

The Pathfinder



Feb 6, 2026

FROM THE SECRETARY



The year is off to a strong start for New Mexico. National and international companies are choosing to grow here, and homegrown businesses are scaling up, bringing good jobs and new opportunities for New Mexicans.

Castelion, a defense technology company, has broken ground on a 1,000-acre manufacturing campus in Sandoval County. The project will produce solid rocket motors critical to national defense and create 300 high-wage jobs.

When I graduated from UNM after growing up in Lovington, I didn't see a clear career path here. I left the state and didn't return for 20 years. Today, our kids can imagine building rockets right here in New Mexico. How cool is that?

Speaking of Lovington, [TD's Brew & BBQ](#) is expanding operations, creating 16 local jobs and bringing production in-house for the first time. Founded in 2019 by Tearl "TD" Dunlap, the brand is now sold in more than 600 stores nationwide, proof that New Mexico companies can grow and take root right here at home.

New Mexico is also gaining global attention in quantum. Boston-based [QuEra Computing](#) is expanding here through its partnership with the Roadrunner Quantum Lab, powered by the State of New Mexico, building a quantum testbed in Albuquerque and planning to locate a full quantum computer in the state within the next three years.

International companies are taking notice too. Canada-based [Endurance Technologies](#) has selected Las Cruces for its first U.S. facility, bringing dozens of jobs and more than \$50 million in economic impact over the next decade.

These projects take a "team New Mexico" effort, and the wins are proof that when we work together, our families come out on top.

Rob Black
Cabinet Secretary, NM Economic Development Department

NEWS

Castelion breaks ground

Castelion, a defense technology company, today broke ground on a 1,000-acre manufacturing campus — known as Project Ranger — in Sandoval County, reinforcing New Mexico's position at the forefront of defense innovation.

The groundbreaking marks the next phase of a \$220 million private investment expected to generate of \$650 million in



economic output over the next decade and create 300 high-wage jobs for New Mexicans. The campus's first building will be completed this summer, with all 21 buildings complete and ready for production by the end of 2026.

At the new campus, Castelion will produce solid rocket motors, conduct static tests and assemble components to produce finished rounds. The company has designed its testing procedures to minimize noise and ensure safety for the surrounding neighborhoods.

In the news: [Castelion breaks ground on hypersonic weapons production site](#)

[Read the joint press release](#)



Stakeholder input request

The New Mexico Economic Development Department's Technology and Innovation Office is inviting stakeholders to help shape a new \$40 million Research, Development and Deployment (RD&D) Fund designed to support early-stage innovation and commercialization across the state.

The Technology and Innovation Office is seeking input from relevant stakeholders — including but not limited to researchers, entrepreneurs, industry leaders, economic development partners and investors — to document where innovators in New Mexico face the most significant challenges in bringing ideas from the lab to the marketplace and identify funding opportunities that will be most transformational for the state's innovation ecosystem and economy. Stakeholder feedback will also help determine how to invest the fund's initial \$40 million for the greatest impact and long-term growth.

Stakeholders and ecosystem members are invited to respond to the Request for Information by February 13.

[Submit your feedback](#)



QuEra to build quantum testbed in NM

QuEra Computing and Roadrunner Venture Studios have launched a \$4 million strategic partnership to establish a new quantum testbed at the Roadrunner Quantum Lab in Albuquerque. Backed by the State of New Mexico, the effort includes QuEra staffing and operating facilities locally, strengthening Albuquerque's Innovation District as a global hub for quantum research and commercialization.

In the news: [Roadrunner Venture Studio says QuEra will anchor its quantum lab](#)

[Read the joint press release](#)

EDD OPPORTUNITIES

A promotional poster for NM CreativeCon. At the top, it says 'NEW MEXICO CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DIVISION' with a small rainbow flag icon. Below that is 'NM CreativeCon' and 'Save the Date' in large, bold letters, flanked by starburst graphics. The background features a stylized cityscape with a globe. The text 'Coming Soon to a Community Near You' is centered. Below this is a list of six events, each in a colored box with the date on the left and the event name and venue on the right. At the bottom, it says 'OUR PARTNERS' followed by logos for Meta, Regional Development Corporation, nma (new mexico arts), and TRIAD (National Security, LLC). Below the logos is the text 'OPERATOR OF Los Alamos NATIONAL LABORATORY'. At the very bottom, it says '@NMCREATIVEDIV EDD.NEWMEXICO.GOV/CREATIVECON'.

DATE	EVENT NAME	VENUE
MAR 7	CreativeCon Carlsbad	Cavern Theater
MAR 28	CreativeCon Raton	Shuler Theater
APR 11	CreativeCon Gallup	El Morro Theater
APR 25	CreativeCon Silver City	WNMU Fine Arts Theater
MAY 30	CreativeCon Pueblo of Pojoaque	Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino
JUN 6	CreativeCon Albuquerque	National Hispanic Cultural Center

OUR PARTNERS

Meta REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION nma new mexico arts public support for the arts TRIAD National Security, LLC OPERATOR OF Los Alamos NATIONAL LABORATORY

@NMCREATIVEDIV EDD.NEWMEXICO.GOV/CREATIVECON

NM CreativeCon

March - June 2026

NM CreativeCon is a statewide celebration of New Mexico's creative community. CreativeCon brings together creative entrepreneurs, community partners and support organizations from across the state to connect, learn and share ideas.

Events to be held on the following Saturdays throughout NM:

- March 7, Cavern Theater, Carlsbad
- March 28, Shuler Theater, Raton
- April 11, El Morro Theater, Gallup
- April 25, WNMU Fine Arts Theater, Silver City
- May 30, Buffalo Thunder Casino, Pueblo of Pojoaque
- June 6, National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque (statewide celebration)

[Learn more and register at edd.newmexico.gov/CreativeCon](https://edd.newmexico.gov/CreativeCon)

New Mexico MainStreet Conference

The conference theme is "MainStreet: Hub to Heritage - Connecting Commerce, Culture, and Nature." This special event will provide practical and actionable information to connect the state's downtown centers to their surrounding cultural, natural, historic, and tourist destinations.

- Date: Feb 18-20
- Location: National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque
- More info: www.nmmainstreet.org

Business Development & Expansion Grant

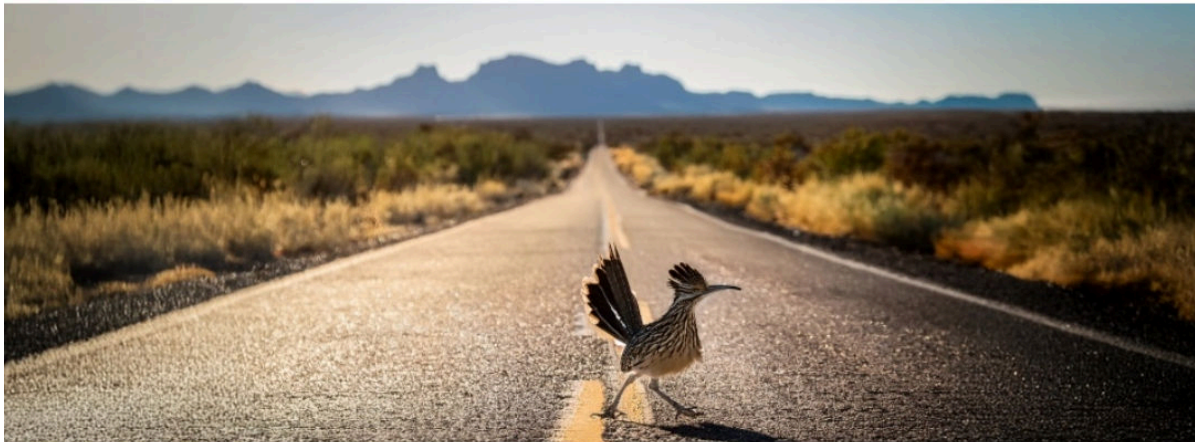
Creative for-profit businesses are invited to apply. Funding may be used for inventory, equipment, marketing, infrastructure, technology, and more.

- Deadline: Feb 27 (6pm MT)
- Learn more: edd.newmexico.gov/cid-grants

Intro To Mastering AI Visuals - Only 10 spots left!

Free registration offered for *Intro to Mastering AI Visuals by Janimation*, a fast 30-minute video training that teaches you how to craft eye-catching visuals with generative AI.

RESOURCE WRAP-UP



Resource Highlight: NMSBA Leveraged Projects Hub to Heritage - Connecting Commerce

NMSBA leveraged projects allow businesses to pool their available resources to comprise a larger project. Funding is competitive and is capped at \$120,000 per laboratory project. If awarded, the resources from each business are pooled together to carry out a larger project.

Proposals due by Feb 9.

[Learn more.](#)

For Businesses

Rolling deadlines and ongoing opportunities:

- [NM CERG \(Clean Energy Resilience and Growth\)](#)
- [Aggie I-Corps](#)
- [NM REAP](#)
- [Small Business bAlsics](#)
- [Amber Grants](#) - Monthly grants
- [Creative Capital Artist Lab](#)
- [CDFI Resource Library](#)
- Black Business Alliance of Santa Fe, contact blackbusiness.sf@gmail.com

[Demystifying Financial Foundations: Income, Assets & Cash Flow](#) Feb 11

Community & Nonprofit Resources

Rolling deadlines and ongoing opportunities:

- [Main Street America Small Business Hub](#)
- [National Grassroots Organizing Grant Program](#)
- [Community Connect Program](#)
- [Anderson Charitable Foundation Grants](#)
- [WK Kellogg Foundation](#)
- [Technical Assistance Gateway \(TAG\)](#)
- [NM Grantmakers Directory](#)
- [American's Job Center New Mexico Open House Orientations every Monday](#)
- [Pro Bono Legal Services for Nonprofits](#)

[Chamiza Foundation](#)

Deadline Feb 7

[Unlocking Cash Flow: How to Leverage R&D Payroll Tax Credits](#) Feb 12 via Zoom

[Funding Your Dream: Exploring Loans, Equity, Crowdfunding & More](#) Feb 12

[Creating Realistic Financial Projections for Your Small Business](#) Feb 12

[Film Industry Meetup + Bingo](#) (Santa Fe) Feb 15

[Free Outdoor Marketing Bootcamp](#) Feb 17-18

[Getting Investor Ready: Smart Strategies for Raising Capital](#) Feb 19 via Zoom

[Native American Business Roundtables \(Santa Fe\)](#) Feb 26

[NM Documentary Incubator Grant](#) Deadline Feb 27

[Smart Money Program with AI + \\$5,000 mini-grants](#) Webinars: Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1

[Innovate New Mexico® Showcase](#) (Albuquerque) Mar 3

[Santa Fe Community College Career Fair seeks employers](#) Fair date Mar 25, deadline Mar 6, \$50 registration fee.

[Angel Investor Hands-on Training](#) every Wed from Apr 18-May 13

[OED Outdoor Rec Roundtable](#) May 7, Aug 6, Nov 5

[Albuquerque Black Business Fund](#) Next deadline Apr 30

For ongoing and on-demand webinars, or to search for events in your area, visit us at edd.newmexico.gov/events

Visit our YouTube channel to view previously recorded EDD webinars:
www.youtube.com/@newmexicoeconomicdevelopment

[Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development \(BUILD\)](#) Deadline Feb 24

[Brabson Family Foundation Grant Program](#) Deadline Mar 1

[Baer Foundation Education Grants](#) Deadline Mar 1

[Baer Foundation Criminal Justice Grants](#) Deadline Mar 1

Preservation Grants: Deadline Mar 2.

- [National Fund for Sacred Places](#)
- [Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors](#)
- [Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation](#)

[YouthBuild 2025](#) Deadline Mar 2

[Local Data for Equitable Communities](#) Deadline Mar 3

[Environmental Education Grant Program](#) Deadline Mar 3

[AARP Community Challenge](#) Deadline Mar 4

[Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants](#) Deadline Mar 9

[Museum Grants for American Latino History and Culture](#) Deadline Mar 13

[Healthy Soil Program Grant](#) Deadline Mar 20.

New Mexico Tourism Grants Deadlines:

- [Tourism Event Growth & Sustainability](#) Mar 25
- [Clean and Beautiful Grant](#) Apr 2
- [Cooperative Marketing & Advertising Grant](#) Apr 7

[NEA Research Grants](#)

- Research Grants in the Arts
- NEA Research Labs

Application period Mar 26-Apr 2

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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