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## **Governor Susana Martinez Announces \$100,000 for Taos Food Center Expansion**

*New Funding Helps Further Support Entrepreneurship in Northern New Mexico*

**Taos** - Governor Susana Martinez announced \$100,000 in funding for the Taos Food Center, a commercial-grade kitchen run by the Taos County Economic Development Corporation (TCEDC), which provides equipment, services, and support to local food-based entrepreneurs.

"New Mexico has such a strong and unique heritage of cuisine, and industries like agriculture and ranching that the food industry depends on are equally critical to our economy," said Governor Martinez. "We want to do all we can to support the food industry in northern New Mexico so that it continues to support our families and communities."

TCEDC will receive \$100,000 in Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) funds from the New Mexico Economic Development Department for its U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified commercial food kitchen. The funds will go toward needed repairs and upgrades for the center to help improve services available to local entrepreneurs.

New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD) Cabinet Secretary Jon Barela, representatives of TCEDC, and local leaders joined Governor Martinez for the announcement. "I have been impressed by the Taos Food Center since I was first introduced to the project," said Secretary Barela. "This center has helped 100 food-based business get their start, and we are proud to continue to encourage growth in this important industry as it brings more new dollars into the local economy and to the state."

TCEDC was founded as a community development corporation 28 years ago by its executive directors Pati Martinson and Terrie Bad Hand. The Taos Food Center is at the heart of the Taos County Economic Development Corporation's activities supporting the people, cultures, and food of northern New Mexico. The Taos Food Center is a 5,000 square-foot commercial kitchen with equipment, services, and support to assist entrepreneurs with starting a food business. Many local food businesses currently work out of the Taos Food Center, making everything from fresh traditional salsas to delicious organic scones.

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