



# EDD

ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes  
Deputy Secretary Jon Clark

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**Sara Gutierrez named as Economic Development Division Deputy Director  
and two other positions filled at EDD**

**Santa Fe, N.M.** – Economic Development Department (EDD) fills three key positions, Economic Development Deputy Division Director, Community, Business & Rural Development (CBRD) Region 3 Representative, and MainStreet Coordinator.

Sara Gutierrez served EDD for over 12 years, most recently as the Job Training Incentive Program Manager for the last eight years, and has been promoted to the position of Deputy Division Director.

Gutierrez received her Associate of Arts degree in Business Administration and Management from the Santa Fe Community College and graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Spanish from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul MN. A lifelong resident of Santa Fe, she returned to New Mexico upon graduation and worked in the private sector until 2007, when she joined the Economic Development Department.



*Sara Gutierrez*

“I have been fortunate in that my entire career in State Government has been with the Economic Development Department,” Gutierrez said. “I am excited to have this opportunity to continue my service in the Division and the state of NM in a greater capacity.”



*Economic Division Director Mark Roper,  
Max Gruner, Economic Development  
Dept. Secretary Alicia J. Keyes*

Max Gruner is the new region 3 CBRD Representative, serving Santa Fe, Bernalillo, Valencia, and Tarrant Counties. The EDD CBRD Regional Representatives are located in the regions they serve in every corner of the state. They assist communities in a broad variety of economic development needs.

Gruner comes from a background in Health and Human Services, and has spent the last decade working in Economic Development. As the executive director of a local economic development organization and founder and president of a statewide advocacy organization, Gruner has worked extensively with communities, state and local government, as well as with entrepreneurs and business owners to provide relevant and culturally appropriate technical assistance and to shape legislative agendas around topics ranging from community policing to permitting and licensing reform.

“Returning home to New Mexico after an absence of two decades that took me to Alaska and the East Coast, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with, and on behalf of, fellow New Mexicans to help create jobs, access to economic opportunities, and to find a home for innovative entrepreneurs in the Land of Enchantment,” Gruner said.

The EDD also welcomes Lucas Pedraza in the role of MainStreet Project Coordinator. Pedraza has several years of experience in socio-economic research, community economic development, metropolitan redevelopment, and housing policy. He has B.A. in Economics from the State University of New York at New Paltz and a Masters in Community Regional Planning with a concentration in community development from the University of New Mexico.

Pedraza most recently served as the Economic Development Manager for the City of Albuquerque, where he helped establish the Small Business Office. He comes with on the ground MainStreet experience having served as a former program manager and director of Barelás MainStreet for the Barelás Community Coalition.



*Lucas Pedraza*

“I look forward to using this experience to help local MainStreet communities achieve their revitalization goals!”

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*The New Mexico Economic Development Department's mission is to improve the lives of New Mexico families by increasing economic opportunities and providing a place for businesses to thrive.*