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## **The New Mexico Economic Development Department to Hold Statewide Town Halls to Discuss Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) Guidelines**

**Santa Fe, NM** - The New Mexico Economic Development Department is taking public input through a series of five town hall meetings across the state to help develop guidelines for the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) program. This is a process designed to put in place additional safeguards when deploying taxpayers' money.

"To effectively manage how taxpayer dollars will be spent for economic development recruitment and expansion projects, the Economic Development Department welcomes input and discussion from government officials, economic development professionals, the business community and general public alike," said Economic Development Secretary Jon Barela.

Upon taking office, the Martinez Administration administratively included clawbacks and job creation targets for projects receiving LEDA. In 2014, Governor Martinez signed into law a clawbacks statute in the event a project does not meet targets.

The town halls will take place at the following locations and dates:

- 9 a.m. Monday, June 8 - Rio Rancho Civic Center, Council Chambers, (3200 Civic Center Circle NE, Rio Rancho)
- 2 p.m. Monday, June 8 - Runnels Building Auditorium (1190 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe)
- 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 9 - Farmington Civic Center (200 West Arrington, Farmington)
- 10 a.m. Thursday, June 11 - Chaves County Commission Chambers (#1 St. Mary's Place, Roswell)
- 10 a.m. Friday, June 12 - Arrowhead Park Medical Academy (3600 Arrowhead Dr., Bld 8, Las Cruces)

During the 2015 Legislative Session, the Economic Development Department's LEDA program received a significant funding increase. The department will post final guidelines and procedures this summer at [www.gonm.biz](http://www.gonm.biz). Comments may also be registered at [edd.info@state.nm.us](mailto:edd.info@state.nm.us) for those unable to make it to a town hall. For more information on LEDA, visit: <http://gonm.biz/community-development/local-economic-development-act/>

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