TO:        Chief Law Enforcement Officers  
            Joaquin Nielsen, New Mexico Department of Public Safety

FROM:      Donnie J. Quintana, Director  
            Local Government Division

DATE:      February 21, 2020

RE:        Law Enforcement Protection Fund (LEPF) Application

Attached are the application and instructions for the Law Enforcement Protection Fund (LEPF) Distribution. We ask that you return the completed application to the Local Government Division (LGD) with a postmark date no later than March 31, 2020. Applications submitted after that date or incomplete may be denied.

The LGD is required by Section 29-13-4.A NMSA 1978 to determine the relative needs of all local law enforcement agencies by April 15. In order to meet this statutory requirement, it is imperative that LGD receive all applications by March 31, 2020.

There are three important components to focus on in filling out the application. First, all parts of the application must be completed. Second, the mayor or chairman and police chief or sheriff – not their designees - must sign the application. Third, the application must include the names of certified municipal police officer, county sheriff department officers on the Supplemental Schedule.

House Bill (HB) 184 from the 2020 legislative session is pending governor action. If signed into law, this legislation would increase distributions from the law enforcement protection fund, effective July 1, 2022 and therefore not impacting the upcoming fiscal year 2021 LEPF distributions.

The amounts listed on the application and instructions are based on current law. A written notification of the amount of distribution will be sent to applicants by May 1, 2020.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) verifies the certification of officers. All officers for whom the $600 award is requested must be certified by July 1, 2020. On your LEPF application, for an officer to be funded, their name must appear on the March 31, 2020 DPS Registry, or must be enrolled in the New Mexico Police Academy with an anticipated graduation date prior to or on July 1, 2020. Therefore, please verify the officers for whom you are requesting funding are listed on the DPS registry. See Section 10.29.9.10 of New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) for registry reporting requirements.
Lastly, House Bill 4 from the 2017 legislative session was signed into law on January 31, 2017 requiring periodic distributions. If possible, LGD will make a one-time annual distribution in August. However, you will be notified of any changes in the timing of distributions on the final distribution letter that goes out on May 31, 2020.

If you need assistance, call Jolene Gonzales, Special Projects Analyst, at 505-827-4900.