



Committed to the future of rural communities.

New Mexico—Rural Utilities Service

Broadband & Continuous Business Creation

Broadband coming to small remote northern New Mexico Villages

Outline Of Need:

Small sparsely populated communities in Taos, Colfax and Rio Arriba Counties have little or non-existent access to the internet and the world wide web.

How Rural Development Helped:

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative in Taos, New Mexico will build an expanded fiber optic network to bring broadband services to 29 unserved and underserved villages in northern New Mexico comprising more than over 20,000 homes, 3,600 businesses, 183 critical community institutions and two Native American pueblos within 2,951 square miles.

The Results:

When completed the new service will allow the University of New Mexico Taos campus to upgrade its bandwidth capabilities reducing its current circuit bandwidth costs. It will also enable on-demand e-textbooks for students on the broadband network and remote distance lectures via tele-conference. The school will also connect to the main campus in Albuquerque via the state-wide fiber network.

Holy Cross Hospital in Taos, NM will become the tele-

Fast Facts

Congressional District: Lujan NM 3rd
Program: Rural Utilities Service Broadband Program
Investment: \$63.7 million in ARRA Funds
Partners: Kit Carson Electric Co-Operative
Demographics: Community residents are among the poorest in NM, with a median household income of less than \$17,000 per year. The NM median income is over \$50,000.

Impact:

- Expanded educational opportunities
- Expanded medical services
- More opportunity for area businesses to offer services and goods to a world wide market



USDA Rural Development State Director Terry Brunner (Second to left) is joined by U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman (Third from Left) and others to break ground for new Kit Carson Co-Operative Broadband project in Northern NM.

health/tele-medicine center for all surrounding area communities. Broadband connections will link remote clinics, enabling tele-medicine opportunities, including remote testing and diagnosis, for residents living in impoverished and geographically challenged rural locations.

The new system will also provide better connectivity to businesses and allow them to provide better service and products to a world wide market.

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