



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

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

Stay Informed and Engaged

January 11, 2021

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¡Adelante!

New Mexico has a plan for moving ahead to reopen our communities safely. Under a "[Red to Green](#)" system, New Mexico counties can reduce restrictions on community life as soon as public health data show the COVID-19 virus is retreating within their borders. Counties will operate under [one of three tiers of restrictions](#). The tiers are:

- **Red:** Case rate of greater than 8 cases per 100,000 AND an average test positivity rate greater than 5%.
- **Yellow:** Case rate of no greater than 8 cases per 100,000 OR average test positivity rate less than or equal to 5%.
- **Green:** Case rate of no greater than 8 cases per 100,000 AND average test positivity rate less than or equal to 5%

The Department of Health's [map displaying counties' status](#) will be updated every other Wednesday. Help beat COVID-19 and open our communities! You know the drill: wear a mask, practice social distancing, avoid large gatherings, get tested, and sign-up for the vaccine when it becomes available to you (see COVID resources below).

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Main Street, Silver City, NM

### **Transforming New Mexico's Future through Local Economic Development**

[New Mexico First](#) and the [Alliance for Local Economic Prosperity](#) are hosting a FREE economic development mini-forum on **January 13th from 1:00-5:30 PM**.

The purpose of the event is to explore the potential for New Mexico economic and community development through a local economic development strategy that honors local cultures and achieves community health and wellbeing.

Participants will have an opportunity to hear and discuss presentations by local and national panelists on the importance of local economic development and grounding economic policy options in local community assets. The closing speaker, Helena Norberg-Hodge, is the founder and director of [Local Futures](#), an international non-profit organization "dedicated to the revitalization of cultural and biological diversity, and the strengthening of local communities and economies worldwide."

For more information and to register, [visit the website](#).

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[UNM's Business and Economic Summit](#) will be held on January 12th, from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Themed, "New Mexico 2030," the Summit will convene stakeholders (public, private and non-profit) from across New Mexico to envision economic growth in our state. The summit will build on the recommendations of New Mexico Chamber of Commerce's recent study "[Driving New Mexico's Future: Empowering a Competitive Economy in a Post-Pandemic World](#)". Keynote Speaker: Michael Crow, Ph.D., President, Arizona State University. [See the full agenda](#). [Register](#) for the event.

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**New COVID Relief Package.** A new round of a wide array of COVID relief was signed into law on December 30, 2020. The benefits include direct payments to individuals, unemployment benefits, funding for businesses, schools, rental assistance, vaccines and testing, human services, transportation, agriculture and nutrition, and broadband. The [Federal Funds Information for States](#) provides a more [detailed description](#) of the bill's many provisions.

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**New Round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).** The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and Treasury has issued guidance for the reconstituted Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Two interim final rules outline the rules for [first-time borrowers](#) and for [second-round PPP loans](#) to businesses that previously received a PPP loan.

The SBA and Treasury announced Friday that the new PPP will **re-open the week of Jan. 11**. Only community financial institutions that serve minority and women-owned businesses will be able to apply for at least the first three days. These include [Community Development Financial Institutions](#) and [Minority Depository Institutions](#), with first-draw PPP loans on starting Jan. 11 and second-draw PPP loans starting Jan. 13. The PPP will open to all participating lenders at an unspecified date shortly thereafter and remain open through March 31.

SBA has added a demographic reporting section on the PPP borrower application to better inform lenders and SBA on the success of our efforts to reach underserved, minority-owned, veteran-owned, and women-owned businesses. [Learn More](#).

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**Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)**. If you are a small business, self-employed, nonprofit organization of any size, or a U.S. agricultural business with 500 or fewer employees and you have suffered substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, you can apply for the COVID-19 EIDL. [Learn more and apply](#).

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**USDA Communities Facilities Grants**. US Department of Agriculture (USDA) invites applications for grants for [Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program](#), subject to the availability of funding. Funds may be used to help rural communities identify financial resources, improve the management of community facilities, and prepare reports, surveys and applications. Eligible recipients are public entities, private nonprofit organizations and federally recognized tribes. USDA encourages applications that will support

recommendations made in the [Report from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#). [Learn more](#).

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[The Mission Asset Fund](#) reminds us that 6 million immigrants are essential workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis, including those who are caring for our sick and maintaining our food supply chain. Yet many are not covered by existing sources of support. Up to 8 million U.S. citizens may not receive a stimulus check because they live with a family member without a social security number. These include the homes of nearly 6 million U.S.-born and naturalized children.

The **Immigrant Families Fund** provides grants to those who aren't eligible to receive a Federal coronavirus stimulus check and have lost income due to the

pandemic. The grants of \$500 are to help cover whatever is most pressing in their lives. Applicants must have experienced an income disruption due to COVID-19, earn less than \$99,000 annually or a \$198,000 household income, and not be eligible to receive a CARES Recovery Rebate (coronavirus stimulus check) from the federal government. [Get information](#) on how to apply or to donate to the Fund.

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A dark red rectangular banner with the text "COVID-19 RESOURCES" in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The background of the banner has a faint, repeating pattern of the letters "L" and "P" in a lighter shade of red.

# COVID-19 RESOURCES

**Free In-Home COVID-19 Testing.** All New Mexicans may now order FREE, at-home, self-administered COVID-19 saliva tests, with accurate laboratory-confirmed results returned within 24-48 hours of receipt of the sample. To order a test and for more information, visit [learn.vaulthealth.com/nm/](https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nm/)

**Pre-register for the COVID-19 Vaccine.** Register on-line at <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org>. For questions or assistance, call toll-free 1-855-600-3453, press option 0 for vaccine questions.

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**ESF6 Community Fund: Emergency Food Distribution**, managed by the [State Emergency Operations Center](#) (EOC), pays for the purchase and delivery of emergency food for populations that are unable to travel outside of their community or have limited or no access to food as a result of an emergency

situation or order. Any New Mexico community experiencing a food shortage caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic is eligible for assistance from ESF6. The local emergency manager must complete a resource request on a [ICS 213 RR form](#) to their County or Tribal Emergency Manager, who then submits requests to the State EOC. Find [more information and contacts](#) for tribal and county emergency managers.

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**Tribal Resource.** [Chamiza Foundation](#) Covid-19 Emergency Relief Fund is accepting applications from Pueblo organizations and organizations serving Pueblo communities in New Mexico that are responding to direct threats from COVID-19. The grant awards will range from \$3,000 to \$12,000. Specific areas of interest include food, medical supplies, and personal items; water; community relief and recovery needs; and internet access and connectivity. **Deadlines: February 12 and May 7.** Applications accepted beginning **January 12, 2021.** [Learn More.](#)

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**Building Healthy Military Communities** and other partners are hosting a series of three “assemblies” or virtual meetings on **January 19-21 at 5:00 PM MT**. The assemblies will provide information to soldiers and families on the impacts of COVID-19 and mental health. While the subject matter experts are from Oklahoma, the topics and information covered will be relevant to the wider military community. Register online at <https://go.usa.gov/xAcpT>

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**Covid-19 Emergency Response Grant Information.** [The Grant Plant](#) provides an extensive list of COVID-19 emergency response grant opportunities for

organizations in New Mexico, including New Mexican funders as well as national funding for which New Mexican nonprofits are eligible. [Learn More](#).

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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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