



New Mexico
Department of Finance
and Administration

Infrastructure Planning
and Development Division

June Newsletter

Welcome to the June Newsletter for the Infrastructure Planning and Development Division!

As summer begins across New Mexico, IPDD remains committed to supporting communities, Tribes, Nations, Pueblos, local governments, schools, special districts, and state agencies. This month, we are pleased to share updates on our division bureaus', funding opportunities, technical assistance resources, and tools designed to help communities build capacity and navigate the funding landscape. We appreciate your continued partnership and look forward to helping you turn project ideas into successful outcomes that strengthen communities throughout New Mexico.

Spotlight

Upcoming ICIP Submission Deadlines and Requirements

ICIP Submission Timeline



**may be earlier depending on capital outlay request form publication

State Agency ICIP Submissions

The Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) deadline for all State Agencies is **Wednesday, July 1, 2026**. The ICIP planning tool establishes a five-year look-ahead for your agency's priorities, ensuring critical infrastructure needs are clearly communicated to the Governor and Legislators. Please log into the ICIP database ([CAPS](#)) and complete all project updates, budget details, and agency certifications by the deadline.

The State Agency Certification and Checklist can be found on the DFA website under "State Agency ICIP." Late entries will not be accepted, so early preparation and internal coordination are strongly encouraged. State Agencies can review the ICIP training provided on Wednesday, May 27th [here](#).

For questions related to your State Agency or Higher Education ICIP submission, please contact **Ryan Serrano**. ryans.serrano@dfa.nm.gov or 505-819-1568.

Local Government ICIP Submissions

Local government Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans (ICIPs) are due July 1st as well. This includes counties, municipalities, Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes as well as special districts such as mutual domestics, land grants, acequias, SWCDs and more. To complete your ICIP, your projects need to be in Submitted status and ranked/prioritized. The resolution from your Governing Body must be uploaded in [CAPS](#).

K-12 Public Schools have until Friday, August 28 to submit their ICIPs along with a supporting letter from their district superintendent. Charter Schools should submit a letter from the principal or head of school.

Reminder, ICIP projects/plans are now required for any capital outlay requests for \$100,000 or more. If you think you will be applying for capital outlay this fall, please log onto CAPS and get started on your ICIP. Late entries will not be accepted, so early preparation and internal coordination are strongly encouraged.

For questions regarding the Local Government ICIP submission, please contact **Mary Ann Maestas** at maryann.maestas@dfa.nm.gov or at 505-487-3523.

Capital Planning and Policy Bureau Updates

So You Got an Appropriation- Now What?

When capital outlay appropriations are made during each legislative session, it may seem like there is a delay in receiving grant agreements and starting the projects, but there is a lot of work involved behind the scenes to get to the grant agreement stage. During the 2026 legislative session, more than 1,300 individual appropriations were made totaling approximately \$1.17 billion in the Senate Bill 240, which does not include reauthorizations or unbudgeted appropriations from previous years. Let's look



at the process of what work must take place between the legislative session and the issuance of grant agreements.

1. **FUNDING REQUESTS & APPROVALS:** Capital outlay requests are made through the Legislative Council Service and/or the Office of the Governor. As you might imagine, the need to fund projects in communities across the state outweighs the amount of available funds, so submitting a request for funding does not guarantee an appropriation will ultimately be made or funding will be provided in the capital outlay bill.
2. **UPLOADING & QUESTIONNAIRES GENERATION:** After the appropriations made in the capital outlay and reauthorization bills are finalized and executed by the Governor, DFA creates a project list that is uploaded into the CAPS system for the purposes of completing funding questionnaires. In 2026, DFA reviewed over 1,600 individual appropriation questionnaires. Please remember that the availability of questionnaires may vary from year to year depending on whether the legislative session is 30 days or 60 days.
3. **QUESTIONNAIRE COMPLETION & STATE OVERSIGHT VETTING:** Once the questionnaires are available in CAPS, different teams within DFA review the questionnaires based on the type of funding used to finance each project. DFA's Infrastructure Division (IPDD) reviews appropriations made through the general fund and the State Board of Finance reviews appropriations made with severance tax bonds. The purpose of the questionnaire process is to determine the eligibility of the use of funds and evaluate project readiness before the bond sale and budgeting process. Questionnaires often must be returned for additional details, clarifications, and questions from DFA which prolong the process.
4. **BUDGET UPLOAD:** Questionnaires determined to be "Ready" are then included on a list of projects to be included in the budget upload process. Rather than having oversight agencies establish budgets for their respective appropriations, DFA, in consultation with the oversight agencies, uploads all the budgets simultaneously. For entities that are not ready to proceed or do not complete a questionnaire will have the opportunity to do so approximately 6 months later in a subsequent questionnaire cycle. Keep in mind that unless there is an emergency clause in the funding bill(s), the budget cannot be uploaded prior to July 1st in the months following the legislative session.
5. **GRANT AGREEMENTS ISSUANCE:** During the budget consultation process with DFA, oversight agencies are aware projects that will have budget established and may proactively generate grant agreements. In some instances, grant agreements may be issued by the oversight agency but will not execute those agreements until July 1st and the budget has been established.

Although there may be a sensation that something is delayed after the legislative session, it takes a team effort to get funding to the appropriate entity. DFA's goal is to work as quickly as possible to ensure the necessary steps take place efficiently so that capital outlay projects can proceed as soon as possible.

CDBG 2026 Application Cycle Kick-Off

IPDD launched the 2026 application cycle for CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) infrastructure funding with a virtual workshop on June 3 with 118 participants across New Mexico. CDBG is more exciting than ever for 2026: 1) no cap on grant amount requested; 2) no match required for rural entities; 3) cap on administrative services raised to 5%; 4) new cap on professional services of 20%; and 5) more competitive scoring criteria. Applicants for 2026 are required to have an external administrator for their proposed project, and if awarded funding, will have up to 3 years to complete their projects.



Eligible applicants may include municipalities and counties throughout the state which do not currently have an open CDBG infrastructure project. Potential applicants will need to qualify on the basis of proposed benefit to Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) persons. Interested applicants must pass a test and initiate the LMI (Low to Moderate Income) qualification process by **June 30** to continue in the application process. Technical assistance opportunities include one on one meetings with DFA, as well as office hour opportunities on June 23 and July 8.

The final deadline for applications is **August 11**. To learn more about the application process and requirements please visit the website:

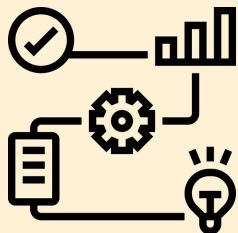
<https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/infrastructure-planning-and-development-division/cdbg-information/>

Contact Donna Stewart, CDBG Program Manager (donnaj.stewart@dfa.nm.gov) and the CDBG team to find out more.

<u>Donna Stewart</u>	CDBG Program Manager	505-231-2993
<u>Stephanie Kramer</u>	CDBG Project Manager	505-690-4621
<u>Cristina Caltagirone</u>	CDBG Project Manager	505-470-0977
<u>Domenica Cimino</u>	CDBG Project Manager	505-618-0266
<u>Jaelynn Narvaiz</u>	CDBG Project Manager	505-690-5313

Federal Grants Bureau Updates

From Story to Strategy: Leveraging Census Data for Stronger Grant Applications



Reliable, data-driven information is a critical component of a strong, competitive grant application. While compelling projects and well-written narratives are important, funding agencies and grant reviewers require applicants to support statements of need with factual evidence that clearly demonstrates community conditions, disparities, trends, and projected impacts. One of the most valuable and accessible tools available for data is the U.S.

Census Bureau. The Census is a useful resource for demographic, economic, housing, and social data that can help applicants quantify need, identify target

populations, support equity analyses, and strengthen project justification. Commonly used data points include population trends, poverty rates, median household income, educational attainment, broadband access, disability status, and housing characteristics. These statistics can help effectively articulate community conditions through numerical data, graphs, and other visualizations that illustrate how and why a proposed project is critical to the specific population, area, or community being served.

In addition to [Census resources](#), New Mexico based data platforms may provide a more practical and efficient starting point for identifying relevant local and regional information. Sources such as [UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research \(BBER\)](#) and [UNM GPS](#) provide geographic and area-specific data, mapping tools, economic analysis, and community indicators that can help applicants quickly locate useful statistics and contextual information for project planning and grant narratives.

Skillfully integrating data into grant narratives is essential to telling an accurate and meaningful story of community need. The most competitive applications use data to describe why a project is necessary, the challenges facing the community, and the anticipated impact of proposed investments. Comparing local conditions to state or national averages can also help provide context and highlight urgency or disparities. Ultimately, data transforms a grant narrative from a good concept into a credible, well-supported, evidence-based initiative.

Updates for Grant Administrators

Grants Management - Five Things To Know

Who this is for: State, city, county, school district, and Tribal Government staff in New Mexico who manage grant funds.

Key rule: 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Guidance) is the main federal rulebook. State rules include NMSA 1978 §12-6-1 (Single Audit Act) and §13-1-1 (Procurement Code) and NM MAPS.

#	Practice	Federal Rule	State Rule
1	Keep Detailed, Organized Records	2 CFR §200.334 (retention)	NMSA §12-6-14
2	Follow Procurement Rules When Buying	2 CFR §§200.317–.327 (procurement standards)	NMSA §13-1-1 et seq. (NM Procurement Code)
3	Only Spend on Allowed, Necessary Items	2 CFR §200.403 (allowability)	See Notice of Award
4	Track Time for Grant-Funded Employees	2 CFR §200.430 (time & effort)	NMSA §6-5-7
5	Submit Reports on Time and Accurately	2 CFR §200.329 (performance reporting)	NMSA §12-6-3

[Click here for more details.](#)

You're Still on the Hook: The Real Costs of Weak Subaward Oversight



Effective management and monitoring of subawards is essential to strong grant stewardship. When a prime recipient passes federal grant funds to a subrecipient, the responsibility for ensuring the eligibility of activities performed under the grant does not transfer. Although both parties share this responsibility, the prime recipient remains ultimately responsible for the financial integrity, performance outcomes, and overall compliance of federal funding.

A foundational element of strong subaward oversight is a meaningful pre-award risk assessment. This process helps determine whether a potential partner can manage federal funds responsibly. Prime recipients should establish a vetting process well before awards are made to subrecipients. A sound vetting process ensures that each subrecipient or contractor understands and can meet federal requirements. Misclassifying an entity as a contractor rather than a subrecipient is a common error that can reduce transparency and limit oversight, increasing the risk of non-compliance.

Audit findings from the Office of Inspector General underscore the consequences of inadequate subaward management. Common issues include unsupported or unallowable expenses, improper application of indirect or fringe rates, and failure to follow federal regulations, award terms, or institutional policies. These findings often reveal broader problems—overreliance on trust, inconsistent processes, insufficient training, and poorly documented monitoring. In severe cases, funds may have to be returned, damaging both financial stability and organizational reputation.

Effective oversight depends on tailoring subaward terms, communicating expectations clearly, verifying key information, and adjusting monitoring intensity based on the assessed level of risk. Technology can strengthen these efforts through centralized documentation, automated tracking, and improved transparency.

Ultimately, four practices significantly reduce risk: conducting meaningful risk assessments, customizing subaward agreements, using technology for active monitoring, and maintaining rigorous due diligence. Strong processes—supported by clear communication and regular follow-up—ensure that the Prime Recipient fulfills its responsibilities. No matter how experienced a partner may appear, the Prime Recipient remains accountable for the proper management of the grant.

Weigh in on Opportunity Zone Designations!

Congress has authorized a new round of Opportunity Zone (OZ) designations under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, and New Mexico is preparing to nominate up to **65 census tracts** for a fresh 10-year designation period beginning January 1, 2027. Opportunity Zones are a powerful economic development tool that attract private investment into low-income and underserved communities by offering significant federal capital gains tax incentives to investors. The new round represents a meaningful opportunity for local governments and communities to shape where that investment flows.

What you need to know: EDNM (formerly EDD) is coordinating the nomination process in partnership with the state's Councils of Governments (COGs). COGs submitted preliminary nominations in early May, and EDNM is now compiling and analyzing those nominations to get an initial list of nominations to the Governor's office by mid-July.

If your community wants to weigh in, there is still time: Local governments, economic development organizations, and community stakeholders with questions about the nomination process or interest in nominating investment ready tracts in their area, or discussing whether specific census tracts may be a good fit for OZ 2.0, are encouraged to reach out directly to EDNM or your regional Council of Governments, by the end of June. Because designation does not guarantee investment, EDNM is prioritizing those census tracts that are **investment ready**. Nominations with identified shovel-ready sites, master plans, multi-family zoning, residential/workforce housing planned, available land, modernized local zoning and permitting conditions, overlapping economic incentives or federal, state, local funding initiatives, and proximity to economic anchors (universities, downtowns, hospitals etc) can make convincing nomination justifications that the area is ready to take advantage of Qualified Opportunity Fund investors.

For more information, contact the New Mexico Economic Development Department at Joshua.smith@edd.nm.gov or visit the Opportunity Zones 2.0 page on [EDNM's website](#).

[EDNM Website](#)

Training & Technical Assistance Opportunities



ENVISION SUSTAINABILITY PROFESSIONAL (ENV SP) TRAINING SESSIONS

Hosted and Subsidized by the New Mexico
Department of Transportation

Provides eight-hours of in-person instruction on how to enhance the social, economic, and environmental outcomes of NMDOT projects and help achieve sustainability and resilience objectives.

LOCATIONS AND DATES

- **DISTRICT 5:** June 24, 2026 (*Non-DOT Registration Opens June 12, 2026*) 1120 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM
- **DISTRICT 6:** July 15, 2026 (*Non-DOT Registration Opens July 3, 2026*) 1919 Pinon Drive, Milan, NM

TIME: 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

COSTS:

Employees of NMDOT: **\$0.00**

Employees of Private Sector Consulting Firms or Contractors: **\$250.00**

Employees of Local Governments, Tribes, or Public Sector Orgs.: **\$100.00**

OVERVIEW:

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) is developing a sustainable infrastructure program to help meet state climate, resilience, and sustainability objectives. Molzen-Corbin, along with Bohannon Huston, Iliago, and 5engineering, was retained to conduct this work and to provide training.

Michael F. Bloom, PE, AICP, ENV SP and Liz Parent, PE, ENV SP, both with 5engineering, will provide instruction. The class will include breakfast, lunch, and a binder with handouts and the Envision Sustainable Infrastructure Framework manual.

See <https://sustainableinfrastructure.org/> for additional details.

Attendees will become eligible to take the ENV SP exam on the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure website. ENV SPs use the Envision framework to help deliver enhanced social, environmental, and economic outcomes on projects.

This class is open to anyone over 18 years of age and planners, landscape architects, policy analysts, engineers, and others are encouraged to attend.

The class will provide 7.5 Credential Maintenance Hours for Certified Planners, including 1 hour of equity and 1 hour of sustainability and resilience.

REGISTRATION: [Choose from among the events listed under the 5engineering profile on the Eventbrite platform \(hyperlink\).](#)

Funding Opportunities



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Program: [Title XVI Water Reclamation & Reuse Projects](#)

Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

Deadline: August 26, 2026 (feasibility studies by June 26, 2026), and August 26, 2027 (feasibility studies by January 15, 2027)

Funding: \$25,000 to \$1,500,000

Program: [WaterSMART Drought Response Program](#)

Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

Deadline: Jul 28, 2026

Funding: \$25,000 to \$1,500,000

Overview: Through WaterSMART, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to work cooperatively with

Overview: Requires 75% Cost Share.

This NOFO supports the following programs:

Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse, Desalination Construction, Large-Scale Water Recycling, Water Recycling and Desalination Planning. The objectives of this NOFO is to help communities develop new, reliable sources of clean water through recycling and desalination; diversify local water portfolios by turning previously unusable water into a drought-resistant supply; reduce reliance on vulnerable water supplies during times of shortage and drought

States, Tribes, and other entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply and hydropower reliability. The WaterSMART Drought Response Program NOFO invites eligible applicants to submit proposals for projects designed to improve drought resilience by developing effective water management strategies and drought contingency plans. Funding under the Drought Response Program supports a range of initiatives including infrastructure improvements for increased water storage and distribution capabilities, water source diversification, decision-making tools for water management, and comprehensive planning to prepare for and respond to drought conditions.



FEMA

Program: [SAFER Program](#)

Agency: FEMA

Deadline: Jun 22, 2026

Overview: This NOFO supports firefighter staffing, recruitment, and retention; helps improve operational readiness and emergency response capacity; focuses heavily on frontline staffing and volunteer firefighter sustainability

Funding: No max

Program: [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#)

Agency: [Department of Homeland Security - FEMA](#)

Deadline: Jul 23, 2026

Overview: The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and local governments for hazard mitigation activities. It does so by recognizing the need to upgrade and modernize the nation's infrastructure against the growing risks to communities and the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities that promote resilience with respect to natural hazards. BRIC aims to shift the focus of federal investments away from reactive post-disaster spending towards proactive infrastructure-focused hazard mitigation. For this funding opportunity, the program prioritizes investment in infrastructure and construction projects that deliver immediate, measurable risk reduction to communities vulnerable to natural hazards. BRIC emphasizes the adoption and enforcement of modern building codes and limits capability- and capacity-building activities to those directly tied to infrastructure resilience, such as building code adoption and enforcement.

Funding: No Minimum and up to \$150,000,000 maximum award



Program: [Unleashing Tribal Energy Development](#)

Agency: DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

Deadline: Jul 24, 2026

Overview: This NOFO will advance affordable, reliable, and secure energy development of Tribal energy resources for the benefit of Tribes and their members. Projects funded under this NOFO are expected to advance Tribal sovereignty through Tribal energy development, efficiency, and use. Projects under Topic Area 1 are expected to serve the electric loads and support the energy needs of Tribes at the scale of a Tribal community or communities. These projects entail the construction of energy assets and projects.

Funding: 250,000 to \$7,500,000

Program: [Community Microgrid Assistance Partnership \(C-MAP\)](#)

Agency: Department of Energy, Office of Electricity (OE)

Deadline: Jul 24, 2026

Overview: The Community Microgrid Assistance Partnership (C-MAP) provides funding and technical assistance to energy providers and partners to build, operate, and enhance microgrid systems that improve the affordability, reliability, and security of electricity in remote areas of the United States.

Funding: \$200,000–\$575,000

Personalized grant development is available from the **Federal Grants Bureau** to help draft your project narrative, develop the budget, and identify sources of data to strengthen your federal applications.

[Click here to book a time with the Federal Grants Bureau](#)

Disclaimer

We recommend that all funding opportunities be reviewed with internal or local legal counsel prior to final approval to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and organizational policies.



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