

The Pathfinder



July 21, 2025

FROM THE SECRETARY



We have an amazing funding tool here in New Mexico. LEDA, or the Local Economic Development Act, is a powerful mechanism for job creation and economic growth. It allows the state to invest in expanding or relocating businesses that bring good-paying jobs and boost local communities. Think of it like a 401(k) for the state, but with stronger, faster returns. We're talking up to a 1,000% return on investment — way better than any 401(k) I've ever seen.

Just this month, we announced three new LEDA-backed projects in rural and mid-size communities, bringing in nearly 100 jobs across the state: sustainable carbon removal in White Rock and Nambé, a growing women-owned distillery in Taos, and a cutting-edge ethanol facility in Portales. These projects mean better wages and steady paychecks for families.

With LEDA, we're putting New Mexicans to work, helping local businesses grow, and building a future we can all count on.

Rob Black
Cabinet Secretary, NM Economic Development Department

NEWS



Women-owned, family-run distillery to rehabilitate a blighted building in Taos

Rolling Still operates a manufacturing facility and two retail lounges in Taos County. Having outgrown their current facilities, LEDA funds will assist them in rehabilitating an abandoned gas station, which will house the company's manufacturing operations. "Every job in these rural markets creates a ripple effect that supports families and strengthens our local economies," said EDD Cabinet Secretary Rob Black.

In the news: [Taos-based Rolling Still Distillery set to expand with the help of state funding](#)

Read: Local family-run distillery awarded state funds to expand in Taos



Carbon capture company Spiritus collaborates with Nambe Pueblo

Spiritus has entered into a six-year lease with Nambe Pueblo to expand its footprint in NM with the help of \$500,000 in LEDA funding from EDD. Funds will support infrastructure, as they turn an old bottling company into a second facility for their advanced carbon capture technology. "New Mexico is a national climate leader, and this collaboration hits home with many of our top goals as an agency," said EDD Cabinet Secretary Rob Black.

In the news: [State Of New Mexico Awards Spiritus With \\$500k To Expand Job Openings And Local Impact](#)

Read: Local climate solutions company awarded EDD funding



Navitas revives long-shuttered ethanol plant in Portales

Ethanol, a renewable biofuel made from plants, is gaining attention as a green alternative to fossil fuels. EDD has pledged \$800,000 in LEDA funds to Navitas Global, who plan to reinvigorate an old ethanol plant and provide 31 new local jobs. "This is a great example of turning yesterday's waste into smart, sustainable economic engines," said EDD Cabinet Secretary Rob Black.

In the news: [NM Film & Media Conference: A Resounding Success!](#)

Read: Company reviving long-shuttered ethanol plant receives support through New Mexico EDD

EDD OPPORTUNITIES

GRANTS

Outdoor Equity Fund

This grant supports transformative outdoor experiences that foster stewardship and respect for New Mexico's lands, waters, and cultural heritage while connecting youth to outdoor recreation career pathways. Join one of our informational webinars on Apply by July 31. nmoutside.com/grants/outdoor-equity-fund

Trails+ Grant

This grant supports programs that enhance outdoor recreation opportunities through the planning, development, and improvement of trails and related infrastructure. The next deadline is Sept 30. nmoutside.com/grants/trails-plus

EDD JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

Economic Transition Representative (Albuquerque)

Posting End Date: 07/28/2025

Job ID 156451

MainStreet Community Economic Development Specialist (Santa Fe)

Posting End Date: 07/29/2025

Job ID 156475

Economic Development Infrastructure Program Manager (Albuquerque)

Posting End Date: 07/29/2025

Job ID 156455

Communications and Data Specialist (Albuquerque)

Posting End Date: 07/29/2025

Job ID 156455

Senior Economic Program Coordinator (Albuquerque) - 3 open positions

Posting End Date: 07/30/2025

Job ID 156529

Executive Secretary & Administrative Assistant (Santa Fe)

Posting End Date: 07/30/2025

Job ID 156574

Learn more at edd.newmexico.gov/careers

RESOURCE WRAP-UP



Resource Highlight:

Grant Writing, Engineering, and Planning Grant

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) will award financial assistance grants to aid Tribal governments and local governmental units in procuring grant writing, engineering, and/or planning assistance to help identify community broadband needs and to support applying for other funding sources for broadband-related projects.

Maximum grant award is \$100,000.

Funds are limited. Applications will be considered until all funds are obligated. Matching funds are not required.

Learn more and apply at connect.nm.gov/gwep.html



Disaster Resource Center & Support Hotline

Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center, 1103 Hwy 314, Los Lunas, for residents impacted by the Desert Willow Complex fires. Case managers are also available at the Grant County Business & Conference Center, 3031 US-180, Silver City. The State Disaster Helpline can be reached at 1-833-663-4736.

[For Businesses](#)

[For Communities & Nonprofits](#)

Scale Up NM

Supports programming empowering women in commercialization, and in partnership with NM Startup Factory, supported investment education.

UNM Small Business Training Series

8-part training series in key areas of business development. Runs through Dec. \$10/session fee.

Disaster Relief Tax Filing Extension

Taxpayers affected by the Trout or Cotton fires with business tax returns due June 25 and July 25 can file by Sept 25. Those with an estimated personal or corporate income tax due June 16, have an extended due date of Sept 16. No penalty or interest.

Local Meat Processing Grant

Funding for byproduct disposal and related waste management systems, and initiatives to increase production capacity, enhance regulatory compliance, strengthen supply chains, and promote value-added processing. Deadline: July 31.

E2 1 Hotels Fellowship

Invest in early to mid-career professionals who seek to make the world a better place through projects that accelerate smart climate policies that are good for our economy and our environment. Deadline: Aug 4.

TRGR Workshop

Learn more about how the Technology Readiness Initiative can help your company jumpstart product development, evaluate and test new technologies, and access prototyping. Workshop held in Albuquerque on Aug. 7.

Start.Pivot.Grow. Micro Grant

\$2,500 quarterly micro grants for small businesses to cover costs of utilities, rent, inventory, professional development, software, marketing, or bookkeeping. Deadline:

Rainforest Accelerator

Supports entrepreneurial researchers from the UNM to explore commercial viability of their technologies, create new startup businesses, generate business models, and submit proposals to other funding opportunities. Deadline: Sept 11.

NM Edge Ops Microgrant

\$2,500 microgrant for consulting services focused on streamlining operations, enhancing market strategy, and tech readiness. Accepted on a rolling basis through September 2025.

New Mexico Matching Fund

For eligible entities that require additional funding to meet the minimum match requirement for a federal grant. Rolling basis.

Public Project Revolving Fund

Provides both market-rate loans and loans to disadvantaged communities at subsidized rates to finance public projects such as infrastructure improvements.

NM WRRRI Agricultural Water Resilience Program

Funds projects to incentivize agricultural water conservation and resilience. Deadline: July 28.

Rural Community Development Initiative

Grants to intermediary organizations to deliver financial and technical assistance that helps recipients build capacity to carry out projects related to housing, community facilities, and community and economic development. Deadline: Aug 7.

Rooted Together Grant

Multi-year funding for organizations working together toward community-centered change. Scoring rubric. Deadline: Aug 14.

National Outreach and Communications Program

Supports innovative outreach efforts that promote recreational boating and fishing, improve public awareness, and reduce barriers to participation in these activities. Deadline: Aug 17.

Santa Fe Community Foundation Grants

Proposals welcome from organizations serving Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, and Santa Fe Counties to improve outcomes in animal welfare, arts & culture, education, environment, LGBTQ+, Native lifeways, BIPOC infant/toddler care. Deadline: Aug 24.

Nusenda Community Rewards Grant

Nonprofits or public schools may apply for \$2,500-\$15,000 grants for programs in one of Nusenda's focus areas: arts, community service, education, environment, and healthcare. Deadline: Aug 31.

T-Mobile Hometown Grants

Main Street America and T-Mobile have partnered to offer grants for towns with 50,000 people or less to revitalize community. Main Street programs are encouraged to apply. Deadline: Sept 30.

Upcoming Events

Jul 22 | [Intro to ChatGPT: How AI Can Help Grow Your Business](#)

Jul 22 | [Intro to government contracting](#)

Jul 24 | [Bridging Humanities and Preservation Through Community Storytelling](#)

Jul 25 | [Wondering When To Seek More Funding?](#)

Jul 25 | [Demystifying the Federal Retail Exemption for Meat Processors](#)

Jul 30 | [Cybersecurity Requirements for Contractors](#)

Jul 31 | [Strengthening Together: Shared Strategies for Disaster Preparedness](#)

Aug 7 | [Data is Not a Dirty Word: Solutions for Stewardship, Stories, and Succession Planning](#)

Aug 21 | [SBIR 101](#)

Aug 29 | [Discover how apprenticeships can benefit your business: Construction Industry](#)
Aug 29 | [Leveraging State Assets for Stronger Proposals and Projects](#)

Ongoing & On-Demand Events

[NM Small Business Administration \(NMSBA\) Events](#)

[NM Small Business Development Center Trainings and Webinars](#)

[N.M. Tax and Revenue New Businesses and New Employers workshops](#)

[NM Taxation and Revenue overview of tax programs](#)

[US and Foreign Commercial Service Trade Events](#)

[Albuquerque SCORE Webinars](#)

[Business Training and Workshops - WESST](#)

Visit our YouTube channel to view previously recorded EDD webinars:

www.youtube.com/@newmexicoeconomicdevelopment

We love to hear from you!

- Submit resources for the Pathfinder newsletter to Pathfinder@edd.nm.gov
- List a business or community resource on our Resource Map at edd.newmexico.gov/resource-map
- Add an event to our calendar at edd.newmexico.gov/events



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