

THE PATHFINDER



May 13, 2026

FROM THE SECRETARY



Strong communities are the backbone of a strong economy. When opportunities reach our small towns and rural areas in New Mexico, they ripple outward in powerful ways. That's a big reason we focus on engagement and access, so every community has a real seat at the table.

Last week at the State Tribal Leaders Summit, we met directly with tribal leadership to strengthen relationships and align on shared economic priorities. It was also an opportunity to introduce Yuriria Morales-Mangone in her new role as our Tribal Liaison. Yuri now also serves as our Global Partnerships and Economic Transition Representative and will help us deepen collaboration and build partnerships that support long-term economic growth.

Expanding access also means investing in the systems that support everyday life. This month, \$1.6 million from our Healthy Food Financing Fund is supporting 25 projects that strengthen local agriculture and expand access to fresh food — from rural markets and food hubs to mobile grocery programs serving underserved communities.

We're also supporting the people whose creativity helps define New Mexico. Nearly \$245,000 in recent Creative Industries grants will help 10 creative businesses grow, reach new customers and continue contributing to the unique character of their communities.

Together, these efforts are about making sure opportunity reaches every corner of New Mexico.

Rob Black
Cabinet Secretary, Economic Development New Mexico

NEWS

New Tribal Liaison for Economic Development: Yuriria Morales-Mangone

Economic Development is pleased to introduce our new Tribal Liaison, Yuriria Morales-Mangone. Yuriria has been with the department for over three and a half years and recently stepped into this new role. As Tribal Liaison, she will help facilitate economic development by bridging state agencies,



local governments and tribal nations to support Native entrepreneurs, tourism and infrastructure projects.

Yuriria's bio and new position



New Mexico invests \$1.6M in local food systems

Food is life, *and* it's economic development. The state is investing \$1.6 million across 25 projects to expand access to fresh food and support the communities that grow and process it. Through the **Healthy Food Financing Fund**, this funding backs real, on-the-ground solutions: mobile grocery programs, rural markets and infrastructure for food producers.

Learn about the EDNM's Food, Hunger, and Agriculture Program: <https://www.edd.newmexico.gov/food>

Read the press release



10 creative businesses receive grants to expand their reach

Creative industries are major economic drivers in New Mexico, and 10 businesses are sharing \$245,000 in state grant money to improve operations and build long-term stability. These Business Development & Expansion Grants, awarded by our Creative Industries Division, are the second batch of awards this fiscal year.

In the news: [Creative businesses in New Mexico receive nearly \\$245,000 in state grant money](#)

Read about the awardees

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 ✓ WNUM 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.

Only 2 events left! 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, WNUM 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

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)
- **Informational webinar: May 22 (10 am MT)**
- Grant Application Opens: Fall 2026
- Learn more and get webinar link: edd.newmexico.gov/cid-grants

EDD CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Business Operations Analyst (Albuquerque)

- Job ID 163409
- Apply by May 19, 2026

RESOURCE WRAP-UP

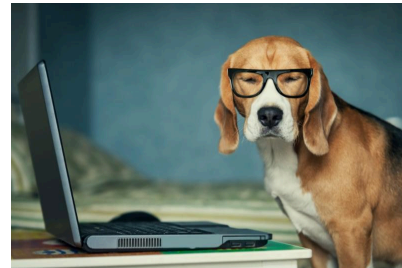


Free SCORE Webinars

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

Some upcoming offerings:

- [Small Business Success: Mastering the Essentials](#) May 19
- [Marketing Strategy](#) May 16
- [Polishing Your Business Idea](#) May 16
- [Social Media Marketing](#) May 16
- [Local SEO](#) May 19
- [Business Loans](#) May 22
- [Email Marketing Made Easy](#) May 26
- [Demystifying Financial Foundations: Income, Assets & Cash Flow](#) May 27
- [Everything HR – for new and existing businesses](#) May 28



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](#)
- [W.K. 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](#)
- [W.K. Kellogg Foundation Grants](#)

- [Santa Fe Small Business Navigator Program](#)
- [Native American Bank](#)
- [Main Street America's Small Business Hub](#)

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

[How to Produce a Website as a Blind Person Seminar](#) May 13 (at 1pm - you can still make it!)

[Small Business Heroes Grant](#) Deadline May 15

[SBIR 101 Webinar](#) May 19

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

[Applying Lean Thinking to Small-Scale Production](#) May 27

[WomensNet Mental & Emotional Support Business & Organizations Grants](#) Deadline May 31

[Black Business Owners Ingredients for Success Grant](#) Deadline Jun 1

[Art Is The Solution Grant](#) Deadline Jun 1

[Smart Money Program with AI + \\$5,000 mini-grants](#) Webinar Jun 1

[EmpowHer Grant](#) Deadline Jun 15

[Fusion Supply Chain Trade Show \(Santa Fe\)](#) Jun 23-24

[Kirabo Grant for businesses in under-resourced communities](#) Deadline Jun 28

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

- Opportunity Enterprise Grant deadline May 14
- [Commercial Development Program](#)
- [Housing Development Program](#)

[Unlocking Community Capital](#) May 14

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

[The Levitt Model: Building Community through Free Outdoor Concerts](#) May 19

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

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

[Tax Counseling for the Elderly](#) Deadline May 31

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

[Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grant Program](#) Deadline Jun 22

[Media Projects](#) Deadline Jun 25

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

[Annual Tribal Historic Preservation Office Grants](#) Deadline Jun 30

[RFI: lease of state lands in ABQ](#) Deadline Jul 6

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

[Unleashing Tribal Energy Development](#) Deadline Jul 24

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

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

