

# The Pathfinder



March 19, 2026

## FROM THE SECRETARY



New Mexico's 2026 legislative session was short, but it delivered big results for economic growth and innovation. Lawmakers advanced key policies that strengthen the state's business climate, including extending the High-Wage Jobs Tax Credit, unlocking C-PACE financing for properties backed by Industrial Revenue Bonds and updating the Advanced Energy Equipment Tax Credit to include fusion as the industry expands in New Mexico.

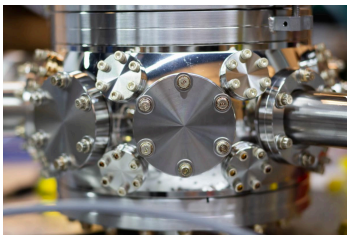
The state also made major investments to keep momentum building as we grow an economy that lifts up New Mexico families. Key investments in economic development include:

- **\$110 million for the research, development and deployment (RD&D) fund** to support early-stage innovation and commercialization across the state.
- **\$49.3 million for DARPA quantum benchmarking**, providing state matching funds for the federal Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency initiative.
- **\$38 million** to establish a centralized open user **facility for applied quantum information science research**, including workforce training space and collaboration with national laboratories.
- **\$15 million to support innovation hubs** throughout the state.
- **\$11.6 million for Technology Innovation Office (TIO) grants** supporting small businesses, entrepreneurs, startups and research and development in science and technology sectors.
- **\$10 million for quantum innovation projects** to solidify New Mexico as an industry hub.
- **\$10 million for higher education partnerships** supporting endowed faculty positions and postdoctoral researchers across New Mexico institutions.
- **\$10 million for Trails+ Grants** to fund community-led trail development and improvements, restoration of forests and watersheds, and infrastructure projects.
- **\$3.5 million for Outdoor Equity Fund**, a program dedicated to connecting underserved youth with outdoor experiences.
- **\$3 million** to continue to support the **Quantum New Mexico Institute**.
- **\$2 million for business recruitment** and attraction efforts that promote New Mexico's economic development opportunities.
- **\$2 million for the Healthy Food Financing Fund** to support the intersection of economic development in New Mexico's food/agricultural supply chain with increased food security for New Mexicans.

Coming off that strong session, our EDD team was in Austin this week for SXSW as a lead partner of the **New Mexico House**, highlighting the state's growing role in frontier technologies, film and digital media.

New Mexico's creative community continues to make an impact as well. The Creative Industries Division recently hosted its first regional **CreativeCon** in Carlsbad, bringing artists, entrepreneurs, and cultural leaders together. Additional events are planned across the state. Take a look and join us!

Rob Black  
Cabinet Secretary, NM Economic Development Department



## Governor signs budget with \$150 million for quantum initiatives

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the \$11.1 billion state budget for fiscal year 2027. The budget funds higher education, universal childcare, economic development initiatives and more.

In the news: [New Mexico governor signs \\$11.1B state budget](#)

[Read the press release](#)



## New Mexico shines at SXSW

At SXSW 2026 in Austin, New Mexico made a strong showing, with the New Mexico Economic Development Department spotlighting the state's leadership in frontier technologies, film and digital media.

Through panels, showcases and networking, EDD connected with industry leaders while highlighting New Mexico's talent, culture and opportunities.

New Mexico House at SXSW reinforced our state's place on the global stage.

In the news: [State officials, business leaders pitch New Mexico as deep tech hub at SXSW festival](#)

[Read the press release](#)



## CreativeCon is officially on the road

CreativeCon 2026, a celebration of New Mexico's creative community, kicked off its first event on March 7 in Carlsbad.

The event was one of the biggest to come to the Cavern Theater since their remodel! Attendees came from Carlsbad, Roswell, Cloudcroft, Lovington, Artesia, Ruidoso, Carrizozo, Hobbs, Tatum and High Rolls New Mexico.

Check out our videos from the Carlsbad event on the CreativeCon webpage and sign up to join us at your regional event or at the statewide event in Albuquerque.

Learn more: [Check out the schedule and videos at \[edd.newmexico.gov/CreativeCon\]\(http://edd.newmexico.gov/CreativeCon\)](#)

[Read the CreativeCon Q&A from Shani Harvie](#)

**NEW MEXICO CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DIVISION**

# NM CreativeCon 2026

**Where Creativity and Business Meet**

REGIONAL CONVENINGS

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

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

### [EDD GRANTS AND PROGRAMS](#)

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)
- 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.

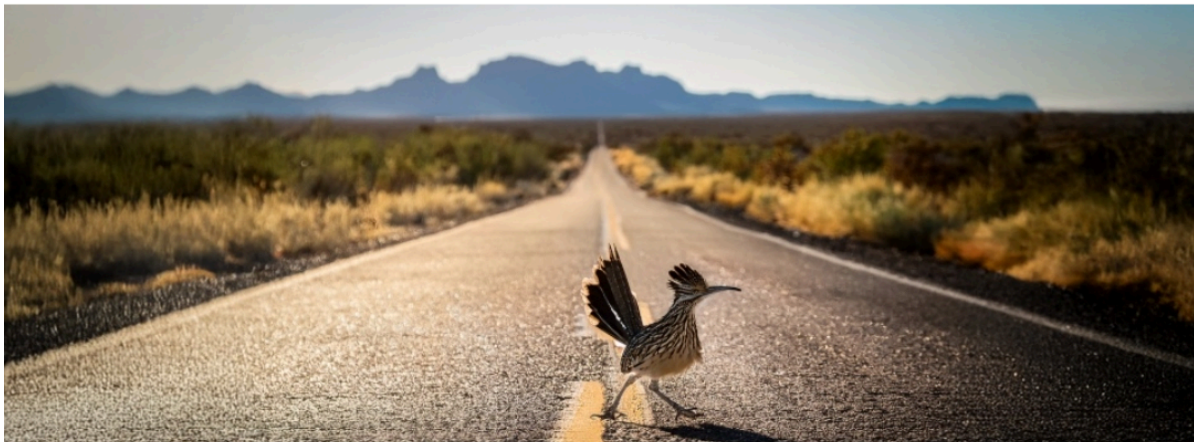
- Deadline: Jun 30 (6 pm MT)
- Review Period: Jul-Sep 2026
- Grant Application Opens: Fall 2026
- Learn more: [edd.newmexico.gov/cid-grants](http://edd.newmexico.gov/cid-grants)

### **EDD CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

- Economic Development Coordinator - Regional rep for Catron, Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Sierra and Socorro Counties - Job ID 161861 - Apply by Mar 23
- Outdoor Recreation Division Business Operations Analyst (Santa Fe) - Job ID 162106 - Apply by Mar 30
- Senior Administrative Assistant (Albuquerque) - Job ID 161724 - Apply by Apr 2

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## **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](#)
- [Small Business bAlsics](#)
- [Amber Grants](#) - Monthly grants

### **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](#)

- [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](#)

[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

[New Mexico LEEP Fellowship](#) Webinar Apr 7; Deadline May 8

[Lobo Hackathon](#) Apr 9-10

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

[RDC Microgrants](#) Deadline May 1

- [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](#)

[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

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

[RDC Tribal Grants](#) Deadline Apr 10

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

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

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

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