

THE PATHFINDER



April 22, 2026

FROM THE SECRETARY



Earth Day always reminds me of how lucky we are to live in New Mexico: big skies, high-desert air and a diversity of landscapes few other places could only hope to match. Taking care of this special place is something we can all share.

New Mexicans know that if we care for the land, it will continue to provide for us. Our latest round of Outdoor Recreation Division Trails+ Grants is sending \$3.2 million to 18 projects across the state to fix up our trailheads, river parks and wildlife areas, while strengthening our outdoor economy.

New Mexico's ambitious climate goals keep us working toward a cleaner, more resilient future. This week, I'll be in San Francisco for Climate Week to share how we're building an economy that supports families and protects

what makes New Mexico special.

Innovation plays a key role in that work. Our Technology and Innovation Office connects promising ideas to the commercial market. They just launched a new newsletter to help tech trailblazers find funding and support opportunities.

We're focused on building an economy that endures, one that supports our communities, protects our resources and grows opportunities for our families. In New Mexico, we believe climate action and economic growth go hand in hand.

Happy Earth Day,

Rob Black
Cabinet Secretary, NM Economic Development Department

NEWS

Great trails support strong communities

Well-maintained trails and outdoor infrastructure strengthen communities, support local economies and expand access to nature. The Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant has awarded more than \$3.2M to 18 projects across New Mexico — supporting trail development, river parks, wildlife viewing areas, signage and more.

In the news: [Greater access to the Great Outdoors](#)



[Read the press release](#)

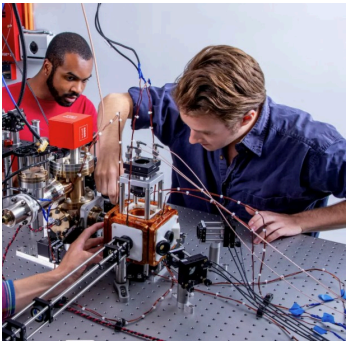


Earth Day: growing a sustainable future

Today is Earth Day, reminding us to remain committed to protecting New Mexico's land, water and air. Our climate goals focus on building a resilient, sustainable future where innovation drives growth. From clean energy to sustainable agriculture and outdoor recreation, we're growing an economy that works for our families. Secretary Rob Black is in San Francisco for Climate Week, joining MJC's *Inevitable* podcast to talk about how New Mexico is building a climate economy. Stay tuned for the episode.

Learn about the podcast: [MJC Inevitable podcast](#)

[Learn about NM's target industries](#)



Technology & Innovation Office launches newsletter

Beyond The Pathfinder, Economic Development New Mexico offers division and topic-specific newsletters and eblasts to keep you informed about grants, opportunities and industry trends. The Technology and Innovation Office recently launched its own newsletter.

Stay up to date with EDNM newsletters & more: [Sign up for specific mailings online](#)

[Check out the 1st edition of the TIO newsletter](#)

EDD OPPORTUNITIES

NEW MEXICO
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DIVISION

NM CreativeCon 2026

Where Creativity and Business Meet

REGIONAL CONVENINGS

MAR 7	CreativeCon Southeast - Carlsbad ✓ Cavern Theater
MAR 28	CreativeCon Northeast - Raton ✓ Shuler Theater
APR 11	CreativeCon Northwest - Gallup ✓ El Morro Theater
APR 25	CreativeCon Southwest - Silver City WNMU Fine Arts Theater
MAY 30	CreativeCon North Central - Pueblo of Pojoaque Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino
STATEWIDE CONVENING, 3 TRACKS, WORKSHOPS, AND MORE!	
JUN 6	CreativeCon Statewide - Albuquerque National Hispanic Cultural Center

OUR SPONSORS

@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 *(Thank you to all the participants!)*
- ✓ 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)

EDD GRANTS AND PROGRAMS

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

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

EDD CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Administrative Assistant (Albuquerque)

- Job ID 163024
- Apply by May 4, 2026

RESOURCE WRAP-UP



Free SCORE Webinars

SCORE is hosting several free webinars to help entrepreneurs hone their skills and take their business to the next level.

Some upcoming offerings:

- [Strategic Cybersecurity Practices](#) Apr 24
- [AI Prompting 101](#) Apr 28
- [The Art of Upselling & Cross-Selling](#) May 12
- [Local SEO](#) May 19
- [Business Loans](#) May 22
- [Email Marketing Made Easy](#) May 26



For Businesses

Rolling deadlines and ongoing opportunities:

- [NM CERG](#)
- [New Mexico True Certified](#)
- [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,](#)
- [Native Business Roundtables \(Santa Fe\)](#) last Thursday of each month
- [Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund](#)
- [NM REAP](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Assessments](#)

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

[Inclusive Beauty Fund Grant](#) Deadline Apr 23

[New Mexico Tech – Inventors and Entrepreneurs Workshop](#) Apr 24

[Enthuse Foundation Grants for Women Entrepreneurs](#) Deadline Apr 27

[Co-Intelligence: Living & Working with AI](#) Apr 29

[A Legal Guide to Patentability Versus Freedom to Operate](#) Apr 29 (hybrid - ABQ & virtual)

[The Many Ways Customers Discover You](#) Apr 29

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

[RDC Microgrants](#) Deadline May 1

[Robinhood Founder Fellowship](#) Deadline May 3

[Close It Summit](#), May 3-5 (Santa Fe)

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

[Security Assistance for Enterprises \(SAFE\) Grant](#) Rolling deadline with limited funding

[NM LEEP Fellowship](#) Deadline May 8

[Angel Investor Hands-on Training](#) every Wed until May 13

[InvestHer: Money Moves - Demystifying DAFs Part 2](#) May 20

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

[Hart Family Fund for Small Towns](#) Deadline May 1

[Talent Search Program](#) Deadline May 1

[Small Community Air Service Development Program](#) Deadline May 4

[NM Workforce Summit](#) May 4-5

[WaterSMART: Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects](#) Deadline May 13

Opportunity Enterprise Grants

- [Commercial Development Program](#)
- [Housing Development Program](#)

Next deadline May 14

[National Quantum and Nanotechnology Infrastructure \(NQNI\)](#) Deadline May 14

[Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) Deadline May 26

[Cybersecurity Education and Workforce Development](#) Deadline May 28

[Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects](#) Deadline Jun 2

[Media Projects](#) Deadline Jun 25

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

[WaterSMART: Applied Science Grants](#) Deadline Jul 8

[WaterSMART Drought Response Program](#) Deadline Jul 28

[Partners for Fish and Wildlife](#) Deadline Sep 30

Special Event: [Heroes Hiring Heroes](#) - Veterans' job fairs

- **April 22, 2026 – Roswell**
- **April 29, 2026 – Albuquerque**

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

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

