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## **NMEDD Awards \$170,000 in LEADS Grants to 18 Rural Communities Throughout NM**

*\$346,200 Distributed Over Last Two Years to Help Local Communities Economic Development Efforts*

**Santa Fe, NM** - Today, the New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD) announced that 18 communities have been selected to receive Local Economic Assistance & Development Support (LEADS) grants. The \$170,000 in grants will help communities create jobs, develop their tax base and encourage economic development. Since the program began in 2015, \$346,200 has been distributed to rural communities to help supplement their economic development efforts.

"Identifying and funding rural projects that have the most economic potential in a community to create jobs and encourage private-sector investments is something Governor Martinez and I are proud to support," said Economic Development Secretary Jon Barela. "The LEADS program is an innovative way to help communities diversify and strengthen their economies."

Those receiving a LEADS grant are:

- Carlsbad Department of Development, \$15,000, Attraction/Recruitment
- Otero County Economic Development Council, \$15,000, Attraction/Recruitment
- Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance (Santa Teresa), \$15,000, Attraction/Recruitment
- Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation, \$15,000, Attraction/Retention Expansion/Workforce Development
- Clovis Industrial Development Corporation, \$10,000, Attraction/Retention Expansion
- Lovington Economic Development Corporation, \$10,000, Real Estate Development/Attraction
- Roosevelt County Development Corporation, \$10,000, Attraction/Retention Expansion
- Rio Arriba County, \$10,000, Workforce Development/Tech/Startup
- Economic Development Corporation of Lea County, \$10,000, Attraction/Recruitment
- Estancia Valley Economic Development Association, \$7,000, Attraction/Retention Expansion
- Cibola Communities Economic Development Foundation, \$8,000, Workforce Development/Solo Work
- Village of Los Lunas, \$7,500, Attraction/Recruitment
- Deming Luna County Economic Development Inc., \$7,500, Real Estate Development/Attraction
- Grow Raton, \$7,500, Tech/Entrepreneurship/Startup
- City of Aztec, \$7,500, Tech/Entrepreneurship/Startup
- Southern Luna County Economic and Community Development Corporation, \$5,000, Retention Expansion/Entrepreneurship

- Las Vegas San Miguel County Economic Development Corporation, \$5,000, Tech/Entrepreneurship/Startup
- Sandoval County Business Development Division, \$5,000, Workforce Development/Solo Work

The LEADS program has yielded great results since it began in 2015. Success stories include the New Mexico Innovation Laboratory in Rio Rancho which helps students get hands-on experience in digital media and the Columbus Community Garden, which teaches residents valuable agricultural skills.

The LEADS program is administered by NMEDD's Business and Rural Development Team. [Click here](#) to learn more about LEADS.

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