

## JOBS COUNCIL 2015 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

### 1. Local Economic Development Organizations Staffing

Fund provides matching state grant funds to regional and local economic development organizations to hire professionals to expand job creation in their area

### 2. Broadband Plan

Conduct a comprehensive study and report on available assets, capabilities and gaps, design and engineering needs, gap solutions, necessary funding sources, etc., needed to erase the competitive disadvantage of current broadband inadequacies across the state. Complete broadband infrastructure upgrades at high priority rural locations

### 3. New Mexico Partnership

Increase marketing and case management for major economic base job creation projects by providing additional funding of the New Mexico Economic Development Corporation (New Mexico Partnership) in order to increase marketing and business development of the state to attract and expand additional economic base employers. It is recommended the Partnership receive funding through the New Mexico Economic Development Department to improve the Partnership's multi-faceted marketing program, which has been developed and carried out in a cooperative effort with community and regional economic development organizations throughout the state.

### 4. Solowork

Develop a new statewide program approach for creating economic base jobs by establishing a new program focused on solo and independent workers. The matching fund would be used to create a minimum of two local pilot programs, one rural and one urban or suburban. Solo and independent work, aside from being one of the fastest growing sectors in the New Mexico economy, may be the only opportunity available to many of the state's rural communities to create economic base jobs.

### 5. Co-op Marketing

Re-build the pipeline of prospective economic base job creation project opportunities. Funds the New Mexico Economic Development Department to match regional and local efforts to generate qualified economic base business leads for target industries. Administered through the Certified Cities Program any community with a viable strategy and procuring agent for generating economic base jobs is eligible for matching funds.

### 6. Metrics and Accountability

Establish program for ongoing collection and reporting of economic base jobs, standardize and report incentives, and calculate project ROI

### 7. Local Education and Planning

Establish a program to provide for ongoing community economic development assessment and planning of economic base job needs and opportunities.

### 8. Workforce Gap Study

Analyze statewide workforce needs by conducting an analysis of current and future workforce needs through the study of job openings, employer surveys and focus groups, WorkKeys and O\*Net data, as well as from data in available forecasting models. Workforce being the key factor of production in advancing New Mexico's economy, understanding of areas of worker and skill shortages will be vital.

### 9. Middle School Physics

Better prepare students for the future New Mexico workforce by funding a pilot for a middle school physics program developed by See the Change USA a 501 (c) (3) to conduct a three-year pilot program in five of the poorest performing middle schools around the state. The program requires a one time \$50,000 fee for the curriculum modules and teacher training. This program will assist New Mexico communities in helping them produce local workforce with the skill sets needed to sustain their economies in the future.

### 10. WorkKeys Assessment

Support NMDWS program of assessing job applicants to determine their mathematics and reading skills necessary to successfully accomplish occupational work requirements