



NORTH CENTRAL NEW MEXICO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter

April | 2022



SAVE THE DATE!

**New Mexico Rural Summit,
May 12 and 13, 2022 at the
New Mexico State Capitol.**

Join rural, frontier, and tribal leaders, and federal and state partners, for two days of in-depth discussion on infrastructure, education, transportation, economic development, health care, public safety, agriculture, acequias, and natural resources.

For more information on this non-partisan summit call 505-927-0108, 505-803-1071, or email roger.montoya@nmlegis.gov.

Message from Executive Director Monica Abeita

Spring is here! I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather and preparing acequias and gardens for the season. This month's newsletter is overflowing with grant and funding opportunities, including fast-approaching deadlines for Congressionally Directed Spending. Our staff is here to help you navigate these great resources.

Please take note of our April board of directors meeting, scheduled for Friday, April 22, 2022 at 1:30 pm. The agenda and zoom link will be posted to our website this week.

NCNMEDD will be hosting a **Housing Toolkit Webinar** on **Wednesday May 4, from 3pm-5pm**. [Register here](#) for this workshop. We hope you will join us for these events!

Funding Opportunity Through Congressionally Directed Spending

Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) allows our U.S. Senators and Representatives to directly respond to local priorities consistent with national objectives. Through this process, a Senator or Representative can provide, authorize, or recommend a specific amount of discretionary funding



authority to be directed to a stipulated entity or locality, including a county, municipality, government subdivision or non-profit. In FY 2022, our Congressional Delegation secured several hundred million dollars for local projects in NM.

The process has begun to submit Congressionally Directed Spending requests for FY 2023. Projects can be submitted through the links below:

[Senator Martin Heinrich](#) (Deadline April 11)
[Senator Ben Ray Luján](#) (Deadline April 15)
[Representative Leger Fernandez](#) (Deadline April 13)

General guidance for making requests can be found [HERE](#). A complete list of projects that were funded and those that were requested in FY 2022 can be found [HERE](#). Please contact [Christopher Madrid](#) at 505-920-9257 with questions about this opportunity.

US Treasury Final Rule Allows for Broader Discretion in Spending of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

The American Rescue Plan allocated \$350 billion to state, local, and tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Since May 2021, these funds have been regulated under the Treasury's "Interim Final Rule" which will be replaced by the "Final Rule" as of April 1, 2022. Importantly, the Final Rule allows for broader local government discretion and simplicity in the program in several areas to include:

- **Calculating Lost Public Sector Revenue** Through a standard allowance, local governments can declare all the funds received under ARPA as lost revenue (up to \$10 million) which would allow that amount to be used for government services with streamlined reporting requirements.
- **Public Health and Economic Impacts** Recipients can use funds for capital expenditures that support an eligible COVID-19 public health or economic response. Examples are affordable housing, childcare facilities, schools, hospitals, and other projects consistent with final rule requirements.
- **Premium Pay** The rule broadens the workers eligible to receive premium pay without a written justification while maintaining a focus on lower-income and frontline workers performing essential work.
- **Water, Sewer & Broadband Infrastructure** The final rule broadens eligible broadband infrastructure investments to address challenges with broadband access, affordability, and reliability, and adds additional eligible water and sewer infrastructure investments.

Contact [Christopher Madrid](#) with questions, 505-920-9257. See these resources for more information.

[U.S. Treasury Overview of the Final Rule
Final Rule
Email Contact for General Inquiries on Final Rule
Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#)

Rural Capacity Index for North Central New Mexico



[Headwaters Economics](#) is an independent, nonprofit research group that works to improve community development and land management decisions. Headwater's latest release is a nationwide Rural Capacity Index that

identifies communities where investments in staffing, expertise, infrastructure, and climate resilience projects are needed.

From Headwaters and American Community Survey data, NCNMEDD VISTA volunteer Aiden O'Hara compiled these charts which present the [North Central New Mexico Rural Capacity Index](#). Averages for the State, North Central, and 'Rural' North Central (an average omitting Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Sandoval) have been included.

Reflected in the data are North Central New Mexico's very diverse communities. While our regional average is marginally better than the state as a whole, the average after omitting Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Sandoval illustrates that the rest of the region is lacking capacity.

Headwaters identifies ways to support capacity building, such as providing direct funding, rather than competitive or match grants; improving access to competitive grants; funding more technical assistance; and increasing the funding for multi-jurisdictional projects. Finally, policies should encourage economic diversification and help communities generate predictable local revenue to grow their infrastructure and adapt to changing circumstances.

Grant Writing Resources and Training

The New Mexico Municipal League is offering a series of grant writing workshops at no cost. Upcoming sessions include:

- [Benefits/Considerations/Limitations of External Public Funding](#) on **April 5**
- [Project Scoping for Funding](#) on **April 26**
- [General Project Development](#) on **May 17**
- [Identifying Matching Funds and Partners](#) on **June 9**
- [You Got the Money-Now What?](#) on **June 21**

NCNMEDD currently provides technical assistance with grants, and we hope to expand our services if we receive funding during the special Legislative Session. Do you need help researching funding options for a particular project? Please contact Community Development Planner [Felicity Fonseca](#) at 505-356-9098 for this kind of technical assistance.

New Mexico Broadband Collective Launches Grant Application for NM Broadband Projects



The New Mexico Broadband Equity Fund, managed by the New Mexico Foundation in partnership with the New Mexico Broadband Collective, will begin accepting applications on Friday, April 1, 2022. This fund will award grants of up to \$75,000 to nonprofit organizations, Tribes, Nations, Pueblos, organizations with a fiscal sponsor, and eligible local government entities to support community and regional efforts to develop and improve broadband. For any questions about the New Mexico Broadband Equity Fund, please contact [Danielle LaJoie](#) or [Erika Davila](#).

The deadline to apply is 12:00 pm on May 13, 2022.

[Learn more and apply.](#)

Still Time to Apply for State and Federal Transportation Funding for FY 2023

\$100 million of state Transportation Project Fund (TPF)



funding is available for tribal and local public agencies for transportation projects. This is a good year! The initial TPF deadline is **April 6, 2022**, for entities to submit Project Feasibility Forms (PFFs) to RTPO staff, who will review and track submittals and forward them to NMDOT District Staff.

Tribal and local public agencies still need to prepare additional supporting materials to complete their applications, but this is the first deadline for the FY

2023 TPF funds for the Northern Pueblos and Northeast RTPOs.

\$1.5 Billion Available through U.S. DOT RAISE Grant

April 14, 2022, is the deadline for the federal RAISE grants (formerly called BUILD, and before that TIGER), and you can find more information about that competitive transportation funding opportunity at <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>. While there is a 20% non-federal match requirement, the U.S. DOT Secretary may increase the federal share above 80% to pay for the costs of a project in a rural area and to pay for the costs of a planning project that is located in or that will directly benefit an area of persistent poverty.

For information or assistance with either the state TPF or U.S. DOT RAISE grants, please contact Transportation Planner [Paul Sittig](#). Please review the resources at the [RTPO NM "Resources" webpage](#).

Eight part Workshop Series Focused on Carrot Production in Northern New Mexico



Taos based organizations AIRE and Growing Community Now are hosting a series of workshops to train farmers to grow carrots for the USDA School Lunch Program, CSA Shares, and food banks. The workshop cost is \$30 per session for community members; 15 scholarships are available. Learn from experienced farmers Daniel Carmona, Geronimo Romero, Melinda Bateman, and Anjel Ortiz methods such as stale bed cultivation and flame weeding, regenerative agricultural practices, and farm equipment training. Workshops will run monthly from May-October. [Sign up by April 15, 2022](#). For more information, contact [Micah Roseberry](#).

NMDA Healthy Soil Program Grant, Deadline May 12, 2022.

Government entities and individual applicants are eligible for funding for on-the-ground projects that focus on one or more of five basic soil health principles: keeping the soil covered, minimizing soil disturbance on cropland, maximizing biodiversity, maintaining a living root, and integrating animals into land management.

Entrepreneurial Opportunities



[Micro Grants](#) of \$500-\$3,000 from the Regional Development Corporation are



[CNM Ingenuity Inc.](#) offers many online programs for small businesses and

available to businesses headquartered in Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, San Miguel, Santa Fe, or Taos counties. To apply you must attend a **mandatory webinar at 10 am April 12, 2022**. Applications are due **May 2**.

entrepreneurs. Financial assistance is available for **Accelerator Programs** serving entrepreneurs and tech startups, **Sales and Marketing Programs** like the **Next Gen Digital Marketer Certificate** and **Etsy for Makers**.

Cybersecurity for Local Governments



Cybersecurity is on our minds these days, as we've seen local governments and school districts struggle with ransomware and cybersecurity attacks. If you're a local government representative, check out the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA): [Shields Up | CISA](#).

Our friends at the New Mexico Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) have some excellent resources as well: [Cyber and Data Protection Resources - America's SBDC \(americassbdc.org\)](#). As our friends in cybersecurity say, it's not a question of whether you are vulnerable to an attack, but **when**. Please take a few minutes to make sure you're prepared!

Work with NCNMEDD! See our Contract and Employment Opportunities!

Grant and Funding Opportunities

Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant. Applications reviewed quarterly through **December 2022**, applicants encouraged to apply early! There are two tiers of funding for local and regional applicants; 2:1 match offered for rural entities.

USDA Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program, **Deadline April 11, 2022**. To help eligible meat and poultry processors start up or expand capacity.

USDA Meat and Poultry Supply Chain Opportunities: [Learn More](#).

EPA Pollution Prevention Grant, BIL Funding, **Deadline April 11, 2022**.
EPA Pollution Prevention Grant, Regular Funding, **Deadline April 11, 2022**.

NM Tourism Clean And Beautiful Grants, **Deadline April 15, 2022**. Projects to end littering, reduce waste, beautify communities, or empower youth are eligible.

American Trails, Trail Fund, **Deadline April 15, 2022**. Awards of up to \$15,000 for trail maintenance, research, and stewardship training.

Project for Public Spaces Community Placemaking Grants, **Deadline April 15, 2022**. For non-profits working directly with local stakeholders to transform public spaces or co-create new ones. \$40,000 in funding for physical and programmatic improvements to a public space.

USDA Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grants, **Deadline April 19, 2022**. For rural jobs accelerator partnerships to create high wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses,

and help rural communities identify and maximize local assets.

USDA Rural Energy Pilot Program, Letters of Intent Due April 19, 2022. Deadline July 18, 2022. For rural communities to further develop renewable energy, 20% match required.

DOJ Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program, Deadline April 19, 2022.

For intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault.

NEA Challenge America Grants, Deadline April 21, 2022.

\$10,000 grants to small organizations to extend arts to underserved populations. Requires 1:1 match.

DOL Growth Opportunities, Deadline April 21, 2022.

For youth and young adults most impacted by community violence, to help youth and young adults improve conflict resolution skills and develop strategies to prevent and avoid violence; introduce and prepare youth for the world of work; help youth identify career interests, attain relevant skills, and gain work experience; and provide income to youth.

DOL Apprenticeship Building America Program, Deadline April 25, 2022.

To strengthen and modernize the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) system, centered on equity and promote Registered Apprenticeship as a workforce development solution.

USDA Value Added Producer Grants, Deadline April 25, 2022.

To help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to processing and marketing new products. 1:1 match required.

New Mexico Lab Embedded Entrepreneur Program (LEEP), Deadline: April 25, 2022.

Seeking applicants focused on Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Computing, Biotechnology and Bioscience Applications, Energy Transition, or Space Systems.

DOL Workforce Pathways for Youth, Deadline April 25, 2022.

For age-appropriate (14-21) workforce readiness programming to expand job training and workforce pathways for youth, including soft skill development, career exploration, job readiness and certification, summer jobs, year-round job opportunities, and apprenticeships.

Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects, Deadline April 28, 2022. Funding for small-scale, on-the-ground water efficiency projects which seek to implement work identified in an applicant's water planning efforts.

USDA Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP), Deadline May 16, 2022.

LAMP includes three subprograms:

- **Local Food Promotion Program**
- **Regional Food System Partnerships**
- **Farmers Market Promotion Program**

NEH Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants, Deadline May 17, 2022.

Capital projects support the design, purchase, construction, restoration, or renovation of facilities for humanities activities. Digital infrastructure projects support the maintenance, modernization, and sustainability of existing digital scholarly projects and platforms.

USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, Deadline May 19, 2022.

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program provides mandatory funds to support education, mentoring, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA Community Facilities Technical Assistance/Training Grant, Deadline May 23, 2022.

To help rural communities access financial resources to support the construction or upgrade of essential community facilities. The grants are to provide technical assistance and training to help grantees identify and plan for community facility needs in their area.

DOT Low or No Emission Grant Program, Deadline May 31, 2022.

Funding for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities such as recharging, refueling, and maintenance facilities.

FTA/DOT Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program, Deadline: May 31, 2022.

To assist in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, including replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing, or leasing buses or related equipment, and rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing, or leasing bus-related facilities.

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