



MFA 2018 Legislative Agenda

Appropriation requests for preliminary discussion

State Mandates

As a self-supporting agency, MFA receives no operating funds from the state. Each year, MFA requests appropriations to cover costs associated with two state mandates—oversight of the regional housing authorities and oversight of the Affordable Housing Act. Without state funding, MFA cannot provide the high level of technical assistance needed to support these important programs.

- 1. Regional Housing Authority Oversight** **\$300,000—Recurring**
In 2009, MFA was mandated by the state to restructure and oversee the regional housing authorities (RHAs). MFA consolidated the seven RHAs into three (Northern RHA in Taos, Eastern RHA in Roswell, and Western RHA in Silver City and Deming) and began providing training and technical assistance and ensuring annual audits. **There has been no fraud, waste or abuse within the regional housing authorities since MFA began its oversight function.**

In 2017, this appropriation request was sponsored by Senator Mary Kay Papen as SB 92: Regional Housing Authority Funding. No funding was received.

- 2. Affordable Housing Act Oversight** **\$250,000—Recurring**
The Affordable Housing Act was signed into law in 2004. It permits the state and local governments to contribute public funds, land, buildings and other resources to create and preserve affordable housing. MFA was charged with rulemaking authority and oversight of the Act. **To date, MFA has assisted 40 local governments as they create and implement affordable housing plans and ordinances, resulting in nearly \$43 million in donations for affordable housing.**

In 2017, this appropriation request was sponsored by Senator Stuart Ingle as SB 129: Affordable Housing Oversight Duties. No funding was received.



Core Programs

In support of critical affordable housing needs, the state legislature established the New Mexico Housing Trust Fund and has appropriated funds for weatherization and energy-efficiency home improvements. State funding for these core MFA programs has not been available in recent years, although MFA has continued to request funding through the state Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP).

3. New Mexico Housing Trust Fund

\$5 million

The New Mexico Housing Trust Fund was created by the New Mexico Legislature in 2005 with an initial appropriation of \$10 million and subsequent appropriations of \$8.7 million. MFA has grown the fund to \$26 million through loan and investment interest and has awarded more than \$42 million by recycling interest and principal payments. The New Mexico Housing Trust Fund has helped to construct or rehabilitate nearly 3,200 homes and has leveraged \$459 million in other funding—a 24-to-1 return on the state’s investment. A \$5 million appropriation will help build more than 500 quality affordable homes for low-income New Mexicans.

MFA did not request this funding in 2017. Senator Nancy Rodriguez has sponsored appropriation requests for the New Mexico Housing Trust Fund in the past.

4. Low-Income Residential Energy Conservation

\$1 million

MFA’s NM Energy \$mart program weatherizes the homes of approximately 1,000 low-income families each year using two federal sources, the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Based on income eligibility, more than 200,000 households across the state are eligible for weatherization services. A \$1 million appropriation will weatherize 150 additional homes statewide, resulting in job creation, improved health and safety conditions and hundreds of dollars in annual utility bill savings for low-income homeowners.

MFA did not request this funding in 2017. Senator Richard Martinez and Representative Roberto “Bobby” J. Gonzales have sponsored appropriation requests for NM Energy\$mart in the past.

Other Appropriation Requests

MFA and the MFA Act Legislative Oversight Committee have requested the following additional appropriations in past years:

5. **Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance**, \$1.65 million, Representative Alonzo Baldonado
6. **Veteran Rehabilitation**, \$2 million, Senator Richard C. Martinez
7. **Pre-Purchase Homebuyer Education**, \$500,000, Senator Michael Padilla
8. **Emergency Home Repair**, \$2 million, Representative Luciano “Lucky” Varela