News Brief
June 29, 2023

USDA Makes Grants Available to Help Rural Communities in New Mexico to Repair Water Infrastructure Damaged By Disasters in 2022

For presidentially declared disasters such as last year’s forest fires in calendar year 2022. USDA is making over $247 million in grants available through supplemental disaster funding under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. Funds available until expended and may be used to:

- Repair damaged water infrastructure
- Develop resiliency to reduce long-term risks from future disasters

Presidentially declared disaster areas: Big Hole Fire, Calf Canyon Fire, Cook’s Peak Fire, Hermit’s Peak Fire and the Nogal Canyon Fire

Application must be submitted via Grants.gov or directly to the Rural Development State Office. For more information, contact Christine Griego at 505-761-4944.

Attention County Managers: Please join the NM Economic Development Dept. and NM Finance Authority on Friday, July 7 at 9:00 a.m. for an informative webinar about the new Opportunity Enterprise Revolving Fund. Apply for low-interest loans to be used to increase the inventory of commercial facilities in NM. The loan funds can be used to create a new building or renovate an existing building, and the building’s tenant does not need to be known - the building can be built on spec, for instance. Projects are expected to attract businesses to the state, create jobs, and diversify the economy.

The application deadline for the first round is July 31, 2023, funding $17.5 million in loans, which is 4% of the $70 million total loan fund. The interest rate is fixed at 60% of the Wall Street Journal prime rate. The loan term will be 15-30 years and the loans may be paid off in advance with no prepayment penalty. The maximum loan amount is $17.5 million.

Governed by the Opportunity Enterprise Review Board in partnership with the NMEDD and the NMFA, the Opportunity Enterprise Revolving Fund was created by the New Mexico Legislature in 2022 with a $70 million appropriation. The OERF application process is administered by the New Mexico Finance Authority.

Recent Supreme Court decisions have significant implications for counties:

In the case of Sackett v. EPA, the Supreme Court weighed in on what constitutes Waters of the United States, or WOTUS. The court imposed a new test based on whether wetlands are “adjacent” to navigable waters.

In Tyler v. Hennepin County, the court held that county governments cannot keep surplus proceeds from the sale of tax-forfeited property but can impose interest and late fees.

Mental Health Policy Reform

The Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy revokes Medicaid coverage for people in jail – even those who have yet to be convicted of a crime. This policy creates a double standard that strains local systems and leads to higher recidivism rates and healthcare costs for individuals with mental health and substance use disorders.

NACo is urging our members to urge members of Congress to cosponsor the Medicaid Reentry Act and the Due Process Continuity of Care Act to allow continuous Medicaid coverage for pretrial detainees.

Link to NMC 2023 Annual Meetings Calendar
Link to Loss Prevention 2023 Conference,

Wed Jul 6 UPDATED NMC Legislative Initiative Review w/affiliates 1pm NMC Santa Fe
Thu Jul 13-15 EP Suicide Prevention Curry County
Fri Jul 21-24 NACo Annual Conference Travis County, Austin, TX
Thu Aug 3-4 Thu NMC Board Code of Conduct 10am, Legislative Initiatives Review Noon, Fri Board meeting 8:30am Eddy County
Wed Aug 24 NMCBC Board meeting UPDATED to Bernalillo County ABQ
Mon Aug 14-18 Instructor Development ABQ, SWTC
Wed Aug 30-01 NMMI Annual Conference Farmington
Tue, Thu Sep 6-8 NM EDGE classes Live Online 6/6, 6/7, 6/12, 6/13, 6/19, 6/20, 6/26, 6/28
Mon Sep 11-15 1st Line Supervisor training ABQ, SWTC
Thu Sep 14 Gathering of Counties, NM State Fair
Thu Sep 15 NMCRI Captive Board meeting 10am, Zoom
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