

# The Pathfinder



March 6, 2026

## FROM THE SECRETARY



These are exciting times for New Mexico. In economic development, we're seeing unprecedented wins at an unprecedented pace. And what makes it all the more exciting is that many of these represent the technologies of the future: advanced energy, quantum, space tech and defense.

Just recently, we saw the quantum company Qunnect launch ABQ-Net, the nation's first open-access quantum network. This will give startups a real-world place to test their technology and bring new quantum products to market — all from downtown Albuquerque.

Exactly one week later, and just a few miles away, space tech manufacturer AeroVironment ("AV") announced its expansion, bringing more of its cutting-edge space systems, more of its laser technology, and 450 more high-wage jobs to New Mexico.

That same day, we launched our own "out of this world" campaign highlighting the Land of Enchantment as a national hub for frontier technologies. Check it out for yourself on social media, and give it a share while you're at it. #NextFrontierNM. We think you'll like it, it certainly couldn't be more timely.

With the innovation economy gaining altitude, we're charting a new trajectory for our state. These are exciting times, indeed.

Rob Black  
Cabinet Secretary, NM Economic Development Department

## NEWS



### Qunnect chooses New Mexico

Qunnect's ABQ-Net — the nation's first open-access, entanglement-based quantum network — is now live in Albuquerque.

Built with funding from Roadrunner Venture Studios and with backing from the New Mexico Economic Development Department, ABQ-Net gives startups and companies a real-world testbed to develop next-generation quantum technologies.

In the news: [As a quantum network goes live, New Mexico sees its moment](#)

[Read the press release](#)



## AV expansion will add 450 high-wage jobs in ABQ

Defense manufacturer AV is investing more than \$30 million to expand its Albuquerque defense manufacturing campus. The project is expected to create more than 450 jobs and generate more than \$670 million in economic impact to the state over the next decade.

The expansion will be assisted through funding from the State of NM and the City of Albuquerque. The project builds on the successful growth of BlueHalo, which received state and local support in 2022 and was acquired by AV in 2025. Following the acquisition, the company rebranded as AV and has more than doubled its Albuquerque workforce since 2023.

In the news: [Defense contractor commits to creating 450 high-wage jobs](#)

[Read the press release](#)



## New Mexico IS the Next Frontier!

EDD has launched a fun campaign to get the message out that New Mexico has a lot more to offer than beautiful vistas and a culture of creativity. New Mexico, in fact, is the epicenter for advanced energy, quantum computing, aerospace and defense, and so much more.

We rolled out the new messaging in a fun after-hours event on March 4, complete with aliens and leaders in the deep tech industry.

Join in on the fun and share our social media posts:  
[#NextFrontierNM](#)

Visit: [Next Frontier ad and website at edd.newmexico.gov/next-frontier](https://edd.newmexico.gov/next-frontier)

**EDD OPPORTUNITIES**

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NEW MEXICO  
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DIVISION

# NM CreativeCon Save the Date

Coming Soon to a Community Near You

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

OUR PARTNERS



@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](http://edd.newmexico.gov/CreativeCon)

### EDD GRANTS AND PROGRAMS

#### New Mexico Advanced Energy Awards

Funds small businesses engaged in research and development or pilot demonstrations with a focus on advanced energy innovation and commercialization.

- Deadline: Mar 17 (5pm MT)
- Learn more: [edd.newmexico.gov/tio/nmaea](http://edd.newmexico.gov/tio/nmaea)

### Incubator Certification Support Grant

Supports non-certified incubators seeking certification as a NM Certified Business Incubator by helping them prepare to meet all requirements outlined in state statute.

- Deadline: Apr 2 (5pm MT)
- Webinar: Mar 18 (1pm MT)
- Learn more: [edd.newmexico.gov/tio/certified-incubator](http://edd.newmexico.gov/tio/certified-incubator)

### New Mexico Quantum Technologies Award

Funds early-stage companies working in quantum and quantum-enabling technologies.

- Deadline: Apr 30 (5pm MT)
- Learn more: [edd.newmexico.gov/quantum-grants](http://edd.newmexico.gov/quantum-grants)

### Creative Industries Public Development Projects - Pre-Application

CID invites public entities to submit public development project concepts that support creative industries. This is not a grant application. This pre-application phase allows public entities time to plan and outline projects that may be considered in a future funding opportunity anticipated in Fall 2026.

- Deadline: Jun 30 (6 pm MT)
- Review Period: Jul-Sep 2026
- Grant Application Opens: Fall 2026
- Learn more: [edd.newmexico.gov/cid-grants](http://edd.newmexico.gov/cid-grants)

### EDD CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Senior Administrative Assistant (Albuquerque) - Job ID 161724 - Apply by Apr 2
- Economic Development Coordinator/Regional Rep (Cibola, McKinley, Sandoval or San Juan County) - Job ID 161762 - Apply by Mar 18
- Senior Economist Office (Albuquerque) - Job ID 161452 - Apply by today, Mar 6

## RESOURCE WRAP-UP



### SCORP Survey

Your voice can help shape the future of outdoor recreation in New Mexico.

The state is updating its five-year outdoor recreation plan, and your input will help guide priorities for parks, trails and outdoor access across the state.

[Take the survey by April 15 and share what matters most to you!](#)



### For Businesses

Rolling deadlines and ongoing opportunities:

- [NM CERG \(Clean Energy Resilience and Growth\)](#)
- [Aggie I-Corps](#)
- [NM REAP](#)

### Community & Nonprofit Resources

Rolling deadlines and ongoing opportunities:

- [Main Street America Small Business Hub](#)
- [National Grassroots Organizing Grant Program](#)
- [Community Connect Program](#)

- [Small Business bAIsics](#)
- [Amber Grants](#) - Monthly grants
- [Creative Capital Artist Lab](#)
- [CDFI Resource Library](#)
- Black Business Alliance of Santa Fe, contact [blackbusiness.sf@gmail.com](mailto:blackbusiness.sf@gmail.com)
- [Native Business Roundtables \(Santa Fe\)](#) last Thursday of each month
- [Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund](#)
- [NM REAP](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Assessments](#)

[Small Business Success: Mastering the Essentials](#) Mar 9

[Santa Fe Outdoor Recreation Quarterly Convening](#) Mar 12

[Podcasting Fundamentals Explained: From Idea to First Episode \(Santa Fe\)](#) Mar 17

[Launch Program](#) for women and other under-resourced small business owners. Deadline Mar 17

[Demystifying Financial Foundations: Income, Assets & Cash Flow](#) Mar 18

[Polishing Your Business Idea](#) Mar 25

[Social Media Marketing](#) Mar 26

[WeddingPro Grant](#) Deadline Mar 27

[ABQ Community Foundation grants](#) Deadline Mar 30

[The Creative Process and Copyright \(ABQ\)](#) Event on Apr 2

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

[Lobo Hackathon](#) Apr 9-10

[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

[New Mexico LEEP Fellowship](#) Deadline M

- [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](#)
- [The Grant Plant](#)

[Disaster Recovery Grants](#) for rebuilding after 2024 disasters

[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

[Building Common Ground: Fieldwork](#) - pro bono design and development support to rural and Tribal communities. Deadline Mar 27

[Second Chance Act Youth Reentry Program](#) Deadline Mar 30

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

[Rural Microentrepreneur Program \(RMAP\)](#) Deadline Jun 30

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Visit our YouTube channel to view previously recorded EDD webinars: [www.youtube.com/@newmexicoeconomicdevelopment](https://www.youtube.com/@newmexicoeconomicdevelopment)

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*We love to hear from you!*

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



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