TO: Chief Tribal/Pueblo 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.

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 items to focus on in filling out the application. First, all parts of the application must be completed. Second, the chief law enforcement officer must sign the application. Third, the application must include the names of certified officers on the Supplemental Schedule. Certification of officers will be verified by the Department of Public Safety (DPS), based on the March 31, 2020 Registry.

The chief law enforcement officer must sign the application certifying that the tribal/pueblo police department is not citing non-Indians into the court of its tribe or pueblo, whether it be a civil or criminal citation. If this type of citation activity is occurring, your law enforcement entity is not eligible for LEPF funding.

House Bill (HB) 184 from the 2020 legislative session is pending governor action. If signed into law, this legislation would increase distributions from the LEPF, 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. Written notification of the amount of distribution will be sent to the applicants by May 1, 2020.

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 any assistance, call Jolene Gonzales Special Projects Analyst, at 505-827-4933.