

NORTH CENTRAL NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT



Message from Executive Director Monica Abeita

The holiday season is upon us and we are all looking forward to the beauty of the season and quality time with family and friends. Here at NCNMEDD, we wish you all a Happy Holiday and we look forward to the new year ahead.

Please mark your calendars for our Annual Board Meeting on January 14, 2022. We plan to hold this meeting in-person, with a virtual option. Please check our website for details, which will be posted soon.

Best Regards, *Monica Abeita*



Inside NCNMEDD:

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Brings Historic Investments

On November 6, Congress passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), a once-in-a-generation investment in our nation's infrastructure and competitiveness. This Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal contains funding to rebuild America's roads, bridges and rails; expand access to clean drinking water; ensure every American has access to high-speed internet; tackle the climate crisis; advance environmental justice; and invest in communities that have too often been left behind.

Learn more from the [EPA Factsheet](#) that addresses safe and clean drinking water, protected regional waters, superfund cleanup and brownfields revitalization, pollution prevention, and electric and reduced emissions buses. See the [White House Fact Sheet](#) to learn about investments in roads, bridges, public transit, passenger and freight rail, electric vehicle infrastructure, resiliency infrastructure investments related to climate change and cyberattacks, high speed internet, clean energy transmission, and power infrastructure.

To best prepare for this funding opportunity, communities and organizations should identify and prioritize infrastructure projects related to the funding categories in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. We don't yet know how the funds will be distributed down to the local level, but we have learned that the communities that plan ahead are best positioned to secure funding for their projects. NCNMEDD will follow up with our regional communities as soon as additional information becomes available.

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Recap of NCNMEDD Capital Outlay Training and Legislative Preview, 12/1/21.

[Watch or Listen to the Recording](#)

Thank you to all those who attended this training! We extend a special thank you to Senators Campos, Gonzales, Jaramillo, and Representatives Herrera and Lujan who gave updates on their work, and Wesley Billingsley and Carmen Morin of DFA who led the capital outlay training.

Here are some of the highlights from the session. Senator Pete Campos encouraged us to collaborate to make our communities “whole, strong, sustainable, and prosperous.” Senator Bobby Gonzales shared that revenues are high and the state is in a good financial position. With funding coming down from the federal government, he recommended that projects in the North Central region be ready with planning and engineering, because, as he said, “Dollars will flow to the organizations that are ready with their projects.” He also said that there will be a lot of money flowing to education this year, with wages going up for teachers. Senator Gonzales is also excited about what the State and region can do with Outdoor Recreation.



Representative Herrera shared that the Rural Economic Opportunity Task Force is recommending that Councils of Governments receive an additional \$300,000 per year for four years to build capacity, especially in rural and unincorporated areas of the state and our region. Representative Herrera also asked us to start thinking about how to work regionally around water, as both drinking and irrigation water are central issues for us. Senator Jaramillo emphasized how important broadband is to our communities and how important it is to invest in high quality fiber optic broadband for the future.

Thank you all for joining the session, and for the work you do on behalf of our communities. For help with your capital outlay needs, please contact Christopher Madrid at 505-920-9257 or chrism@ncnmedd.com.

Transportation Update

The North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) is looking to implement a series of route modifications as a result of its recent service plan update and in an effort to run routes more efficiently. Reductions in service are being planned on the **260 La Cienega**, **180 El Rito** and **320 Questa** routes. Each of these routes currently provide service Monday through Friday.

NCRTD is seeking public comment to these changes and a public hearing will be conducted at the January Board meeting to be held at on January 7 at 9:00 am. Public comment may be submitted to the record prior to the meeting [via NCRTD's website, NCRTD.org](#) or www.RideTheBlueBus.com.



Rural Pathways Tourism Incubator: Call for Tourism Project Ideas

Offered through the New Mexico Tourism Department (NMTD), the Rural Pathway Tourism Incubator provides technical assistance to tourism stakeholders within New Mexico to develop viable tourism products.

The incubator is designed for tourism project ideas with a need for further development, and unites 5-7 project stakeholders into a Steering Committee for 20 hours of workshops facilitated by NMTD to advance projects and ready them for implementation. Workshop content, schedules, and locations are determined with applicants to suit the needs of each individual project.

The FY22 application cycle is currently open and will run until May 1, 2022. Eligible entities include non-profit tourism-related organizations, as well as municipalities, counties, and tribal governments in the State of New Mexico that promote New Mexico as a visitor destination. In addition, private stakeholders may partner with one of these entities in order to submit an application.

For further program and application information, please consult the Rural Pathway Program section of the NMTD website at www.newmexico.org/industry/work-together/grants/rural-pathway-program, or contact Tourism Development Coordinator Emily Bates at Emily.bates@state.nm.us.

Shop Small and Support Locally Owned Business

Small businesses are [good for communities](#). Small businesses create local jobs, support local schools and charities, offer merchandise you won't find at a big retailer, and provide excellent customer service. According to the US Small Business Administration [New Mexico profile](#), small businesses employ 54.4% of the state's workforce.

67 cents of every dollar spent at a small business stays in the community, according to estimates by American Express. When we support small businesses during the holiday season and throughout the year, we support a thriving community. Learn more about supporting small business at [Shop Small!](#)

Communities around the region work in different ways to support their small businesses. Many Chambers of Commerce like [Española Valley](#), [Taos County](#), and [Chama Valley](#), have business listings. [Taos Mainstreet](#) has a yuletide shopping guide, [Our Mora](#) has an online marketplace as does Santa Fe with [Shop Where I Live](#). Some chambers of commerce work together with their Mainstreet organizations, like [Raton, NM Mainstreet](#) and [Las Vegas, NM Mainstreet](#), which both have business directories. [Visit Rio Arriba](#) has an online business directory. [Los Alamos Mainstreet](#) is the umbrella for the chamber of commerce, Project Y co-work space, a retail accelerator, community calendar, and more. Indigenous communities provide small business and entrepreneurial supports through efforts like the [ARTZ Cooperative](#), a Zuni owned and managed artists cooperative, and the [Indian Pueblo Innovative Entrepreneurship](#) program offered through the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Enjoy visiting these resources as you shop for the holidays!

Employment Opportunities

NCNMEDD [Community Development Planner](#)

See more NCNMEDD employment and contract opportunities [HERE](#).

[North Central Regional Transit District Grants and Projects Specialist](#)



Small Business Resources

For questions about small business, loan, or grant opportunities contact [Felicity Fonseca](#) at 505-356-9098.

[NCNMEDD Working Now Loan](#)

Loans of up to \$25,000 are available to help small businesses affected by the pandemic. For more information, please contact [Christopher Madrid](#) at (505) 920-9257.

[NMFA Small Business Recovery Loan Fund](#)

New Mexico owned small businesses that have experienced a decline in revenue or disruption due to the coronavirus pandemic are eligible to apply.

[RCAC Small Business Loans and Technical Assistance](#)

Short term and long term loans, as well as technical assistance for businesses re-emerging from COVID. Contact [Georgianne McConnell](#) (at 916) 917-4319 for more information.

[LEDA Recovery Grants for Small Businesses, Final Deadline December 7, 2021.](#)

For small businesses that experienced economic hardship due to the pandemic.

[NSF Small Business Innovation Research Grants, Pitch ideas accepted year round.](#) Funding deep technologies that show promise but their success hasn't yet been validated.

[Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants | Rural Development \(usda.gov\) Deadline March 31, 2022.](#)

Grants and grant/loans to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems and energy

Training Resources for Small Business and Beyond

[Workshops / Events | NMSBDC](#)

December workshops on starting a business, attracting and retaining customers, preparing tax returns, and more.

[Business Training and Workshops - WESST | Consulting, Training, Lending, Incubation](#)

December workshops on holiday sales strategies, engaging social media content, managing a business, and more.

[Our Workshops | SCORE](#)

December workshops on websites and online marketing, google and home-based businesses, and more.

[New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership](#)

Process improvements for makers and manufacturers. If you're a maker, they may be able to help you cut costs and improve efficiency.

Funding Opportunities—Grants

[FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit](#) **Open until funds are no longer available.** For households receiving SNAP, Medicaid, [Lifeline](#), or approved to receive free and reduced price lunch.

[New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps](#), **Deadline December 13, 2021.**

For projects that hire youth ages 14 to 25 to carry out community and conservation projects.

[NEA and M-AAA Creative Forces Community Engagement Grants](#), **Deadline December 15, 2021.**

Support for arts engagement programming for military and veteran populations and family members.

[Communities LEAP \(Local Energy Action Program\)](#), **Deadline December 17, 2021.**

For low-income, energy-burdened communities that are also experiencing direct environmental justice impacts, or direct economic impacts from a shift away from historical reliance on fossil fuels.

[FY 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant \(AFG\) | FEMA.gov](#) **Deadline December 17, 2021.**

Eligible applicants: fire departments, EMS organizations, state fire training academies. 5% match required. To foster interoperability, strengthen community resilience, and enhance the safety of the public and emergency responders before, during, and after hazardous events.

[Farm to School Grant](#), **Deadline January 10, 2022.**

To improve access to local foods through food and nutrition programs.

[Rural Communities Opioid Response Program](#), **Deadline January 13, 2022.**

Applicants must be part of multi-sectoral consortia to reduce morbidity and mortality from Substance Use Disorder in high-risk rural communities.

[Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity](#), **Deadline January 19, 2022.**

Eligible applicants are for-profit, non-profit, government, educational, community organizations, and more. To expand and accelerate wood energy and wood products markets to support forest management needs on National Forest System and other forest lands.

[USDA ReConnect Program](#), **Deadline February 8, 2022.**

To expand broadband in rural areas. ReConnect now offers 100 percent grants for certain projects on tribal lands and in socially vulnerable communities. Register for the ReConnect webinars at [Events | USDA](#).

[Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Program](#), **Deadline February 15, 2022.**

To replace distressed public/assisted housing and improve outcomes related to employment, income, health, and children's education. Eligible Applicants: City or township governments and Public/Indian housing authorities.

[Rural Business Development Grants | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#), **Deadline February 28, 2022.**

Funds a wide array of construction and non-construction projects.

Other Grant Finding Resources

- [The Grant Plant: Highlighted Upcoming Grant Opportunities](#)
- [NM Grant Makers Directory](#)
- [GrantStation COVID-19 Grant Opportunities](#)
- [State and Federal Grants Advisory](#)
- [Economic Development Department Weekly Resource Wrap-up](#)

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