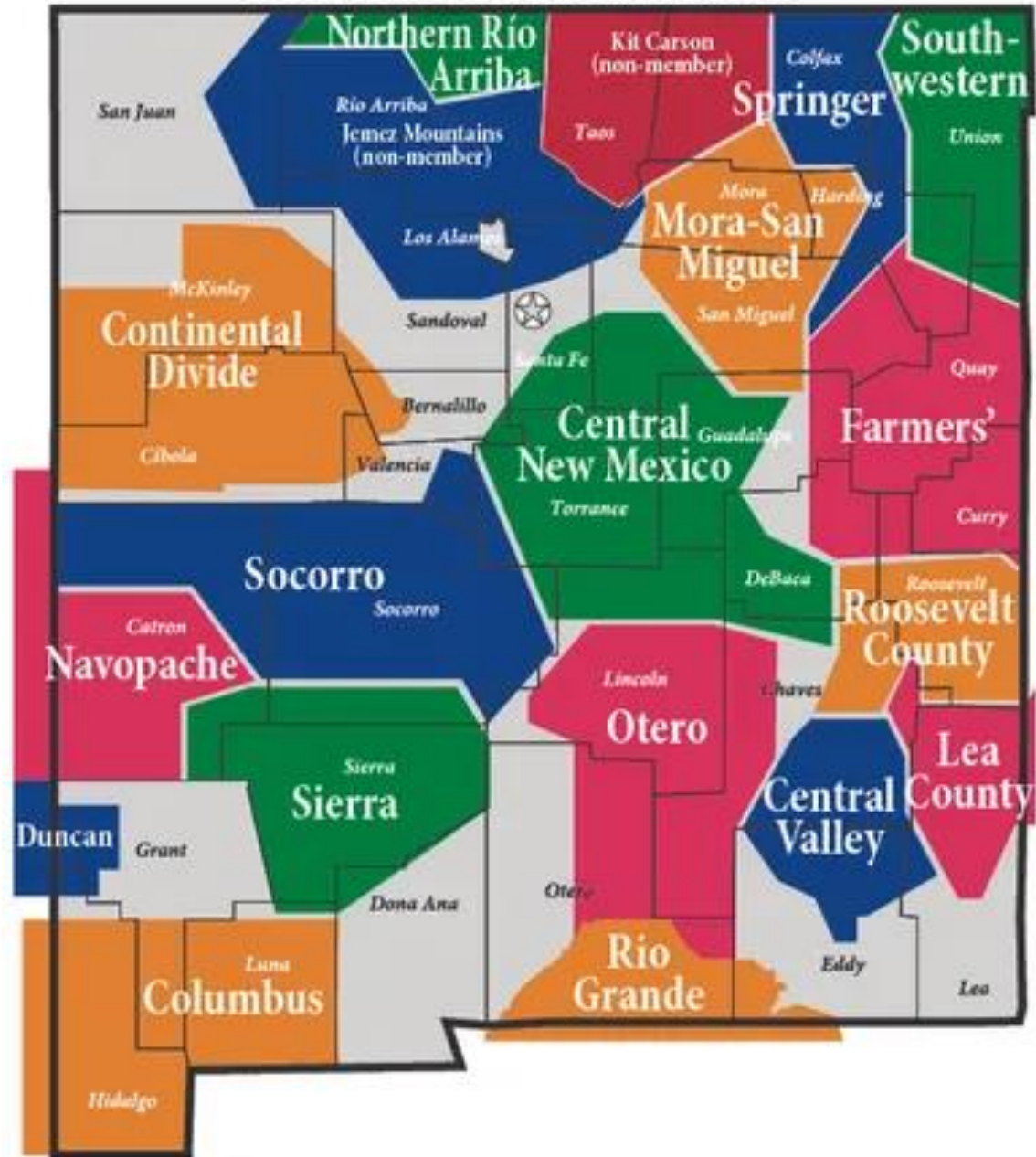
Legend

Percent of Occupied Housing Units Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities

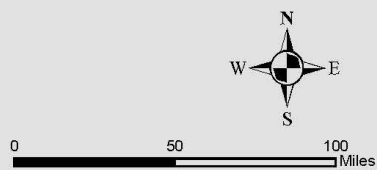
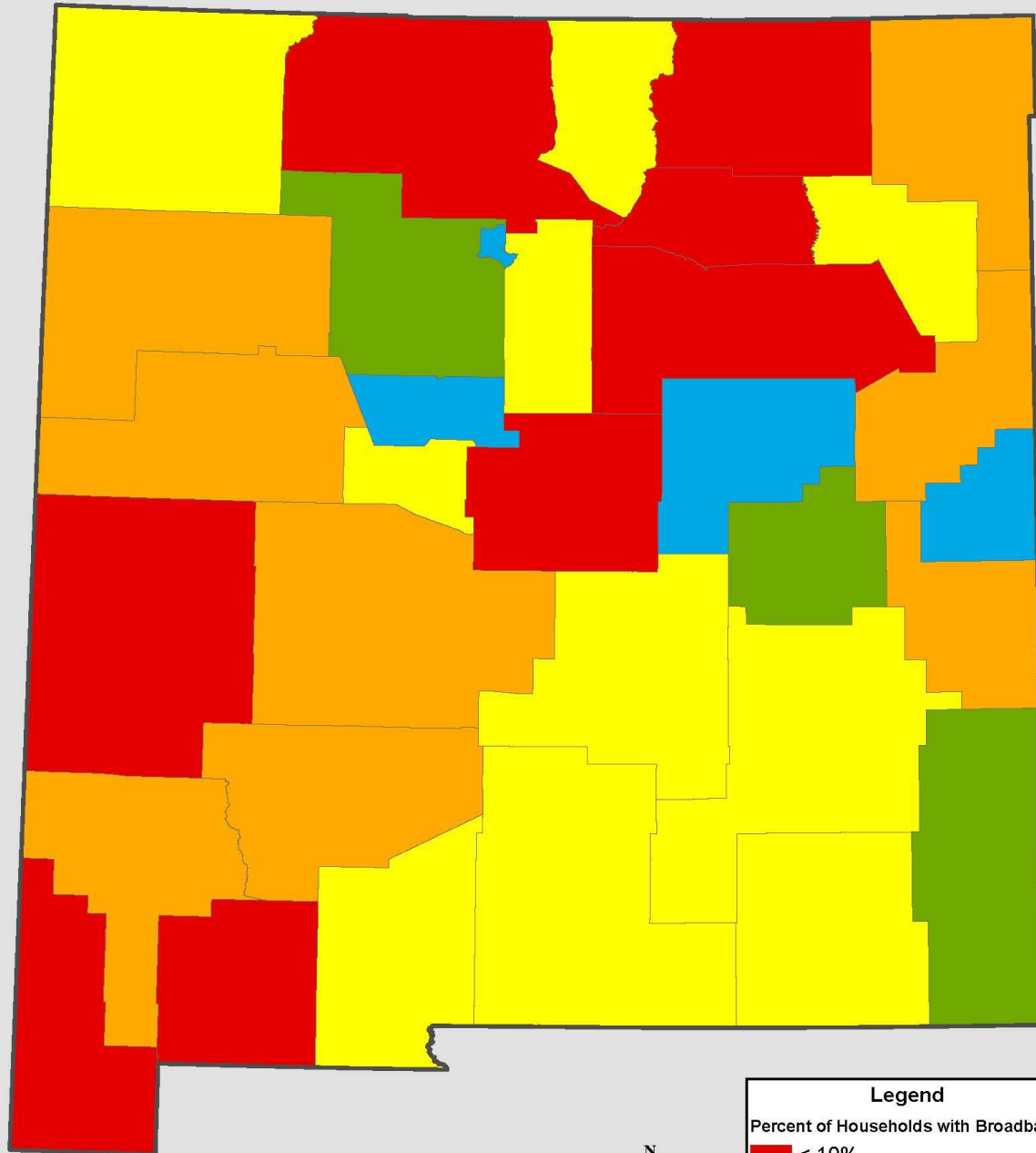
- < 1%
- 1% - 3%
- 3% - 5%
- 5% - 7%
- > 7%

0 50 100 Miles

Members of the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association



Broadband Access by County



Legend	
Percent of Households with Broadband	
Red	< 10%
Orange	10% - 20%
Yellow	20% - 30%
Green	30% - 40%
Blue	> 40%