



New Mexico
Department of Finance
and Administration

Infrastructure Planning
and Development Division

July Newsletter



Welcome to the July Newsletter!

Summer is in full swing, and we're excited to bring you the latest updates from the Infrastructure Planning and Development Division. In this edition, we're highlighting an upcoming grants training opportunity, the call for speakers and award nominations for the 2026 Infrastructure Finance Conference, current funding opportunities, and shining the spotlight on a few outstanding IPDD staff members. We hope you enjoy this month's edition and find these resources and updates valuable.

Spotlight



NEW MEXICO
INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE
CONFERENCE
FARMINGTON 2026

Call for Speakers: 2026 Infrastructure Finance Conference

The submission portal is open — and we want to hear from you!

The Infrastructure Finance Conference (IFC) returns this November, and the IFC Committee is now accepting session proposals for the 2026 conference. The conference will be held **November 16–19 in Farmington, New Mexico**, and this year's theme: ***A State in Transition | Connecting People, Projects, and Possibilities*** reflects the work happening across the state and the conversations we hope to spark in Farmington.



Why Submit a Proposal to Present?

Sessions are the heart of the conference. They are where those in the trenches exchange hard-won knowledge, where emerging approaches meet real-world experience, and where the connections between sectors, funding streams, and communities become visible. Whether you are working at the forefront of infrastructure finance, building local capacity in your community, forging cross-sector partnerships, or navigating the path from concept to completion on a capital project this is the place to share your story. The Committee invites proposals that explore how New Mexico's people, projects, and institutions are shaping the state's transformation.

[Click HERE to submit your proposal](#)

If you have colleagues, partners, or practitioners in your network who have something worth sharing, please pass this along. The strongest IFC programs are built from a wide range of voices.

If you have any questions, please contact kim.king@dfa.nm.gov.

We look forward to seeing you in Farmington this November.



Call for Award Nominations - 2026 Infrastructure Finance Conference

On behalf of the 2026 New Mexico Infrastructure Finance Conference (NMIFC), we are now accepting award nominations to celebrate excellence in NM infrastructure and community development. The NMIFC proudly recognizes outstanding individuals and projects that exemplify innovation, dedication, and transformative impact in building resilient communities across our state! The awards program honors both the visionary leaders who dedicate their careers to public service and the exceptional projects that create lasting positive change. The award nomination deadline is **Friday, August 28th, 2026**. To nominate a project or an individual, click below.

[Award Nomination](#)

Types of Awards

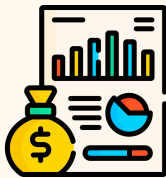
The Outstanding Successful Project Award recognizes infrastructure projects that have made a meaningful and lasting impact on New Mexico communities. These awards celebrate projects that demonstrate excellence in planning, financing, design, construction, implementation, or community partnership while addressing critical infrastructure needs. All nominations will be reviewed thoroughly and the IFC steering committee will determine the most appropriate award category based on the project's scope, purpose, and accomplishments. Whether the project represents an innovative solution, overcame significant challenges, improved quality of life,

strengthened community resilience, or serves as a model for future infrastructure investment, we encourage you to submit a nomination.

The **Joe Guillen Award** recognizes an individual that demonstrates exceptional dedication to community development through infrastructure projects that strengthen local well-being, expand opportunity, and foster long term resilience across New Mexico communities. Named in 1999 after Joe Guillen—long time Deputy Director of the Local Government Division—this award honors his 27 years of unwavering support to municipalities, counties, and special districts statewide. He was renowned for providing direct infrastructure planning assistance, technical guidance, and capacity building services to elected and appointed officials throughout New Mexico. The award recognizes current and former public servants or technical assistance providers whose careers reflect similar dedication, technical excellence, and a vision for long term community resilience.

The **Catalina Muniz “Utilities” Award** honors a project that exemplifies excellence in the planning, construction, or rehabilitation of utility infrastructure, including water, wastewater, broadband, electric, or other essential public services that enhance quality of life and community sustainability. Named for Catalina Muniz, who assisted rural New Mexico communities in securing funding and replacing outdated utility infrastructure. This award honors projects that go above and beyond in delivering sustainable, community focused utilities infrastructure with real and lasting impact.

Training & Technical Assistance Opportunities



Growing with Grants Training: Preparing to Win & Manage Federal Awards

Webinar | August 13, 2026 | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM MST

New to federal grants — or looking to build your team’s confidence? This free webinar from the National Grants Management Association is a great place to start.

In just 90 minutes, you’ll get practical guidance on:

- Building a proposal strategy
- Understanding the grant lifecycle
- Staying compliant with grants management requirements
- Deciding when to use internal staff versus outside consultants

Whether you’re a state agency staffer or work for a local or tribal government, this session is designed for anyone early in their grants journey.

[Register here](#)

Updates for Grant Administrators

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Updates

SLFRF recipients are in the final six months before the expenditure deadline on December 31, 2026. Now is a critical time to assess project completion and strengthen audit readiness. As part of these efforts, it is necessary to create and monitor a realistic spend-down plan and ensure all financial and programmatic documentation is complete and accurate. This is particularly important for projects at risk of not fully expending funds by the deadline.

A spend-down plan includes a clearly defined completion date, a realistic expenditure timeline, consistent communication with stakeholders, oversight of subrecipients and contractors, and supporting documentation. Defining the “when” and “how” helps keep the project, contractors, and staff on track. Once the plan is established, the focus shifts to monitoring progress by identifying risks, tracking milestones, and adjusting timelines as needed to prevent delays or unallowable costs.

Another critical component of preparing for project completion and grant closeout is maintaining complete, accurate, and organized documentation. These records should support compliance, validate expenditures, justify key decisions, and demonstrate adherence to federal requirements. As projects conclude, ensuring that all financial records, procurement files, contracts, performance reports, and communications are complete and properly maintained will reduce the likelihood of audit findings and promote a smooth closeout process.

As we enter the final stretch, thoughtful planning and accurate documentation are essential to successfully closing out all SLFRF projects. Consistent oversight, timely risk identification, and complete supporting documentation will help minimize challenges and audit findings. DFA remains committed to supporting recipients and subrecipients throughout this process and ensuring all funds are spent efficiently, responsibly, and in accordance with federal requirements.



SLFRF Closeout Checklist

- Create a realistic spend-down plan through project completion
- Identify projects or expenditures at risk of not being completed or expended and coordinate with lauren.conley@dfa.nm.gov immediately to determine appropriate next steps.
- Match reported expenditures to the General Ledger monthly
- Monitor subrecipient and contractor spending
- Maintain complete procurement and financial documentation
- Resolve potential audit issues before project closeout
- Complete and record all eligible expenditures by December 31, 2026

General Updates

Looking Beyond IIJA: What's Next for Water Infrastructure?

The **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)** has brought unprecedented investments to New Mexico's water infrastructure. In 2022, New Mexico received **more than \$26 million** in the first round of EPA funding



for drinking water and clean water projects, with additional annual funding continuing through the State Revolving Fund programs. In 2024 alone, the state received **an additional \$28.6 million** to help replace lead service lines and improve access to safe drinking water. As these enhanced federal investments begin to wind down, New Mexico communities should start planning for what's next. The Federal Grants Bureau continues to monitor these trends and provide resources to help New Mexico entities prepare for the evolving federal funding landscape.

[Read more.](#)

Staff Spotlight

Meet the IPDD Team



Deputy Director- Scott Wright

1. Tell us about your role at IPDD and what you do to support New Mexico communities.

As Deputy Director, I am fortunate enough to contribute to many of the initiatives in which our Division supports New Mexico. Our Division supports a very broad group of constituents that touch many New Mexico communities across the state including counties, municipalities, mutual domestics, Nations, Pueblos, Tribes, soil & water conservation districts, land grants, acequias, k-12 schools, higher education institutions, senior centers, councils of government and fellow state agencies.

2. What is one project, initiative, or accomplishment you're particularly proud of?

Hmmm. I think one that I am particularly proud of is being part of standing up a new (and rewarding) Division in state government. We started as a small group of less than 5 people and had the opportunity to surround ourselves individuals that embrace our values and culture of excellence and customer service. Our responsibilities and team continue to grow, so it's not quite an accomplishment yet, but it is something that I am very proud of.

3. What is something people might be surprised to learn about your work?

One of my favorite parts of work is giving presentations. I like to share knowledge, engage the audience and ensure that the message being conveyed is being understood. My goal is to create an environment where people that normally would not ask questions feel comfortable doing so.

4. What do you enjoy most about serving New Mexico through your role?

In my role, I have the honor of working with stakeholders that are passionate about improving the lives of people in New Mexico, which I find incredibly rewarding. I want to see NM continue to build on its strengths, address opportunities for improvement, and create an environment in which our kids grow up and choose to live in the Land of Enchantment. I am humbled to be a small part of that process.

5. If you could instantly learn any new skill—professional or completely unrelated to work—what would it be?

Tough one. I would be fluent in all languages. I grew up learning English and learned Spanish doing Study Abroad and living with families in Mexico. Having that skill has

helped me both personally and professionally, so with the ability to communicate with everyone, the world is my oyster.

IPDD Staff Shoutouts



At IPDD, the work our team does every day has a meaningful impact on the communities we serve. Each month, we recognize staff members who have received positive feedback from partners, grantees, and colleagues. These shoutouts celebrate the dedication, professionalism, and commitment our team brings and remind us that even the smallest interactions can make a lasting difference.

★ **Staff Member: Susan Spinell**

"Thank you very much for the revised review letter and checklist, and for turning them around so quickly today. I appreciate your taking the time to review the complete application and for working with me to make sure the State's record reflects it accurately. Your support throughout this process has meant a great deal, and your kind words about the project are encouraging. This crossing improvement is important to the La Luz community, and I am grateful to have had the Federal Grants Bureau's help in getting the application across the finish line." – Pablo Jimenez

★ **Staff Member: Sarah Delarosa**

"Sarah was extremely helpful in helping us resolve an issue we have never come across before. Very professional and responsive with clear guidance." – Jeremy Bangs

★ **Staff Member: Cristina Caltagirone**

"Bravo to Cristina for successfully closing out the Town of Tatum CDBG project helping a rural community improve their water systems and spend HUD money in a compliant manner. Thanks for your diligence and commitment!" – Donna Stewart

★ **Staff Member: Lauren McAllister**

"Lauren was very responsive, professional, polite. For information she did not have access to, she provided me with an alternative contact. Thank you!" – Charlene Smith, Legislative Aide, District 22 - Rep. Stefani Lord

★ **Staff Member: Mary Ann Maestas**

"Mary Ann is very prompt, courteous and knowledgeable." – Angela Bordegaray

Funding Opportunities



COPS

Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice

Available to:
Higher Education Institutes

Available to:
Schools

Available to:
Tribal Entities

Program: Preparing for Active Shooter Situations (PASS) Agency: U.S. Department of Justice Deadline: Grants.gov Deadline: August 4, 2026 — 4:59 PM ET JustGrants Deadline: August 11, 2026 — 4:59 PM ET Overview: Click here for more info	Program: School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) Agency: U.S. Department of Justice Deadline: Grants.gov Deadline: August 4, 2026 — 4:59 PM ET JustGrants Deadline: August 11, 2026 — 4:59 PM ET Overview: Click here for more info	Program: Several FY 2026 grant programs for which federally recognized tribal governments and tribal law enforcement agencies Agency: U.S. Department of Justice Deadline: July-August (Depending on funding program) Overview: Click here for more info
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The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) has opened six FY 2026 grant programs available to **municipalities, counties, tribal governments, and state law enforcement agencies** in New Mexico. Applications are due this summer — act now to meet registration and submission requirements.

1. **COPS Hiring Program (CHP)**
2. **COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF)**
3. **COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP)**
4. **Law Enforcement Mental Health & Wellness Act (LEMHWA)**
5. **COPS School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)**
6. **Preparing for Active Shooter Situations (PASS)**

[Click here for more info on the 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

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

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 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

vulnerable water supplies during times of shortage and drought

capabilities, water source diversification, decision-making tools for water management, and comprehensive planning to prepare for and respond to drought conditions.

Program: [Cooperative Watershed Management Program](#)

Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

Application periods:

October 7, 2026

February 24, 2027

September 1, 2027

February 15, 2028

Funding: \$50,000 to \$300,000

Overview: Funding to watershed groups to encourage diverse stakeholders to form local solutions to address their water management needs. Funding is provided on a competitive basis for: Watershed Group Development and Watershed Restoration Planning: In 2012, Reclamation began providing funding for watershed group development, watershed restoration planning, and watershed management project design (Phase I). A watershed group is a self-sustaining, non-regulatory, consensus-based group that is composed of a diverse array of stakeholders, which may include, but is not limited to, private property owners, non-profit organizations, Federal, state, or local agencies, and tribes. Funds can be used develop bylaws, a mission statement, complete stakeholder outreach, develop a watershed restoration plan, and design watershed management projects for future implementation. Reclamation will award a successful applicant up to \$100,000 per year for a period of up to three years with no cost-share required.

Program: [Colorado River Basin Tribal Drought Resiliency Program](#)

Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

Deadline: Sept. 23, 2026

Overview:

- The objectives of this NAA/TAP funding opportunity are to provide funding for drought relief actions/projects that mitigate drought impacts for designated federally recognized tribes within the Colorado River Basin (see Eligibility section for list of tribes).
- Purpose: Mitigate drought impacts, increase drought resiliency, reduce reliance on declining water sources, increase the efficiency of water deliveries, mitigate the loss of tribal water or water related resources, and address drinking water shortages.



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

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

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

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



Program: [Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation \(ATTAIN\)](#)

Agency: [Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration](#)

Deadline: Jul 27, 2026

Overview: The ATTAIN Competitive Grant Program will provide funding to deploy, install, and operate advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, mobility, efficiency, system performance, intermodal connectivity, and infrastructure return on investment. Eligible applicants for ATTAIN Competitive Grant Program funds are: • State or local governments; • transit agencies; • metropolitan planning organizations; • other political subdivisions of a State or local government (such as publicly owned toll or port authorities); • multijurisdictional groups; or • consortiums of research institutions or academic institutions. ATTAIN requires a minimum non-Federal cost share of 20 percent.

Funding: up to \$12,000,000



Program: [Tribal Tourism Grant Program \(TTGP\)](#)

Agency: [Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs](#)

Deadline: Aug 7, 2026

Overview: The Tribal Tourism Grant Program (TTGP) is a competitive discretionary grant program that supports the NATIVE Act by expanding tourism visibility and driving increased visitation to Tribal destinations. OIED solicits proposals from eligible Tribes and Tribal Organizations to facilitate, promote,



Program: [Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students \(SDS\)](#)

Agency: [Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration](#)

Deadline: Jul 28, 2026

Overview: The Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) program increases the health professions and nursing workforce by providing awards to eligible health professions schools for use in awarding scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have a financial need.

Funding: up to \$650,000

and enhance tourism offerings. These efforts strengthen destination positioning, drive visitation, and support Tribal participation in the tourism industry, contributing to sustainable economic growth and community benefits.

Funding: \$200,000 to \$300,000

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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