

THE PATHFINDER



April 8, 2026

FROM THE SECRETARY



From the beginning, our agency has had a simple mission: create a pathway to prosperity for New Mexico families and help businesses thrive. That's what drives us. And now we have a visual identity that reflects those strengths and values.

This week, we're rolling out our new brand — Economic Development New Mexico — a name and look that reflects our state's evolving economy: tech-driven, diverse, and built on strong partnerships that connect people to opportunity.

It's a fresh, modern look built on the same solid foundation. You'll see that same approach on our new website that launched this week. It's clean, streamlined, and much easier to navigate, helping you quickly find what you

need.

Making those connections is our priority, and we've been busy doing exactly that. In our most recent quarterly JTIP report, 18 companies received \$8 million in workforce support, helping them hire, train, and upskill nearly 400 New Mexicans.

And last week, our Outdoor Recreation Division announced \$1.9 million in Outdoor Equity Fund awards, expanding access to outdoor programs for more than 22,000 young people — with half of those programs serving youth in rural and Tribal communities.

So as we enter this next chapter with a new look and a new digital front door, our commitment remains the same: connecting people, partnerships, and opportunities across New Mexico.

Rob Black
Cabinet Secretary, NM Economic Development Department

NEWS

Award-winning logo and a fresh new look!

We're excited to introduce our refreshed brand and new website. Designed by 3 Advertising, the new logo reflects the energy, innovation and opportunity driving New Mexico's economy. We're also proud to share that the logo earned Best of Show at the American Advertising Federation-New Mexico's ADDY Awards!



Take a look at the new logo



Nearly 400 workers gaining new skills through JTIP

Economic Development's Job Training Incentive Program approved funding for 18 companies to hire, train and upskill 398 workers in the first quarter of 2026. JTIP funding covers at least 50% of trainee wages for up to six months, supporting companies while workers gain valuable skills. This program helps New Mexicans get good-paying jobs and builds a stronger workforce across the state.

In the news: [State awards up to \\$8 million to 18 New Mexico companies for job training](#)

Read the press release



Outdoor Equity Fund to get more than 22,000 youth outdoors

New Mexico's Outdoor Equity Fund is designed to expand equitable access to outdoor opportunities for youth, particularly from low-income and underserved communities. Economic Development's Outdoor Recreation Division recently awarded \$1.9 million across 62 programs to connect 22,000 youth to outdoor programming. Helping youth experience the outdoors fosters stewardship for New Mexico's lands, waters, and cultural heritage while connecting youth to career pathways in the outdoors.

Learn more: [New Mexico invests \\$1.9 million to expand youth outdoor access](#)

Read the press release

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

Economic Development Coordinators




- Regional rep for Catron, Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Sierra and Socorro Counties - Job ID 162455 - Apply by Apr 10
- Regional rep for Bernalillo, Torrance, and Valencia Counties - Job ID 162378 - Apply by Apr 8

RESOURCE WRAP-UP



2nd Annual Space Race

We are thrilled to announce the 2026 Space Race, hosted at the world's first purpose-built commercial spaceport! Whether you're a competitive athlete aiming for a 15K PR or a family looking for a 5K mission, this is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to experience Spaceport America from the ground up.

-  When: Saturday, May 9, 2026
-  Where: Truth or Consequences, NM
-  Distances: 15K, 10K, and 5K



Celebrate Mother's Day weekend with us! We're honoring all moms with flowers at the finish line, and every participant will take home a custom Space Race shirt and finisher's medal. 🌸

Secure your spot at the gateway to space: <https://lnkd.in/gjPUqzMF>

For Businesses

Rolling deadlines and ongoing opportunities:

- [NM CERG \(Clean Energy Resilience and Growth\)](#)
- [New Mexico True Certified](#)
- [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](#)
- [Anderson Charitable Foundation Grants](#)

- [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
- [Native Business Roundtables \(Santa Fe\)](#) last Thursday of each month
- [Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund](#)
- [NM REAP](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Assessments](#)
- [How to leverage grants for your business](#) (podcast)

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

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

- April 9, 2026 – Farmington
- April 15, 2026 – Alamogordo
- April 22, 2026 – Roswell
- April 29, 2026 – Albuquerque

[Lobo Hackathon](#) Apr 9-10

[Bioscience Entrepreneurship Experience Internship presentation](#) Apr 10

[RDC TEAM \(Technology & Manufacturing\) Fund](#) Deadline Apr 10

[Small Business Success: Mastering the Essentials](#) Apr 18

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

[A Legal Guide to Patentability Versus Freedom to Operate](#) Apr 29 in ABQ

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

[RDC Microgrants](#) Deadline May 1

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

[New Mexico LEEP Fellowship](#) Deadline May 8

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

- [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](#)

[RDC Tribal Grants](#) Deadline Apr 10

[Destination Forward Grant](#) Deadline Apr 15

[Rural Health Care Delivery Fund](#) Deadline Apr 19

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

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

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

Opportunity Enterprise Grants

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

Next deadline May 14

[Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program](#) Eligibility questionnaire deadline Apr 15; application period May 1-Jul 10

[Media Projects](#) Deadline Jun 25

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

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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