

BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF)
GRANT PROGRAM RULES) Docket No. 23-0001
_____)

**RESPONSE COMMENTS FROM THE OFFICE OF BROADBAND ACCESS AND
EXPANSION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion and the Department of Information Technology offer these supplement comments responsive to the comments submitted by CTIA.

The CTIA comments encourage grant making that would provide funding for wireless broadband solutions. As proposed, the grant program rules would require an agency grant program to align with the purpose specified in a funding source. Currently, the federal government is the primary funding source for broadband grant programs. The grant funds that are provided by the federal government and administered by the state may specify technology or performance criteria for projects that would preclude awards to fund wireless solutions. However, when a funding source does not impose any such limitations, the proposed rules contemplate that the sponsoring body will establish grant programs that support connectivity solutions that meet the unique challenges of rural New Mexico. In some circumstances, those solutions may include wireless broadband services.

When the funding source provides flexibility, the proposed rules would require public notice of proposed project parameters before the program goes live. During the notice and comment period, groups such as CTIA will have an opportunity to advocate for the funding of wireless projects when that is a technically and economically feasible solution for a specific service area. Because of the fluidity of funding conditions, project areas, engineering challenges and socio-economic conditions, the proposed rules provide for a flexible approach to grant program design that takes into consideration all of the variable factors to ensure prudent

expenditure of broadband funding. After the rules become effective, the agency and office look forward to receiving program design comments from CTIA and all of the state's broadband partners to design programs to meet this goal.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____/s/_____
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