

NORTH CENTRAL NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT



Message from Executive Director Monica Abeita

Hello Everyone,

March 2021 has been an eventful month for us all. Our legislators completed the 60-day Legislative Session with bills that provide pandemic relief for businesses and individuals, critical transportation and capital outlay funding, and a sound budget for Fiscal Year 2022. Many bills remain to be signed by the Governor before April 9.

On March 11, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 was signed into law by President Joe Biden. While the provisions of the Act remain general, we know the specific allocation amounts for states and local governments and we understand that federal agencies have 60 days from the Act's passage to publish notices for funding. We look forward to helping our members realize opportunities with these significant resources. As posted on our website, please join us on April 8, 2021 at 10:30 am for a [webinar](#) on the American Rescue Plan.

Also, as a reminder, our [quarterly board meeting is](#) scheduled for Friday, April 23, 2021 at 1:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you then and are hopeful for an in-person meeting this summer or fall.

Best Regards, *Monica Abeita*

Inside NCNMEDD

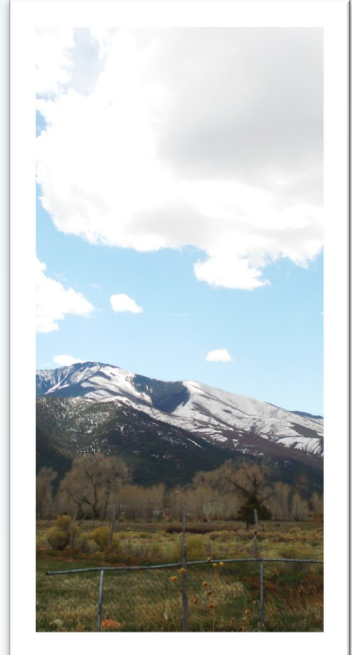
The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

On March 11, 2021 the American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law. This act provides \$1.9 trillion in relief funds targeting individuals, businesses, local governments, and government programs. There are several key provisions to the ARP that can be found [here](#). These provisions include support of agriculture, social programs, housing and utility assistance, vaccine rollout, PPE production, transportation, broadband, funding for tribes, and direct assistance for local governments. Our eight counties were [allocated](#) over \$80 million collectively, and more than \$10 million was allocated to non-county local governments.

A few key changes compared to previous COVID relief acts include the development of a new Restaurant Revitalization Fund, creation of an Emergency Connectivity Fund to hook up schools and libraries to broadband, and the support of vaccine rollout especially in rural areas. Also, EDA was granted \$3 billion for recovery work throughout the United States. NCNMEDD will provide updates regarding allocation of the EDA funds as information becomes available.

NCNMEDD stands ready to help our region navigate and access funding in the American Rescue Plan Act. Our Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Kenny Pin, has been working diligently to ensure our region's priorities are leveraged to the fullest with federal funding and programs.

If you have yet to speak to our Disaster Recovery Coordinator regarding your priorities, please contact him at kennethpin@ncnmedd.com or (505) 356-9098.



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Join NCNMEDD's American Rescue Plan Webinar: April 8, 2021 from 10:30am—12pm.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84037621379> Webinar ID: 840 3762 1379

Updates from the 2021 NM Legislative Session

This year's legislative session presented new challenges to all of the participants. We thank all of our legislators for their work during this year's 55th legislature. A full list of passed legislation can be found [here](#); key bills focused on recovery efforts in, what was described by Speaker Brian Egolf as, a three pronged approach focusing on education, health, and the economy.

These three focus areas were far reaching with the House and Senate passing over 150 bills including SB 10, the Respect New Mexico Women and Families Act, which repealed a 1969 statute banning abortion, and HB 4, the New Mexico Civil Rights Act, which protects a person for up to \$2 million and the potential to recover attorney's fees if their constitutional rights have been violated.

[Capital outlay projects](#) from this legislative session, pending governor approval, should fund over 320 projects in the north central New Mexico region. These funds are allocated to build, improve, or equip physical property throughout the state. NCNMEDD provided many of our local governments with technical support through their capital outlay process.

The hard work is not yet over with the Governor's announcement of an upcoming special session to continue work on the cannabis bill.



Pandemic Relief Bills in 2021 NM Legislature

Each of the pandemic relief bills from this session were passed and signed by Governor Lujan-Grisham. Senate Bills [1](#), [2](#), and [3](#) focused on support to the restaurant industry with Gross Receipt Tax deductions, and liquor license fee waivers. Through House Bill [11](#), \$200 million in grants was allocated to New Mexico small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in addition to expansion of the Local Economic Development Act. Specifics regarding grant funding can be found [here](#).

Distance Learning Grant to Connect Mora



New Mexico Highlands University in collaboration with Collaborative Visions, in Mora, received a \$510,363 USDA Distance Learning Grant to bring distance learning to the rural communities of Northern New Mexico. The funds will be used to outfit the Helping Hands community center in Mora. Edward Martinez, lead researcher for the grant at Highlands University, expressed his enthusiasm for the project and the future of the area in saying, "This grant award provides Highlands the opportunity to take education to the people instead of solely inviting the people to come to an education at campus... this partnership with Collaborative Visions, Inc. will allow Highlands to provide a community-based distance learning site at the Helping Hands community building where Mora area residents will have access not only to remote classroom experiences, but also access to computers dedicated to educational use. Such access is incredibly important in an area where so

many households are without broadband internet, limiting student access to remote learning opportunities".

Help us to congratulate this team for their work in securing the Distance Learning Grant. We look forward to the new opportunities in Mora that come from these funds!

Transportation Updates

During the 2020 Legislative session, the 54th Legislature passed House Bill 207. This year, transportation was a key topic as well with Senate Bill 20 supporting key funding structures for transportation projects.

HOUSE BILL 207 (54th Legislature)– An act relating to transportation; changing the “LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPORTATION PROJECT FUND” to the “TRANSPORTATION PROJECT FUND”, allowing Indian Nations, Tribe or Pueblo projects to be funded through this fund. This act also added new criteria for funding opportunities for all eligible entities.

SENATE BILL 20 (55th Legislature) – Introduced by Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, SB 20 relates to taxation and changing the distribution of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax from the local governments road fund to the Transportation Project fund. The bill was approved by both the House and Senate on March 13, 2021. **Also**, HB 2 includes \$121 Million in nonrecurring funds for the Transportation Project Fund.

Within the NCNMEDD region, the North East RTPO (NERTPO) is in the process of establishing a new rating and ranking criteria for State and Federal projects. The NERTPO is coordinating with the NMDOT Planning and NMDOT District 4 staff to coordinate the Project Feasibility Form process for the State Funded-Transportation Project Fund and Federal projects. NCNMEDD Community Development Director, Lesah Sedillo, is managing the new state list with the categories identified in HB 207.

The Northern Pueblos RTPO (NPRTP) updated, rated, ranked, and approved the Regional Transportation Improvement Program Recommendations (RTIPR) and State List-Transportation Project Fund regularly during 2020-2021. NPRTP established processes with the NMDOT Planning and NMDOT District 5 staff and participated with the ZIPPER Meeting held on March 10, 2021, which included the North West and Mid Region RPTOs. All of the Northern Pueblos RTIPR projects were included into the ZIPPER, including the four Highway Safety Improvement Program projects from the North West RTPO. The Mid-Region RTPO did not include any projects into the ZIPPER.

NCNMEDD is also pleased to announce the hire of our new Transportation Planner, Paul Sittig. Paul comes most recently from the New Mexico Department of Transportation. He can be contacted at pauls@ncnmedd.com or (505) 356-9694. We look forward to his expertise!

TAP, RTP, CMAQ Call Timeline*

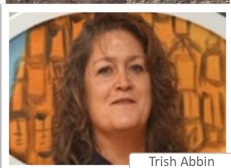
Call for Projects Timeline	
	May- October Open Call for Projects
	Now- July Project Feasibility Meetings with RTPO/MPO
	July 12 Submit ADA transition plans/Title VI reports to CCRB
2021	October (internally set deadline) Applications Due to MPOs/RTPOs
	October MPO/RTPOs screen applications
	October 29 TAP, RTP and CMAQ Application Due to NMDOT from MPO/RTPOs
	Nov-Dec NMDOT Review of Applications
Dec-Jan Scoring Committee Meetings	
2022	Feb - March Awards Announced

*Schedule will be finalized and announced when call opens in May 2021



NCNMEDD Small Business Basics Program

The NCNMEDD Small Business Basics Program continued during March with increased attendance and one-on-one sessions with business owners in the region. In addition to our four part webinar series, focused on understanding financials, business structure, and financing options, NCNMEDD started a Small Business Basics course provided in Spanish. As we continue to navigate changing health orders we look forward to providing services in person or working with our local governments to help support small business owners and entrepreneurs. Learn more about our business advisors and the Small Business Basics program [here](#).



Trish Abbin



Tessah Latson

Working Now Loan Program

In addition to our Small Business Basics program, NCNMEDD has now distributed *Working Now* funds to five businesses in our region. These loans are helping to support sports outfitters, artists, and local retailers. If you know a local business owner who is in need of some additional funds or who has questions about loan products our office is eager to disburse these funds far and wide.

Find out more about NCNMEDD’s Revolving Loan Fund and our *Working Now* loans on our [website](#), or contact our loan officer [Keith Flynn](#) for more information.

Available Positions with NCNMEDD

[Community Development Director](#)

NCNMEDD is hiring for a community development director. See [posting](#) or contact [Monica Abeita](#) for more information.

Resources for Small Businesses and Individuals

[PNM COVID Customer Relief Program](#)

Designed to deliver immediate assistance for residential, small business, and nonprofit PNM customers who are behind on their bills to avoid interruptions of electric service down the road.

[COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

Over 400,000 new Mexicans have now received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine! Stay up to date on when the vaccine may be available to your community [here](#) and register for the vaccine [here](#).

[Mental Health Resources](#)

Continuation of the pandemic has correlated to increased stress and feelings of sadness. If you or someone you know would benefit from mental health services, please reach out to the [NM Crisis Center](#) or your local mental health provider.

[IRS Free File](#)

Taxes are due April 15th. The IRS, alongside private tax preparation and filing industry leaders, is offering services to income earners of \$72,000 or less to assist with filing taxes for 2020.

[Rural Development Toolkit](#)

The [New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division](#) in cooperation with the outdoor recreation roundtable, have developed a toolkit for communities to bolster their Outdoor Recreation Economy.

Funding Opportunities—Loans

During our recovery, loan products provide funding in various dollar amounts with low interest rates to help business owners buy PPE, keep workers on payroll and stay current on bills.

[Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#)

Deadline: March 31, 2021

The PPP is set to expire on March 31, 2021. However, the PPP Extension Act of 2021 – which would extend the PPP to May 31, 2021 – was passed with bipartisan support in the House of Representatives and is awaiting action in the Senate. Four CDFIs are taking applications from New Mexico for the PPP program: [Dreamspring](#), [LiftFund](#), [Clearinghouse](#), and [RCAC](#). Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the updated program can be found [here](#).

[Employee Retention Tax Credit](#)

Deadline: July 31, 2021

If your business either did not receive or qualify for PPP you may qualify for the Employee Retention Tax Credit in order to support employee wages and related health insurance costs. The credit is taken against the employer's share of Social Security tax.

[NCNMEDD Working Now Loan](#)

The *Working Now* Revolving Loan Fund offers small, interest-deferred loans to pandemic-impacted businesses in the counties of Colfax, Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe and Taos. These are small loans of up to \$10,000 aimed at businesses affected by the pandemic. If your business is in need of additional funding please contact [Keith Flynn](#) at (505) 356-9600.

[Main Street Lending Program](#)

The program is designed to help credit flow to small and medium-sized for-profit businesses and nonprofit organizations that were in sound financial condition before the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, but now need loans to help maintain their operations until they have recovered from, or adapted to, the impacts of the pandemic.

Funding Opportunities—Grants

Grant funding opportunities can help with future local government projects. As we receive more information about state and federal grant programs, our office will continue to keep information up to date. If you have questions about any of the below opportunities contact [Alison Turner](#) at (505) 716-5580.

[USDA Rural Business Development Grants](#)

Deadline: March 31, 2021

Grants funds to provide technical assistance and training for small rural businesses. Small business is defined as businesses with fewer than 50 new workers and less than \$1 million in gross revenue.

[USDA REAP-Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements](#)

Deadline: March 31, 2021

Assists agricultural producers and rural small businesses in installing renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements in order to reduce energy consumption. \$35,400,000 in total funds, 1,000 awards expected.

[NM Clean and Beautiful Grant](#)

Deadline: April 15, 2021 5:00pm

The New Mexico Tourism Department is granting any NM municipality, county or Tribal Government in good standing funds to prevent litter, improve recycling, and beautify our communities. Grant requires a 25% match.

[NTIA Broadband Grant Programs Webinar—April 21st](#)

There are three new NTIA grant programs to support broadband infrastructure deployment and connectivity. Learn more at the NTIA website or contact [Kenny Pin](#) for more information.

[RDC MicroGrants](#)

Deadline: May 1, 2021

The Regional Development Corporation (RDC) is awarding grants from \$500-2,000 to small businesses in need of funding to sustain operations, move to the next level, or hire additional staff.

[SBA Shuttered Venue Operators \(SVO\) Grant Program](#)

Over \$16 billion available in grants to shuttered live venue operators, theaters, live performing arts spaces, museums, zoos, and eligible talent representatives. Grants are available for either 45% of 2019 gross earned revenue or \$10 million, whichever is less.

Other Grant Finding Resources

- [The Grant Plant Inc. COVID-19 Emergency Grants](#)
- [Covid-Cap online Database of recovery resources](#)
- [NM Grant Makers Association](#)
- [State and Federal Grants Advisory](#)
- [GrantStation Database of COVID-19 Related Grant Opportunities](#)

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