

New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing

June 16, 2021

Sonya Smith, DVS Cabinet Secretary

Bryan Osterhage, DVS Deputy Cabinet Secretary

“Every day is Veterans’ Day”

Mission: To provide the highest quality care, service, and advocacy for the men and women—and their eligible family members—who have served as members of the United States Armed Forces.

Vision: To be the premier agency that anticipates and meets the changing needs of New Mexico’s veterans and their families.





Transportation Programs



USDVA Highly Rural Transportation Grant (HRTG)

Grant funding is awarded to qualified organizations for providing services for veterans in highly rural areas who have difficulty getting VA health care due to the lack of transportation services.

Highly rural area is defined as a county with less than 7 people per square mile.

New Mexico has **15** qualifying counties.

Veterans are transported to VA and approved non-VA hospitals and clinics.



NMDVS HRTG Program

Received HRTG fall 2020; funding approved winter 2020; rides began early 2021.

Nine counties selected for a pilot program: Cibola, Colfax, Guadalupe, Harding, Mora, Quay, San Miguel, Socorro & Union.

Funding breakdown: funding per county ranges from approximately \$6,000 to \$15,000, totaling over \$102,000. Costs include mileage, advertising & administrative overhead.

Can be utilized for COVID-19 vaccination appointments with the VA.

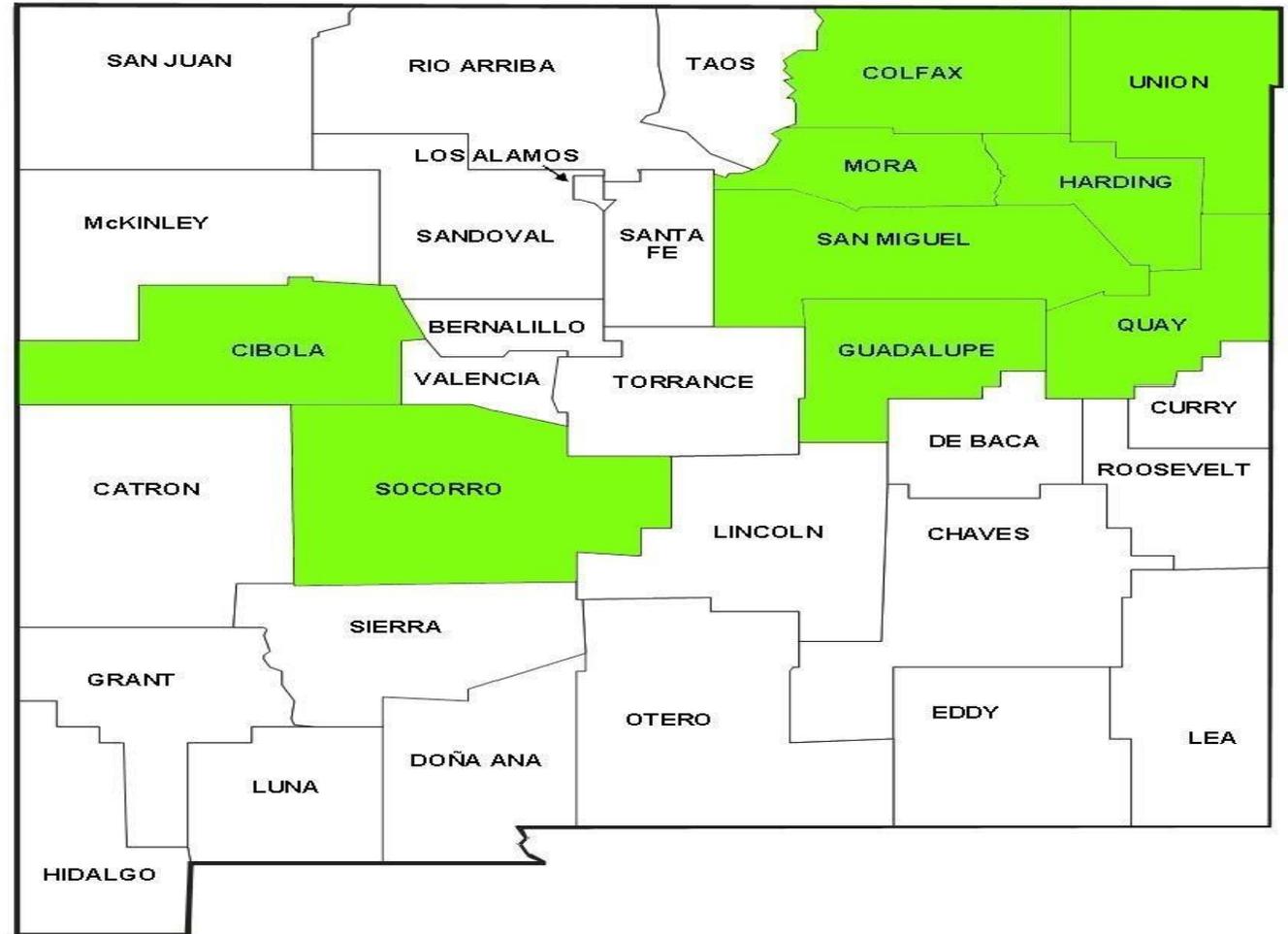
Current totals:

11 completed rides covering two counties: Cibola & Union*

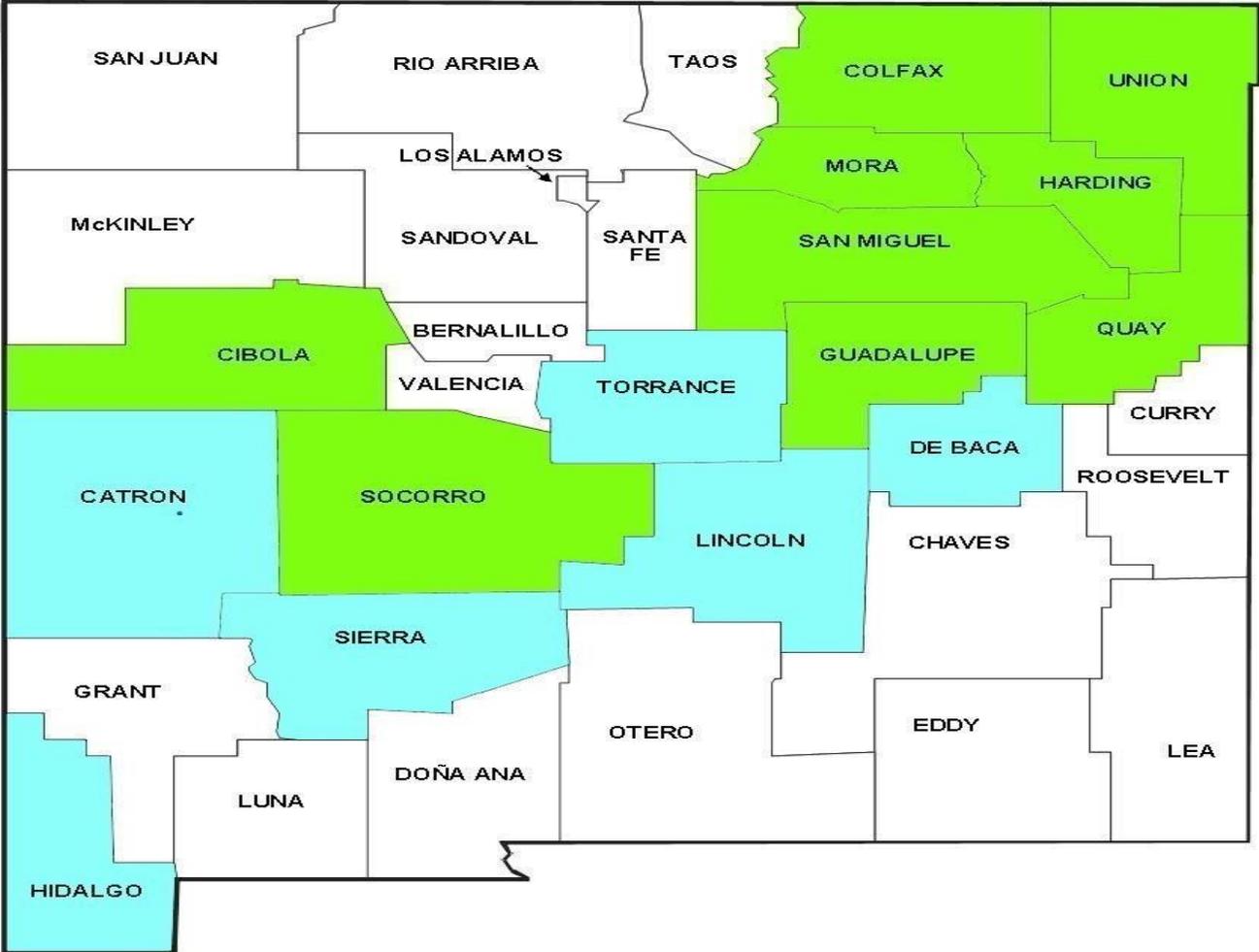
Each provider has pending rides for this month.

\$81,851 remain in funding

Current Operational Footprint



Requested Expansion





Additional Transportation Efforts

Existing contract with New Mexico Horizons (DAV)

Main NM counties served: Sierra & Dona Ana.

386 veterans served (JUL 20 – MAY 21).

Possible expansion of service coverage with SB 377 funding

Other Agency Updates

Covid-19 Vaccine Response

Women Veterans Program

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Angel Fire, NM





Questions/Comments? Our Veterans Thank You!



The New Mexico
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Services

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