

THE PATHFINDER



June 17, 2026

FROM THE SECRETARY



June is **National Outdoors Month**, and there's simply no better place to celebrate than right here. No other state can boast New Mexico's breathtaking natural wonder or sheer diversity of outdoor experiences. They don't call us the "*Land of Enchantment*" for nothing.

We all have our favorites. For me, it's mountain biking in the Sandias, rock climbing around Cochiti Pueblo and skiing in Taos. What are some of yours? There's plenty to choose from.

Earlier this year, New Mexico's outdoor economy was reported at \$3.6 billion, supporting more than 31,000 jobs. At the center of that work is our Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD), making sure New Mexico's outdoor abundance reaches every community in the state.

This month, ORD announced \$4.5 million for its Outdoor Equity Fund — one of its largest investments yet in a program connecting underserved youth to hiking, camping, conservation and career pathways. Also opening this month, is the high-demand Trails+ grants, which make our outdoor spaces safer and more accessible, spurring on local economies throughout the state.

We also have to preserve the land itself — reflected in the Border Authority's recent milestone on a \$30 million Berm Project shielding 1,800 acres near Columbus from recurring floods.

Rounding out a busy news stretch, a new state law now allows more developers to access New Mexico's C-PACE program, financing energy and water efficiency upgrades through private capital — no public dollars required.

Read more on all this activity below and do yourself a favor when you're done: get outside! It's beautiful out there.

Rob Black
Cabinet Secretary, Economic Development New Mexico

NEWS

High-demand Outdoor Rec grants open for applications

\$4.5 million in youth outdoor programs will be available through the **Outdoor Equity Fund (OEF)**, exceeding funding by \$3.7 over last year and marking one of the largest annual allocations



to date in the highly competitive program. OEF funded projects help connect youth to outdoor experiences, including workforce development opportunities.

Also opening soon is the **Outdoor Rec Trails+ Grant**, with \$12 million available for community outdoor recreation projects that expand outdoor trail access. Demand for this program surged to a record-breaking \$27 million in funding requests in FY26 — a \$2 million increase from FY25 — underscoring the growing need for improved outdoor access across the state.

Applications open July 1. Please check the website for details, deadlines, and webinar registrations.

Learn more and apply online: nmoutside.com

In the news: [Over \\$4 million will go towards outdoor programs in New Mexico, state announces](#)

[Read the OEF press release](#)

[Read the Trails+ press release](#)



Milestone reached in flood protection in the border region

The New Mexico Border Authority, in partnership with Luna County, will protect approximately 1,800 acres along the U.S.-Mexico border from flooding with a new flood control berm — opening the door to development that flooding had long made impossible to insure or finance.

Phase 3 is the first of three phases to reach completion and represents critical flood control and border infrastructure. State and local leaders celebrated this milestone in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new berm site on June 3.

In the news: [Major flood diversion project opens first phase in Columbus](#)

[Read the press release](#)



C-PACE clears path for more clean energy financing

C-PACE is a financing tool that helps property owners pay for upgrades like energy-efficient lighting, heating and cooling systems, water-saving fixtures and renewable energy. It covers up to 100% of costs and is repaid over a longer period of time — up to 30 years — through a special property assessment. The program is funded entirely by private capital, with no public dollars required.

Since launching, New Mexico's C-PACE program has supported nearly \$146 million in projects, cutting energy and water use while reducing carbon emissions.

Read the press release

EDD OPPORTUNITIES

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)
- Full grant application opens: Fall 2026 (pre-application required)
- Learn more and get webinar link: edd.newmexico.gov/cid-grants

Science & Technology Business Startup Grants

- Deadline: Jul 7 (5pm)
- Informational webinar: June 23 (2pm)
- Learn more: edd.newmexico.gov/st-business-startup-grant

EDD CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Administrative Assistant (Santa Fe)

- Job ID 164389
- Apply by Jun 22

Economic Development Coordinator – aka Regional Rep (Santa Fe)

- Job ID 164390
- Apply by Jun 22

Economic Development Infrastructure Program Manager (Albuquerque)

- Job ID 164280
- Apply by Jul 3

RESOURCE WRAP-UP



Access to Capital Webinar Series

June 17 | July 15 | August 19 | 1 p.m. MT

Through a partnership with the US Bank Foundation, Main Street America is hosting a series of webinars for small business owners to help them gain the skills to access capital and build strong and sustainable ventures.

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

[Funding Your Dream: Exploring Loans, Equity, Crowdfunding, & More](#) Jun 17

[Creating Realistic Financial Projections for Your Small Business](#) Jun 17

[Above the Line Networking Event for film and media professionals](#) (Santa Fe) Jun 18

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

[SEO Basics and How Searching Your Business Is Changing](#) (Santa Fe) June 24

[Santa Fe Business Spur Grant](#) Deadline June 30

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

[Entrepreneur Bootcamp for Native American Veterans](#) Deadline Jul 10

[What Are Lenders Looking for When You Apply for a Business Loan?](#) Jul 15

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

[Business Plan Basics](#) Aug 19

[SBIR 101 Workshop](#) (Albuquerque) Sep 15

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

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

[Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response \(SAFER\) Grant](#) Deadline Jun 22

[Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant](#) Deadline Jun 23

[Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Technical Assistance Webinar Series](#)
3 sessions left with different topics: Jun 24, Jul 8 and Jul 29

[Media Projects](#) Deadline Jun 25

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

[Semiquincentennial Preservation Grants](#) Deadline Jun 30

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

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

[AI Upskill Accelerator Pilot Program](#) Deadline Jul 10

[Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects](#) Deadline Jul 15

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

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

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



Economic Development New Mexico | 1100 South St. Francis Dr Joseph M. Montoya Building | Santa Fe,
NM 87505 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)