



ARTESIA DAILY PRESS

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WEDNESDAY

Fifteen N.M. organizations receive economic development grants

SANTA FE – Nearly \$260,000 has been awarded to 15 local economic development organizations through LEADS, Local Economic Assistance & Development Support, the New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD) announced today.

Grant amounts ranged from \$7,400 to \$25,000 and funding is provided on a cost reimbursement basis. Funding provided through LEADS is intended to create jobs through recruitment, retention, expansion, and startup activities; develop the tax base; and provide incentives for business development.

“LEADS is an important program because it allows us to invest in strong initiatives and collaborate with local communities as we work together to create jobs,” Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes said. “The demand has grown for this program, and we appreciate the support from Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and legislative leaders which resulted in additional funding this year.”

Eligible applicants must meet three requirements:

- Be part of an economic development effort that includes both public and private sector participation, with a demonstrated capacity to facilitate economic growth.
- Have an up-to-date local economic development plan and marketing program that supports business and job growth.
- Be located in communities that have passed the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA).

The EDD received a total of 27 applications with funding requests totaling \$614,200.

The fiscal year 2022 recipients are:

- Carlsbad Department of Development. \$12,500 to participate in trade shows and sales missions with plans to target companies that produce hydrogen.
- Cibola Communities Economic Development Foundation. \$20,000 to attend and participate in trade shows and sales missions, undertake business retention and expansion activities, and provide technical assistance to local entrepreneurs.
- Clovis Industrial Development Corporation. \$12,500 for marketing activities targeting business recruitment.
- City of Farmington. \$25,000 for a pilot program which includes a riverfront real estate development with modular units to house local businesses selling their products. The units will be owned by the city.
- Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation. \$25,000 to support participation in industry trade shows and sales missions; business, retention, and expansion program; and the organization’s annual Economic Roundtables.
- Los Alamos MainStreet. \$15,000 to pilot a retail business accelerator program.
- Lovington Economic Development Corporation. \$12,500 to attend and participate in trade shows, create a strategic plan, including a solar project study for an industrial park, and support marketing activities.
- Mainstreet Truth or Consequences. \$7,400 to survey businesses that are new to the city, seeking a better understanding of their needs while connecting them to existing resources. The goal is a more profitable place to do business.
- Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance. \$20,000 to attend trade shows, participate in sales missions, and undertake more digital marketing.
- Rio Arriba County. \$15,000 for improvements to the Oñate Center for the purpose of housing two relocating businesses and to serve as a co-packing facility for local food producers and startups.
- Rio Grande Community Development Corporation (RGCDC). \$15,000 to pilot a program that is an expansion of the Mixing Bowl food business incubation program, supporting local food growing and production businesses. RGCDC manages the South Valley Economic Development Center and commercial kitchen.
- Sandoval Economic Alliance. \$20,000 for phase two of an economic gardening initiative which includes networking events, digital marketing assistance, and more.

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Apply now for sandhill crane, pheasant draw permits

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is now accepting applications for special sandhill crane and pheasant permits.

Applications can be made through your online account. The application deadline for special sandhill crane and pheasant permits is 5 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 18.

Successful applicants must have a Game Hunting license and applicable stamp(s) in addition to their draw permit.

Successful sandhill crane applicants also must have a Harvest Information Program (HIP) number.

Digital copies of the 2021-2022 Upland and Migratory Rules and Information Booklets will be available on the Department’s website later this year.

Local Weather

Forecast

Tonight, mostly clear with a low around 67. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
Wednesday, sunny with a high near 93. South winds around 15 mph.

Weather Report

The New Mexico State University Ag Science Center south of Artesia reported the high Tuesday was 91 degrees, while the 24-hour low reached 66. It was 67 degrees at 7 a.m. today. One year ago today, the high was 111 degrees and the low was 71.
The minimum 10-inch soil temperature is 75 degrees.

Powell says inflation, though elevated, will be moderate

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said Wednesday that inflation, which has been surging as the recovery strengthens, “will likely remain elevated in coming months” before “moderating.”

At the same time, in testimony to the House Financial Services Committee, Powell signaled no imminent change in the Fed’s ultra-low-interest rate policies.

The Fed chairman reiterated his long-held view that high inflation readings over the past several months have been driven largely by temporary factors, notably supply shortages and rising consumer demand as pandemic-related business restrictions are lifted.

Still, House members peppered Powell with questions about rising inflation in recent months, with some expressing concern that prices will continue to accelerate.

The Fed chair replied that the central bank would not respond to short-term price spikes by raising rates and risk weakening the economic recovery.

“By inflation, we mean year after year after year prices go up,” Powell said. “If something is a one-time price increase... you wouldn’t react to something that is likely to go away.”

“We really do believe,” he added, “that these things will come down of their own accord.”

Powell’s remarks coincided with rising concerns, among economists as well as ordinary households, that intensifying inflation pressures are creating a burden for many people and posing a potential threat to the recovery from the pandemic recession. On Wednesday, the government reported that wholesale prices, which businesses pay, jumped 7.3% in June from a year earlier. It

was the fastest such 12-month increase on records dating to 2010.

And on Tuesday, the government said that prices paid by U.S. consumers surged in June by the most in 13 years. It was the third straight month that consumer inflation has jumped. Excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called core inflation rose 4.5% in June, the fastest pace since November 1991.

Much of the consumer price gain was driven by categories that reflect the reopening of the economy and related supply shortages. Used car price increases accounted for about one-third of the jump. Prices for hotel rooms, airline tickets, and car rentals also rose substantially.

“It’s still the same story we’re seeing,” Powell said. “It’s a pretty narrow group of things that are producing these high (inflation) readings.”

(See INFLATION, Page 3)

N.M. lawmakers warned about shrinking water supplies in state

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Some of New Mexico’s top climate and water experts warned state lawmakers Tuesday that the effects of the drought on water supplies have been worsened by climate change, specifically an ongoing, long-term warming trend.

They told members of a legislative committee that the drought is a harbinger of still more arid conditions to come as temperatures continue to climb and rainfall becomes more variable. Human-caused climate change has made the West much warmer and drier in the past 30 years.

Increasing temperatures also can lead to the snowpack that feeds rivers and streams melting several weeks earlier and more rapidly, resulting in more evaporation. That means less runoff into the Rio Grande, Pecos and other rivers, and that’s not going to change since the experts said there are no indications that the long-term temperature trend will go away.

New Mexico uses all of its water and is pretty well tapped out when it comes to new supplies, said retired professor David Gutzler. He added that long-term climate change should lead policymakers to expect and plan for diminished surface water supplies in the decades going forward.

Ground water supplies also are being depleted as more people are forced to pump water to make up for dwindling flows.



Low water levels are seen at Elephant Butte.

AP Photo

“We’re seeing in New Mexico as bad a situation with regard to water supply as anywhere in the West, if not worse,” said Rolf Schmidt-Petersen, director of the Interstate Stream Commission. He noted that drought still persists across the state and reservoirs remain empty despite the start of summer rains.

Schmidt-Petersen shared slides that showed conditions getting drier and drier over the last 20 years. He described the conditions this year as the most severe drought in two decades of dryness.

Gutzler issued a plea to the legislators, asking that they take New Mexico’s long-term water challenge seriously and provide cities, farmers and other users with guidance and ground rules for managing shrinking supplies.

“I think that we ought to be able to cooperatively address the fact that we have set up more demand for water than we have supplies over the long term through cooperative shortage sharing and very careful attention to the way we allocate new water rights,” he said. “ ...

The problem we face is real and is unlikely to go away even if and even when we get a couple of years of wetter weather.”

Some of the discussion focused on developing a more formal system for building partnerships among local districts so water can be shared when shortages arise. Such arrangements already are in place in some parts of New Mexico, including with Jemez and Zia pueblos and nearby acequias, which are traditional irrigation systems that deliver water to farmers.

(See WATER, Page 8)

Eddy County logs five new cases among 180, two deaths statewide

SANTA FE – New Mexico state health officials on Wednesday announced 180 additional COVID-19 cases. Per the state Department of Health, the most recent cases are:

- 62 new cases in Bernalillo County
- 7 new cases in Chaves County
- 1 new case in Cibola County
- 5 new cases in Curry County
- 18 new cases in Doña Ana County
- 5 new cases in Eddy County
- 2 new cases in Grant County
- 4 new cases in Hidalgo County
- 6 new cases in Lea County
- 2 new cases in Lincoln County
- 1 new case in Los Alamos County
- 4 new cases in Luna County
- 7 new cases in McKinley County
- 1 new case in Mora County
- 2 new cases in Otero County
- 1 new case in Quay County
- 4 new cases in Rio Arriba County
- 2 new cases in Roosevelt County
- 16 new cases in Sandoval County
- 6 new cases in San Juan County
- 3 new cases in San Miguel County
- 10 new cases in Santa Fe County

- 1 new case in Socorro County 88203 - 6
- 4 new cases in Taos County 87031 - 5
- 6 new cases in Valencia County 88101 - 5
- 87109 - 4

The Department of Health on Wednesday reported three additional deaths in New Mexico related to COVID-19:

- Two recent deaths:
 - A male in his 60s from Sandoval County. The individual was hospitalized.
 - A male in his 40s from San Juan County. The individual was hospitalized and had underlying conditions.

* One death >30 days:
• A male in his 50s from Doña Ana County. The individual had underlying conditions.

* COVID related deaths are reported when a death certificate has been issued and some death certificates are delayed due to insufficient information.

The number of deaths of New Mexico residents related to COVID-19 is now 4,362.

The ten ZIP codes across the state with the most COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, Jul. 14 are:

- 87120 - 11
- 87105 - 9
- 87124 - 9
- 87114 - 7
- 88081 - 7
- 87112 - 6

Daily case counts and test numbers are raw data based on information the state receives today – meaning data that has not yet been scrutinized to identify potential duplicates or late-arriving positives or negatives.

Including the above newly reported cases, New Mexico has now had a total of 206,846 COVID-19 cases:

- Bernalillo County: 59,522
- Catron County: 97
- Chaves County: 9,097
- Cibola County: 2,919
- Colfax County: 800
- Curry County: 5,365
- De Baca County: 178
- Doña Ana County: 25,243
- Eddy County: 6,987
- Grant County: 1,764
- Guadalupe County: 474
- Harding County: 13
- Hidalgo County: 379
- Lea County: 8,460
- Lincoln County: 1,773
- Los Alamos County: 546
- Luna County: 3,414
- McKinley County: 12,444
- Mora County: 176
- Otero County: 4,096
- Quay County: 540

(See CASES, Page 5)

State expects return on \$1.5M to show logo during Virgin Galactic flight

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — New Mexico spent \$1.5 million to advertise the state during the Virgin Galactic space launch Sunday.

The state paid the money to display New Mexico’s logo on video of the flight, KOB-TV reported.

The flight saw Virgin Galactic founder Richard Branson briefly rocket into space aboard the company’s winged space plane for the first time.

A third of the money came from a \$500,000 special appropriation by the New Mexico Legislature to market and promote the state during the flight and the rest came from ...

(See LOGO, Page 8)

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