



# North Central

NEW MEXICO  
Economic Development District

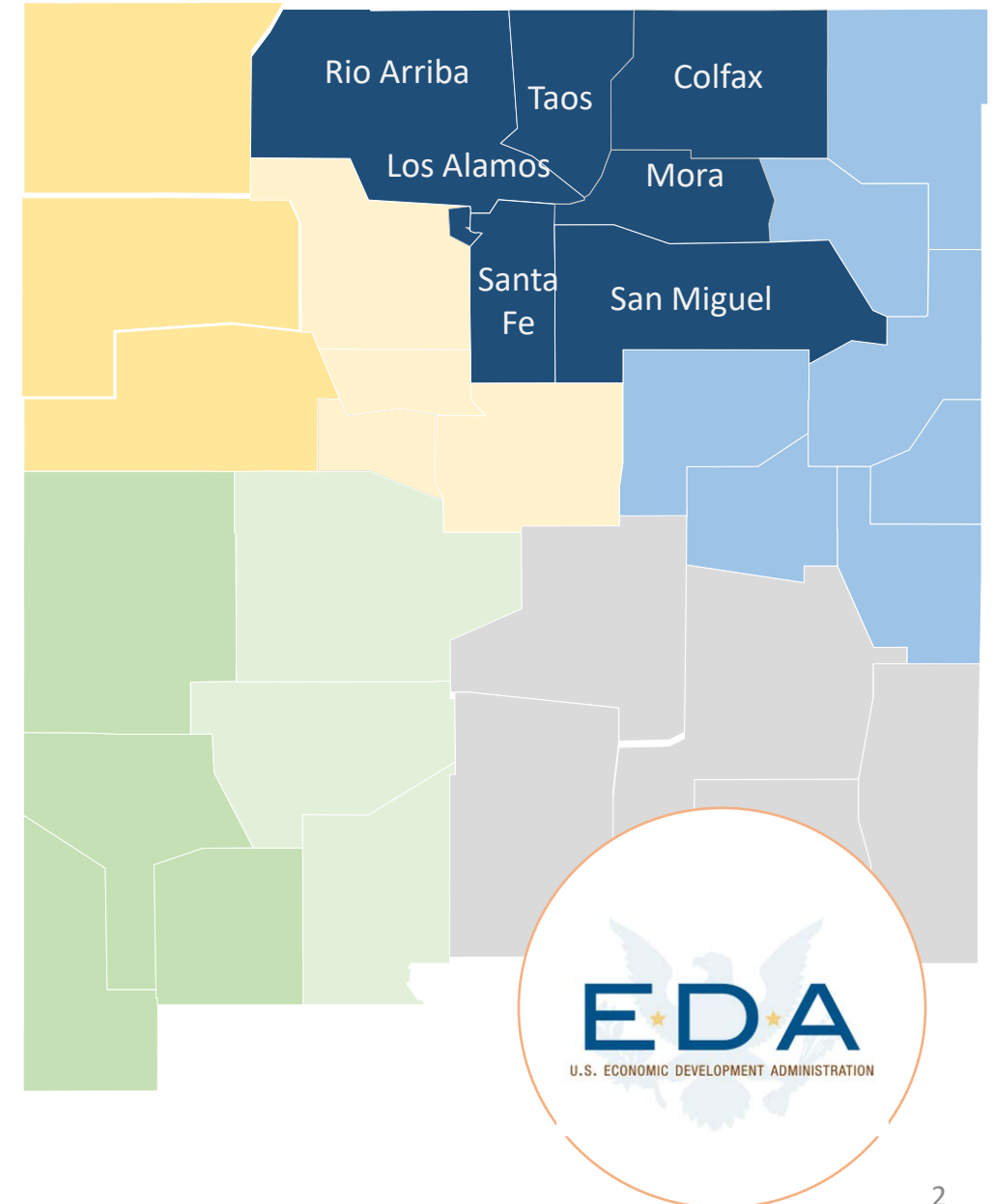
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*Rural Economic  
Opportunities  
Task Force*

*July 19, 2021*

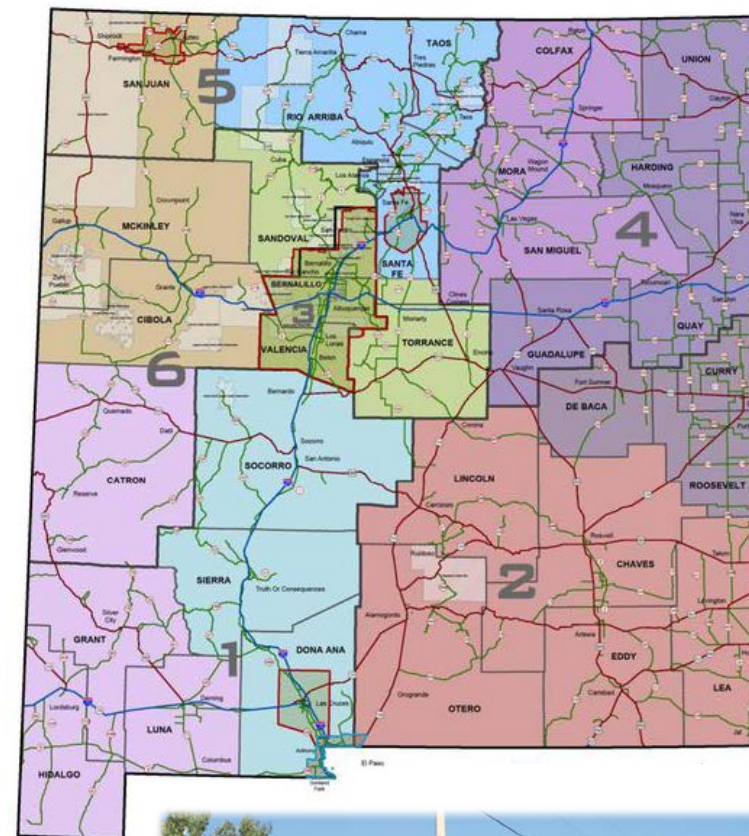
# Our Beginnings

- The federal Public Works and Economic Development Act (PWEDA) of 1965 created the US Economic Development Administration (EDA).
- PWEDA authorized distressed multi-county regions to form economic development districts for these purposes:
  - Enhance the socioeconomic environment of our members.
  - Serve as conduits for EDA funding and technical assistance.
  - Develop Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) for our regions.
- NCNMEDD was created in 1967 through a Joint Powers Agreement signed by Colfax, Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Taos and Sandoval counties. We were recognized by EDA as an economic development district in 1968.
- In 1978, the New Mexico Planning District Act (4-58-1 to 4-58-6 NMSA 1978) and the Regional Planning Act (3-56-1 to 3-56-9 NMSA 1978) provided state enabling legislation for Economic Development Districts and Councils of Governments. As regional councils, we assist our members with state funding sources and federal funding sources passed through to state agencies.



# RTPOs: Regional Transportation & Planning Organizations

- New Mexico has used the RTPO process since the early 1990s to conduct outreach to local officials. Economic Development Districts and Councils of Governments (COGs) administer the RTPOs in their regions.
- RTPOs rate and prioritize projects for federal and state transportation programs:
  - Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
  - Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
  - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
  - Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)
  - Roadways
  - Public Transportation
  - Safe Routes to School
  - Scenic By-Ways
  - Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
  - Bridge
  - Transportation Project Fund
- NCNMEDD administers the Northern Pueblos RTPO and co-administers the North East RTPO with the Eastern Plains COG.



*Work with  
us to get  
your  
project  
funded!*



# We help communities fund and develop infrastructure

Funding Source	Project Example
U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questa Business Park</li> <li>• Jicarilla Tribal Energy Consortium Project</li> </ul>
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) NM Department of Transportation (NMDOT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal call for projects: TAP/RTP/CMAQ</li> <li>• Transportation Project Fund</li> </ul>
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	
U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) <i>Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabesto Water Line (Questa)</li> <li>• Nursing Home Repurposing (Rio Arriba)</li> </ul>
State of NM Capital Outlay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La Bajada Water System Improvements</li> <li>• REDI Net Core System Upgrades</li> </ul>
NM Finance Authority (NMFA)	
NM Environment Department (NMED)	
NM Economic Development Department (NMEDD) <i>Outdoor Recreation Fund</i>	
NM Department of Information Technology (DoIT) <i>Connect New Mexico Fund</i>	
CARES Act American Rescue Plan Act	Ongoing technical assistance to members

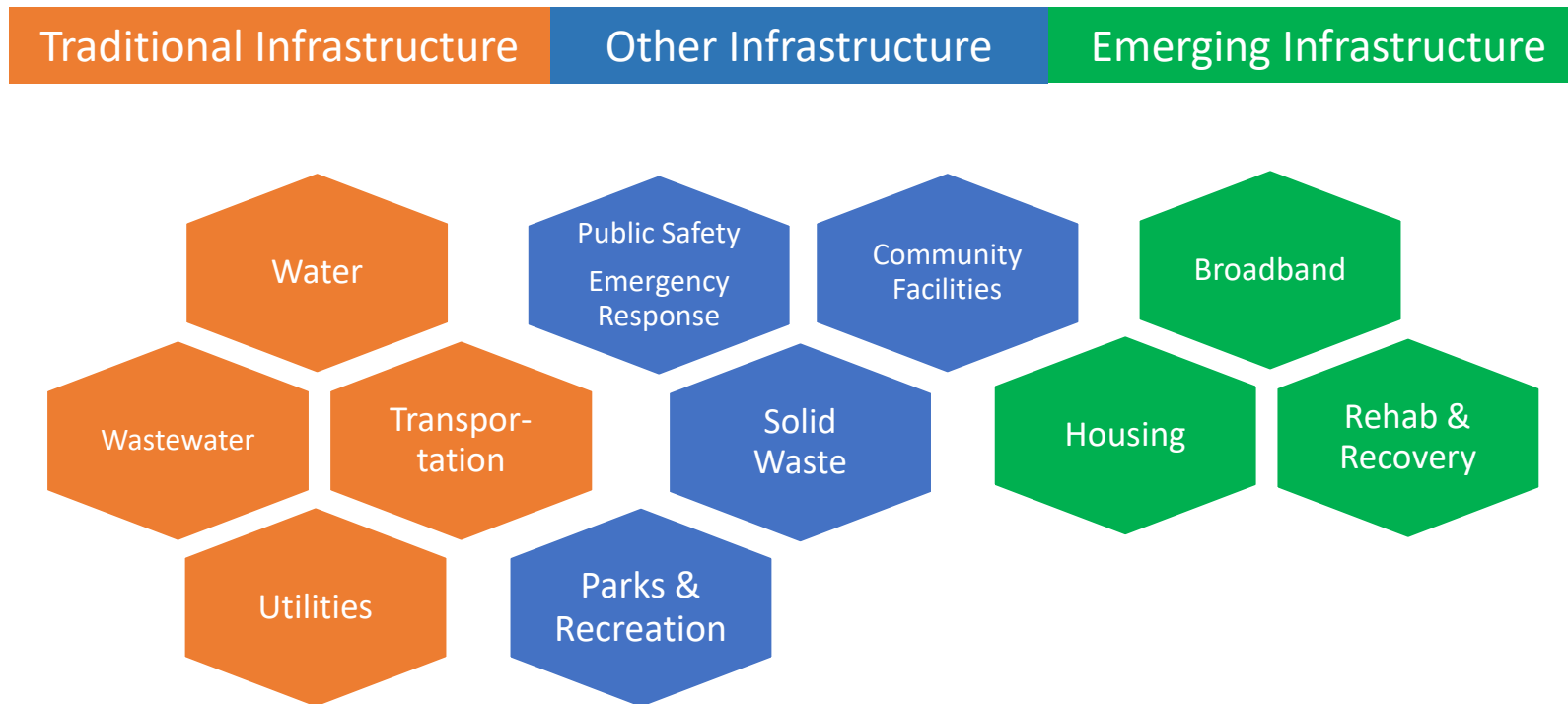
*We provide technical assistance for members and charge a fee for more intensive work.*



*Groundbreaking for the REDI-Net Middle Mile broadband network*



# Economic Development Relies on Good Infrastructure



# Water and Wastewater Needs

## Municipal water systems

- Replacement of aging infrastructure such as asbestos/clay pipes
- Address leaks and water loss
- Storage tanks and tank upgrades
- Water rights purchases

## Water quality issues

- Groundwater contamination

## Drought & climate change

- Dry wells
- Depleted water tables

## Wastewater

- Centralized treatment systems to replace individual septic systems and cesspools
- Closure of sewage lagoons
- Extensions to service new customers
- Operations—need for certified operators

## Acequias

## Mutual domestic water associations

- Infrastructure maintenance
- New connections/customers
- Organizational capacity



*Village of Cimarron Water and Wastewater Line Replacement*

# Transportation Needs

## Roadways & Bridges

- Reconstruction
- Grading, resurfacing, paving
- Safety improvements
- Bridge improvements
- Curb and gutter
- Drainage
- Streetscapes, sidewalks and pedestrian amenities



*Village of Red River streetscape and ADA improvements*



*City of Raton Reconstruction of Frontage Road/E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street*



*Taos County Pilar Bridge*



*City of Española Corridor Safety Improvements*



# Transportation

## Public Transit

- **North Central Regional Transit District:** Fixed route service to most communities west of the Sangre de Cristos as well as Mora.
- **Popay Messenger:** On-demand, weekday service for Ohkay Owingeh residents.
- **Atomic City Transit:** Fixed route service within Los Alamos County.
- **Town of Red River:** On-demand service connecting Red River to NCRTD routes.
- **Meadow City Express:** On-demand service in the City of Las Vegas and outlying areas
- **Santa Fe Trails:** Fixed route service in the City of Santa Fe.
- **Paratransit Services** provided by Santa Fe Ride, Santa Fe Recovery Center and Life Circle New Mexico adult day care in Santa Fe.

## Airports

- Santa Fe Regional Airport
- Angel Fire Airport
- Jicarilla Apache Nation Airport
- Ohkay Owingeh Airport
- Las Vegas Municipal Airport
- Los Alamos County Airport
- Questa Municipal Airport
- Raton Municipal Airport
- Springer Municipal Airport
- Taos Municipal Airport

## Rail

- Railrunner
- Trinidad Rail
- Union Pacific
- BNSF-Burlington Northern Santa Fe
- Cumbres & Toltec Railroad



*Taos Municipal Airport*

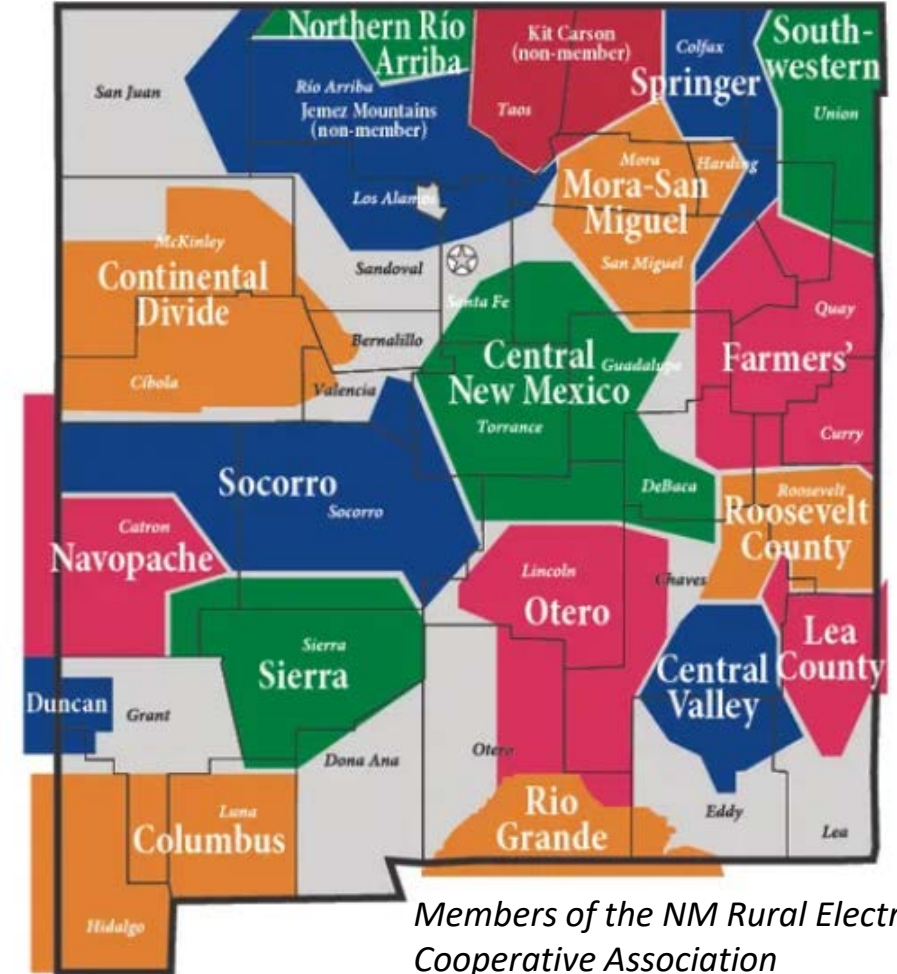


*Las Vegas Railroad Depot*



# Utility Infrastructure Needs

- Many rural areas are served by rural electric cooperatives
- Rural utility cooperatives are eligible for USDA grants and loans for renewable energy and broadband/telecommunications
- Rural electric cooperatives can play a pivotal role in infrastructure development. Kit Carson Electric Cooperative in Taos has been innovative in developing and offering these new services:
  - Broadband
  - Distributed generation
  - Electric vehicle infrastructure
- Some local governments are utility providers or are investing in renewables:
  - Los Alamos County and the Village of Springer provide electric services.
  - Rio Arriba County is developing solar arrays and selling power back to the grid.
- Lack of natural gas providers means many residents depend on propane, which is four times more expensive than gas.



# Other Infrastructure Needs

## Public Safety and Emergency Response

- Facilities
- Vehicles
- Equipment
- Communications/Technology

## Solid Waste

- Landfills
- Transfer Stations
- Recycling
- Vehicles
- Equipment

## Parks and Recreation

- Open Space
- Parks
- Trails
- Pools
- Recreation Centers

## Community Facilities

- Community Centers
- Senior Centers
- Libraries
- Animal Shelters



# Emerging Infrastructure Needs

## Broadband

- New Mexico is ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation by Broadbandnow.com in state broadband access.
- The American Rescue Plan and the anticipated American Jobs Plan provide unprecedented opportunities for broadband investment.
- Our state and region need to be ready to apply for funding as it becomes available.

## Rural Housing

- Rural communities in NM suffer from lack of investment by developers because they are aging and losing population.
- North central NM is home to some of the oldest housing stock in the state.
- Lack of quality, affordable housing is a major barrier to retaining and attracting critical workforce as well as new economic development.

## Rehabilitation and Recovery

- All communities in NM lack the resources, capacity and facilities to adequately address the substance abuse epidemic.
- USDA Rural Development has a goal to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with Substance Abuse Disorder in high-risk rural communities through prevention, treatment and recovery.
- NCNMEDD was one of ten regions in the nation to participate with the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) on a Mobility, Economic Resilience and Substance Use Disorder Workshop Series.





# Closing Thoughts

## Other Barriers to Rural Infrastructure

- Capacity of small local governments—some have only a handful of staff.
- Large unincorporated areas outside of city limits that lack access to municipal services.
- Counties with limited tax bases.
- Multi-jurisdictional areas such as the Española Valley.
- Complex application processes such as CDBG. Large entitlement communities receive funding directly; non-entitlement communities must apply.
- Matching fund requirements.
- Operational costs and requirements.

***Economic Development Districts and Councils of Governments are poised to collaborate with local governments, the state and federal agencies on solutions to break down these barriers.***

