



**NEW MEXICO FIRST**  
*People. Ideas. Progress.*

## **New Mexico First and Project SHARE NM Newsletter**

Stay Informed and Engaged

September 21, 2020

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### **Supporting NM's Workers and Businesses**



## **Certified COVID Safe Businesses**

As NM's economy moves towards reopening, it's vital that safety remains a priority. The NM Safe Certified Program offers free on-demand virtual COVID-Safe Practices training modules designed to help businesses ensure a safe and responsible environment for employees and customers. Upon completion of the training modules, businesses can display the "NM Safe Certified" badge on their website or storefront to show that it's equipped to offer safe and responsible service.

Since its launch on June 15, over 500 New Mexico businesses have completed the NM Safe Certified program with an additional 1,300 businesses on track to complete the program. To register for the training or to find a "NM Safe Certified" business, visit the [NM Safe Certified website](#).

**Employers: Report positive COVID-19 cases.** On Aug. 5, 2020, the [NM Environment Dept.](#) (NMED) filed an emergency amendment requiring employers to report positive COVID-19 cases in the workplace to the NMED Occupational Health and Safety Bureau within four hours of being notified of the case. The emergency amendment is available [here](#). The emergency rule is in place for 120 days (through Dec. 3, 2020), unless NMED proposes and the Environmental Improvement Board adopts a permanent rule prior to the end of the 120-day period. Employers may now report positive COVID-19 cases in the workplace [online](#), by email ([nmenv-osha@state.nm.us](mailto:nmenv-osha@state.nm.us)), phone (505-476-8700) or fax (505-476-8734).

## **Resources for Employers**

The [Association for Commerce and Industry](#) provides free resources on their website to better understand what's available for and by their members during COVID. Additional announcements and newsletters are available for members

with just-in-time information for for-profit and non-profit businesses.

The [NM Chamber Executives Association](#) works together to strengthen New Mexico's business environment. To learn more visit their website or see the directory of member Chambers of Commerce.

The [Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce](#) is dedicated to connecting local small businesses with resources to cope with the COVID-19 health crisis. Many businesses, organizations, and government agencies at all levels have stepped up to offer assistance to other businesses and the community. The website has a list of these resources and opportunities for small businesses to take advantage of during these unprecedented times. Check back for regular updates as more information becomes available.

The State has additional [COVID-19 recommendations](#) for New Mexico employers as well as [supports for economic recovery](#).

## **Relief for NM Workers**

While supplemental funds for unemployed workers have been expended, both regular unemployment insurance and pandemic unemployment assistance are available. Visit the [Dept. of Workforce Solutions](#) for more information on how to apply.

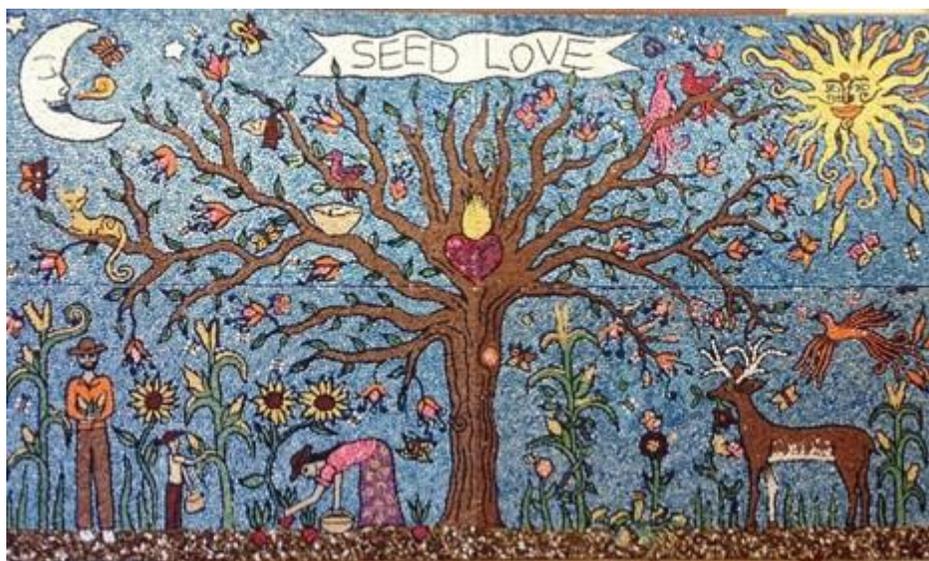
## **CDC Issues National Eviction Moratorium**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a [new order](#), effective from September 4th through December 31st, 2020, that provides protection from eviction to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. Although

many questions about the order remain, this emergency action appears to prohibit new and previously filed evictions of tenants who provide their landlords with a signed declaration stating that they meet a prescribed set of criteria.

[NM Legal Aid's website](#) has links for the necessary declaration and instructions in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

The site also provides step by step instructions on how to complete and file the documentation in order to halt evictions. NM Legal Aid notes that if your landlord takes any action to evict you for nonpayment after you have given them the declaration, this is a federal crime which should be reported to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Albuquerque (505) 346-7274 or Las Cruces (505) 346-7296 (Las Cruces). Contact NM Legal Aid for more information or assistance. Call toll free: 1-833-LGL-HELP (1-833-545-4357)



*Seed Love, Jade Leyva*

## Supporting NM's Creative Economy

According to [UNM's Bureau of Business & Economic Research](#), nearly one in ten jobs in New Mexico is in a cultural or arts-related field. More people in our state are employed professionally in arts and culture than elsewhere in the nation; however, the impressive numbers do not ensure immunity to public health disasters.

Because of the pandemic, the state's arts and culture sector, which typically contributes roughly \$5.9 billion annually to New Mexico's economy, has taken a hit.

In August, [New Mexico Arts](#), the state arts agency and a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, [awarded \\$1.5 million](#) in state and federal funds to approximately 200 arts organizations, colleges and universities, K-12 schools, tribal governments, and government entities. The FY22 grant application is now live. Learn more and apply at [New Mexico Arts](#).

More good news! The Fulcrum Fund, a grant program of [516 ARTS](#), will be awarding 91 grants of \$1,000 each to individual visual artists in NM (statewide) who have lost income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The grants are intended to pay for essentials like groceries, rent, childcare, and medicine. Deadline: October 15, 11:59 PM. [Learn more](#).

New Mexico Arts is also collecting information from artists and art organizations around the state about how they may have adapted and created new programming and continue to reach their audiences during the pandemic. You can complete the survey [here](#).

**Join the Food, Hunger, Water Ag Policy Workgroup as Members**  
**Share Information with the New Mexico Legislature Health and**

## **Human Services Interim Committee**

On 9/25/20 from 9:30-10:15am members of the policy workgroup will provide information to legislators about opportunities for systemic responses to strengthening local food systems and addressing food insecurity. Links, agendas, and handouts will be posted

here: [https://nmlegis.gov/Committee/Standing\\_Committee?CommitteeCode=HHHC](https://nmlegis.gov/Committee/Standing_Committee?CommitteeCode=HHHC)

Public comment usually occurs for lunch. Please consider joining for public comment and sharing your support of the need to prioritize responses to food security and the people who grow and raise our local food.

## **Cooperatives Keep Money in the Community**

That's the message that the [Cooperative Catalyst of NM](#) is delivering across the state. The nonprofit provides education and technical assistance to support cooperative businesses in a range of industries. A cooperative is a business jointly owned and democratically controlled by its members, and that operates for the benefit of its members, e.g., consumers, workers, producers, independent businesses, and community resident. Sandra McCardell, a Cooperative Catalyst co-founder, notes that NM has a long history of applying cooperative principles, including our system of communal irrigation canals or acequias.

A recent cooperative success story is [Ancestral Rich Treasures of Zuni Cooperative](#) (ARTZ), the only NM art gallery cooperative owned and managed by Native American artists themselves. Elroy Natachu Jr., a member and in-house manager at ARTZ, says the goal is to provide a space where Zuni artists can sell their products at prices they set, allowing artists to become less reliant on wholesale markets and art shows and providing a lift to a Pueblo that relies on its

art as a major source of income.

Cooperative Catalyst notes that cooperatives are often started from nothing - by people whose dreams are shared, by groups who want to reduce costs, or by people for whom a standard "job" just doesn't work. Businesses can also be "converted" or sold to community members or employees, avoiding closure and keeping them in the community. During the 2008 recession, cooperatives were 3X as likely to survive as small businesses, and there are tens of thousands of them around the world. Interested in knowing more? Contact [Sandra@CoopCatalystNM.org](mailto:Sandra@CoopCatalystNM.org), who will be happy to answer your questions!



*Tilled Field, Sharon Berman*

## **COVID Impacts on NM Agriculture Survey**

[New Mexico Coalition to Enhance Working Lands](#) (NMCEWL) is launching a survey to hear from farmers and ranchers about their experiences with COVID-19 thus far. The survey is ongoing from September through October 16th, 2020.

Please share this survey with farmers and ranchers in your network(s) and communities. Survey participants will receive a copy of the anonymous survey results. Farmers and ranchers who participate will be registered to win a free [Regenerate Conference](#) pass. Access the survey [here](#). New Mexico First completed a survey in the agricultural sector in the spring related to COVID, to learn more about what farmers and ranchers were saying then. That report is available [here](#).

## **Share Information with the New Mexico Legislature Health and Human Services Interim Committee**

On September 25th from 9:30-10:15 am members of the **Food, Hunger, Water Ag Policy Workgroup** provide information to legislators about opportunities for systemic responses to strengthening local food systems and addressing food insecurity. Links, agendas, and handouts will be [posted here](#).

Public comment usually occurs for lunch. Please consider joining for public comment and sharing your support of the need to prioritize responses to food security and the people who grow and raise our local food.

## **Resilient Tribal Farmers: From Field and Range to Market**

A two-day virtual event on Monday, Sept. 22nd and Wednesday, Sept. 23rd will support resiliency among tribal agricultural producers. Both webinars are from 2:00-3:30 each day. Sponsored by the [NM Dept. of Health, Office of Tribal Liaison](#), and [Keres Consulting](#), the event will include presentations by tribal food organizations and offer technical assistance to callers. A stipend of \$25 is available for tribal farmers on a first come, first serve basis. Get more [information](#)

[and register here](#). If you are unable to attend the event, you can download the Field and Range to Market, [Tribal Farming Toolkit here](#).

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## VOTE!

**Tuesday, November 3, 2020, is Election Day** and we need everyone registered and ready to vote. Planning to vote is key to voting successfully. Make sure you know when and where you can vote early and/or by mail and don't miss the deadlines! Plan to research your candidates and make a list of who you want to vote for ahead of time. The League of Women Voters online Guide [Vote411](#) is now available, with information on candidates and other ballot information.

If you're voting on election day, be sure to think about your schedule for the day. Will you need to vote in the morning? After class? In the evening after work? Will you need a ride to the polls? Does your neighbor? Plan to encourage everyone—your partner, co-workers, newly 18-year-old nieces and nephews—to get registered to vote. Plan to make your voice heard!

- The deadline to [register online to vote](#) is **Tuesday, October 6, 2020**.
- If you do not have a driver's license or state identification card issued by the MVD, or would prefer to use a paper form to register to vote, please fill out the Voter Registration Form ([English](#) / [Español](#)) and send to your local county clerk's office postmarked by **October 6, 2020**. You will find the contact information for all 33 county clerk offices [here](#).
- The deadline to [request a ballot by mail](#) is (received by) **5:00 pm on Tuesday, October 20, 2020**. Anyone can vote by mail in NM. Be sure to **mail your completed ballot back to your county clerk no later than October 27th** to ensure it arrives before 7pm on Election Day.

- Early voting locations open in each county beginning on Saturday, **October 17, 2020** and continue through Saturday, **October 31, 2020**. Please check locations and hours of operation by visiting [NMVote.org](http://NMVote.org) or by contacting your [County Clerk's Office](#).
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## **New Mexico First, Debate Watch Party**

Hey, New Mexico! It's time to save the dates! The 2020 Presidential Debates are coming up. You could just watch it with CNN and Fox News giving you their opinions. Or, you can join in on a cross-partisan discussion from the comfort of your living room. It's your chance to share in genuine dialogue about the big topics we're all facing and thinking about. All you have to bring is an open mind. Visit <http://nmfirst.org/events/debates> for more information and to register. We are neighbors. We are New Mexico.

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## COMPLETE THE CENSUS!

Time for all hands on deck! There really is no time to spare — the Census Bureau changed the deadline to September 30 (a full month earlier than planned). Today, September 14th, is the Statewide Census Day of Action. [NM Counts 2020](#) is supporting statewide media and partnerships, but we need leaders in the community to help encourage census participation on Monday and through the end of the month. Become a NM Census Ambassador. Here's a [toolkit](#) with action suggestions and lots of information. For additional information, contact [Olivia at Media Desk NM](#).

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### Tip on Civic Engagement

A [poll by Eagle Hill Consulting](#) of just over 1,000 U.S. workers found that 45% of employees experience burnout. “The phenomenon has become so commonplace over recent years that the World Health Organization classified it as an occupational phenomenon and labelled it a symptom of chronic stress at work. The particular stressors brought on by COVID-19 can exacerbate the chronic stress many employees are already experiencing, especially since the uncertain timeline of the virus prevents employees from feeling closure.”

While suggestions for preventing and dealing with burnout abound, workload, organizational culture, staff longevity, the nature of the work itself, individual and familial responsibilities and many other factors contribute to burnout and resilience. The best solution is to make open and candid discussion, support, and problem-solving routine in your organization. The way we engage around these

issues in our workplaces has ripple effects throughout our civic and family lives.

This section is authored by Lilly Irvin-Vitela, President and Executive Director of New Mexico First. She invites you to connect! Email her at [lilly@nmfirst.org](mailto:lilly@nmfirst.org).

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## Our Mission. Our Values.

### Our Mission

To be a catalyst for positive change by engaging citizens in policy and enabling action.

### Our Core Values

Meaningfully engaging New Mexicans in public policy; Striving for and respecting consensus; Pursuing and respecting diverse points of views; Ensuring inclusion and transparency; Rising above partisan politics; Changing policy to improve people's lives; Creating an informed citizenry that is powerfully motivated; Reaching out statewide including rural and tribal communities; Partnering with others; Promoting civility and Democracy at its best!

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