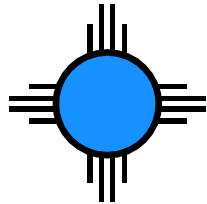


North Central New Mexico
Economic Development
District

P.O. Box 5115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
Phone: 505-827-7313
Fax: 505-827-7414
http://www.ncnmedd.com



NCNMEDD

We're on the WEB!

1-866-699-4927



For more information, please call
1-866-699-4927.

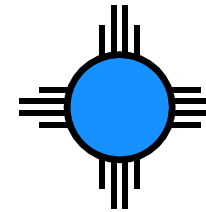
Cooperative Health Assistance Service funds are available to help senior citizens in need. Contact Bernice Morfin at 1-877-699-4927.

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North Central New Mexico
Economic Development District

Volume 8, Number 1

March 31, 2009



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NCNMEDD UPDATE

January Board Meeting Draws a Crowd

The North Central New Mexico Economic Development District held its traditional pre-legislative session on January 10 at the Santa Fe Courtyard by Marriott. NCNMEDD added a new feature to its customary January offering. Attendees stayed for a networking lunch sponsored by Los Alamos National Bank and Los Alamos County. The Board of Directors thanks the sponsors, who have long shown their support of regional economic development.

In spite of the snow, the meeting room and the lunch tables were full. Board members in attendance included: **Anthony Mortillaro**, Los Alamos County; **Fred Sparks**, Raton; **Representative Jim Trujillo**, Santa Fe; **Robert Gibson**, Los Alamos County Council; **Orlando Lucero**, Sandoval County Commission; **Lawry Mann**, Los Alamos County; **Betty Medina**, Wagon Mound Village Trustee; **William H. Conley**, Colfax County Commission; **Tresa Kagan**, Raton

City Commission; **Anita Laran**, Mora County; **Nona Bowman**, Los Alamos County Council; **Peter Martinez**, Mora County Commission; **Jesse James Johnson**, Raton City Commission; Representative **Nick L. Salazar**, Rio Arriba County; and **Harry Montoya**, Santa Fe County Commission. Guests included: **Tony Lucero**, San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant; **Caterina Di Palma**, Duranes y Gavilan MDWCA; **Stephanie Johnson**, Raton; **Alix King**, Village of Wagon Mound; **Richard Fisher**, Tesuque MDWCA; **Gretchen Goth**, Tesuque MDWCA; **Donna Slade**; **Richard Cordova**, Eagle Nest Village Council; **Linda Pavletich**, Mayor of Cimarron; **Juan Garcia**, El Rito Regional Water System; **Lucas O. Trujillo**, El Rito Regional Water System; **Oliver Perea**, San Miguel del Bado Land Grant; **Duncan Sill**, Santa Fe County; **Geneva Trujillo**, Raton; **Michael Anne Lan-**

non, Raton; **Janelle Frederick**, Senator Bingaman's Office; **Barb Wiard**, Village of Taos Ski Valley Village Council; **Regina Romero**, New Mexico Municipal League; . Staff included: **Barbara Deaux**; **Nancy Arias**; **Catana Lopez**; **Inez Vigil**; **Anne Oandasan**; **Lesah Sedillo**; **Fred Brueggeman**; **Arturo Archuleta**; and **Alicia Paz**.

Once again, the topic of the day was the upcoming legislative session. Guest speaker **Bill Fulginiti** of the Municipal League estimated that he has been onstage for NCNMEDD every January for at least the past 20 years. Fulginiti and State Representative and Board President Nick L. Salazar led a two hour discussion on the upcoming session, with its budget woes and the substantive legislation that always accompanies a 60 day session. State Representative and Board member Jim Trujillo added his comments and the meeting closed with a lively discussion from the floor.

REDI Plan On to Implementation

On March 17, the Los Alamos County Commission officially and unanimously accepted the final version of the Regional Economic Development Initiative strategic economic development plan. County Admin-

istrator Max Baker commented that the REDI team had been meeting with him at least monthly for over a year and that he "found the RDC team to be an exceptionally professional group".

As the funder of the project, Los Alamos County accepted the plan after the REDI team's extensive consultation with the other regional stakeholders and several public events.

Funds to Help Seniors in Need

The Non-Metro Area Agency on Aging has funds available to help senior citizens with immediate, temporary financial assistance. For eligible individuals, funds are available on a first come, first served basis for as long as the money lasts. **Applications must be completed by June 1, 2009.**

Individuals must be age 55 or older and be at 125% of Federal Poverty Guidelines or less. For a one person household, that is no more than \$10,850 annually. To determine eligibility, clients will need to complete an application and provide the following:

- Proof of age (driver's license or other official document)
- Proof of income for each household member (usually Social Security award letter or IRS tax filing)
- A quote or actual bill (for medical assistance or utility assistance).

Funds may be used as follows (maximum amounts are also shown below):

- Prescription assistance (\$200)
- Eye Care Assistance (\$200)
- Dental Care Assistance (\$200)
- Hearing Aid assistance (\$200)
- Medical Office Visit Assistance (\$200)
- Nutritional Provision Assistance – only one application per household (\$100 for single; \$150 for 2 or more)
- Utility Payment Assistance – only one application per household (\$200)
- Durable Medical Equipment (\$200)

To determine eligibility and to make an application, please contact **Lupita Martinez** at 505-476-0135 or toll-free at 1-866-699-4927.



New Mexico's roads and bridges move our economy, not just our cars and trucks. With ARRA funding, transportation projects will also create jobs.

Contact NCNMEDD Planning Staff for Technical Assistance

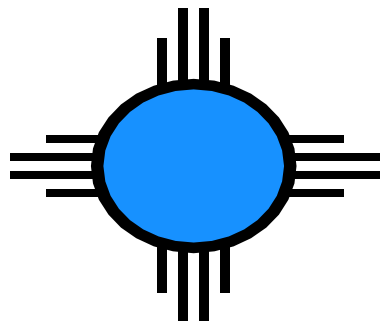
Arturo Archuleta, 476-0109

Alicia Paz-Solis 827-7335

Anne Oandasan, NPRPO 827-7333

Lesah Sedillo, NERPO 476-0107

Fred Brueggeman 476-0112



NPRPO Transportation Update

The Economic Stimulus Package no longer exists. That is, it no longer exists as the Economic Stimulus Package; it is now the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The Northern Pueblos Regional Planning Organization and all its members have been watching ARRA surface, develop and evolve. The Obama Administration and Congress actively targeted a portion of the funding toward transportation improvements, with 25 percent of the money going to local projects and the rest to NMDOT priorities. However, communities should remember that the intent of this legislation is to promote economic recovery. It is not a transportation bill.

The primary objective of ARRA is to stimulate the national economy through long term job creation. Hence transportation projects need to be tied to job creation in addition to following normal Federal-aid funding requirements. Project selection and administration must follow the same guidelines as other federal transportation funds, with certifications under FHWA standards to be completed prior to obligation of Federal dollars. This includes environmental (NEPA), right-of-way, archaeological, utilities, and rail (if applicable).

Significantly, these Federal funds are not available for prior costs. Hence, work completed before Federal funds are obligated and an approved contract is in place cannot be reimbursed. Therefore design costs cannot be reimbursed because design must generally be completed before certifications can be obtained. Eligible projects must also be on federal aid routes that are functionally classified as major collector or higher.

Selected projects had to demonstrate the project was "ready to go/shovel ready" in 90 days. Therefore projects that have all required certifications complete and didn't require lengthy environmental clearances or already received an environmental clearance were prioritized. Projects that don't typically require extensive environmental clearance are (but are not limited to) those found within the state owned rights-of-way; pavement resurfacing; safety improvements (guardrails); or Intelligent Transportation Projects (ITS) such as traffic signal improvements and cameras.

ARRA requires that all local government funding be obligated within one year of award. Obligation does not mean the project has to be completed in one year but

that it has met all the required certifications and is authorized to move forward. According to legislation, all projects funded with ARRA funding must be completed within 3 years.

All states that have received ARRA funding must adhere to these guidelines. If a state fails to meet the timelines, their funding could be redistributed to states that have. To prevent this and perhaps be eligible for more funds, NMDOT will require that all local government projects receiving ARRA funding must have all project certifications completed by August 15, 2009 and go out for bids no later than September 30, 2009.

Another significant criterion of this entire program is transparency. District 5 has made their master list of project requests available to the public. However, communities should know that the District 5 recommendations are awaiting final approval and the decision should be made no later than March 31, 2009. For more information, please see the following websites:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery and http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legregs/title23.pdf.

- Anne Oandasan

We're Here to Help.....

North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD) is a regional council of governments formed in 1967. NCNMEDD provides planning and technical assistance to its 25 member communities, provides loans to small businesses and contracts for services to the elderly in 32 counties. Our staff are available to answer questions and provide assistance or referrals. Look on the web at www.ncnmedd.com or call 505-827-7313.

May Stimulus Meetings Planned

Governor Richardson's Competitive Grant Advisory Team has scheduled a series of meetings to optimize community use of federal stimulus funds. The meeting in the

North Central New Mexico Economic Development District will be on May 14 at 2:00 PM at the Joseph Montoya Administration

Building at Northern New Mexico College in Española.

For more information, please call NCNMEDD at 505-827-7313 or 1-866-699-4927.

ICIP Workshop In Santa Fe May 6

The DFA Local Government Division has set an ICIP workshop in Santa Fe on May 6 from 1:00PM to 3:30 PM at the Wendell Chino Building. The Wendell Chino Building is just south of the intersection of St. Francis

Drive and Alta Vista Street on the west side of the Road. Porter Hall is on the right side of the building upon entering through the east facing door of the Chino Building.

Angela Quintana and Sonya Snyder will detail how to plan, use the website, link ICIP and capital outlay, budget, and estimate costs. The workshops are free but registration is required.

Alice and Lawry Mann Honored in Los Alamos

Lawry and Alice Mann were named Living Treasures in Los Alamos on April 19 at a ceremony at the Betty Ehart Senior Center, along with Lawrence Martin Holland and Dale Holm.

The Manns have been in Los Alamos since 1958, with a brief detour in Seattle. Their contributions to the community are extensive, involving them in everything from initiating the hydro-electric resources Los Alamos enjoys to frying countless chicken wings to raise money for exchange students.

Lawry Mann has been Vice Chair of the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District for more than a decade and has provided excellent guidance and support for all NCNMEDD programs.

Future Funding for Senior Citizens

Thanks to hard work by New Mexico's senior citizens, the compassion of New Mexico's legislators and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Aging Network does not face immediate cuts. In fact, the legislature approved about \$5 million in capital outlay funds for critical needs in senior centers.

Aging and Long Term Services staff, Area Agency on Aging personnel and Aging Network representatives will be planning ahead to ease the pain of potential budget cuts. As New Mexicans learned this fiscal year, projected revenues do not always materialize. A slower economy may mean that the state will need budget adjustments before the year is out. That will make it more important than ever that senior programs manage their resources wisely and carefully monitor service costs.

Non-Metro AAA staff intend to focus on preventing or limiting cuts to services. The Older Americans Act serves the needs of people over 60, but emphasizes identifying and targeting low income, minority individuals suffering from physical and mental disabilities, language barriers or those who are racially, ethnically, culturally or geographically isolated. The state's programs work to meet those goals. Reductions in funding may mean finding more streamlined administrative practices or searching for new partnerships to share services.



Dates to Remember

Federal Stimulus Meetings

- May 4 1 pm Ruidoso
May 6 9 am Silver City
May 11 1 pm Gallup
May 13 1:30 pm Tucumcari
May 14 2 pm Espanola
May 20 1:30 pm Las Cruces
May 21 1:30 pm Albuquerque

May 6-ICIP workshop in Santa Fe

June 2-5-73rd Annual Conference of the New Mexico Association of Counties in Hobbs

June 8-12-New Mexico Municipal League Officials Leadership Institute in Santa Fe.

"To stimulate economic growth and orderly development through multi-county planning and investment - NCNMEDD Joint Powers Agreement, 1967"



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