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AN ACT

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT; CREATING THE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES COUNCIL; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; CREATING A FUND TO ASSIST POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS WITH MATCH REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT FUNDING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES COUNCIL.--

A. The "grant opportunities council" is created and is administratively attached to the department of finance and administration. The council consists of:

(1) the director of the local government division of the department of finance and administration or the director's designee; and

(2) the following members appointed by the governor:

(a) three county representatives, one each from a small-, medium- and large-population county;

(b) three municipal representatives, one each from a small-, medium- and large-population municipality;

(c) three representatives of other political subdivisions of the state;

(d) two grant professionals who have experience writing and administering grants;

1 (e) one staff member from a council of  
2 governments who has experience writing or administering  
3 grants; and

4 (f) one local staff member of a member  
5 of the New Mexico congressional delegation.

6 B. The governor shall invite the state director of  
7 rural development and the director of the New Mexico field  
8 office of the rural utilities service of the United States  
9 department of agriculture and other federal representatives  
10 in New Mexico to participate in the activities of the grant  
11 opportunities council.

12 C. Members appointed by the governor shall serve  
13 at the pleasure of the governor. Members who are not paid  
14 with public funds are entitled to per diem and mileage as  
15 provided for state employees in the Per Diem and Mileage Act  
16 but shall receive no other compensation, perquisite or  
17 allowance.

18 D. The grant opportunities council shall elect a  
19 chair and vice chair. The department of finance and  
20 administration shall provide staff assistance for the  
21 council. The council shall meet regularly at the call of the  
22 chair.

23 E. The grant opportunities council shall advise  
24 the department of finance and administration on grant  
25 matters, including:

- 1 (1) methods and models for identifying,
- 2 procuring, using and maintaining federal and other grants;
- 3 (2) identification of barriers to procuring
- 4 and managing federal and other grants;
- 5 (3) best practices for managing and
- 6 accounting for grants;
- 7 (4) the contents and analyses of the annual
- 8 state and local grants survey; and
- 9 (5) other grant topics requested by the
- 10 department of finance and administration.

11 F. The grant opportunities council shall report to  
12 the department of finance and administration, the governor  
13 and the legislature by December 1 of each year. The report  
14 shall include a description of the council's activities for  
15 the year, an annual state and local grants survey and  
16 recommendations for administrative or statutory changes to  
17 improve the number and quality of federal and other grants  
18 awarded to state and political subdivisions of the state.

19 **SECTION 2.** A new section of Chapter 12 NMSA 1978 is  
20 enacted to read:

21 "GRANTS MATCHING FUND--CREATED--PURPOSE--APPLICATIONS.--

22 A. The "grants matching fund" is created as a  
23 nonreverting fund in the state treasury and consists of  
24 appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The fund shall  
25 be administered by the department of finance and

1 administration. Money in the fund is subject to  
2 appropriation by the legislature to help political  
3 subdivisions of the state meet match requirements for federal  
4 and other grants. Expenditures from the fund shall be on  
5 warrants of the secretary of finance and administration  
6 pursuant to vouchers signed by the director of the local  
7 government division or the director's authorized  
8 representative.

9 B. The department of finance and administration  
10 shall establish standards of eligibility and criteria for  
11 prioritizing applications for grant matching funds. Priority  
12 for matching fund grants shall be given to projects that  
13 provide services to rural and frontier communities and other  
14 underserved populations and to smaller counties and  
15 municipalities to improve service delivery or to be more  
16 efficient and effective. Application shall be on forms  
17 provided by the department of finance and administration and  
18 shall include all information required by the department."

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