

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services**

**Michelle Lujan Grisham** *Governor*

**Sonya L. Smith** *Cabinet Secretary-Designate*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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 **Small Business/Non-Profit Agency CARES ACT
Relief Grants Program Opens Dec. 7**

SANTA FE-The Small Business CARES Relief Grant federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act relief grants application program application will open at noon on Monday, December 7 for small businesses and nonprofit organizations, seeking emergency relief grant funding due to hardships created by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant application closes at noon on December 18.

The grants provide up to $50,000 for New Mexico small businesses with 100 or fewer employees. The New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) will administer this grant program. Hospitality and leisure businesses will be prioritized, but all affected small businesses are encouraged to apply.

Non-profit agencies that focus on assisting military veterans and active-duty personnel are also eligible. Eligible non-profit organizations must be registered as a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(6), or 501(c)(8), or as veterans' organizations described in Section 501(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and subject to the provisions of the Nonprofit Corporation Act.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and the Legislature directed $100 million of CARES Act stimulus funds to the NMFA at a November 24 special legislative session. Funds must be distributed by December 28.

“I want to thank our legislators and Governor Lujan Grisham for doing all they can to care for New Mexicans who have been greatly affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,” said New Mexico Department of Veterans Services Secretary (DVS) Sonya L. Smith. “DVS also stands ready to help veteran-owned businesses and veterans service organizations who need help during these difficult times.”

For more information, go to [www.nmfinance.com/cares-continuity-grants/](http://www.nmfinance.com/cares-continuity-grants).

Veteran-owned businesses can obtain additional assistance by contacting DVS Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) Director Rich Coffel at (505) 220-9932 or richardL.coffel@state.nm.us.

Veterans or their eligible dependents needing help with VA or state veterans benefits can contact DVS at (505) 383-2400 or nmdvs.info@state.nm.us.

**Additional Financial Assistance**

**$194 million** **- Additional Unemployment Benefits**

A $1,200 benefit is available to New Mexicans who are currently on and determined eligible under an unemployment benefits program, who have recently exhausted unemployment benefits since September 12, or who will enroll in an unemployment program in the coming week. The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions will administer this funding. Please visit [www.dws.state.nm.us](http://www.dws.state.nm.us/) or contact nmdws.communication@state.nm.us​ for more information.

**$5 million** **- Cash Assistance**

Cash assistance to assist low-income residents up to $750 per household that did not receive a federal government stimulus payment; this may include people without a social security number and low-income individuals who didn't have to file taxes and therefore were unidentifiable by the IRS for stimulus checks. New Mexico Human Services Department will administer this funding. [www.hsd.state.nm.us](http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/) for more information.

**$15 million - Emergency Housing Assistance**

Additional aid for emergency housing support as well as assistance for the homeless. The New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority will administer this funding. Contact: 800-444-6880 or info@housingnm.org

**$5 million** **- Emergency Food Support**

Additional funding for emergency food bank services throughout the state to distribute food to New Mexicans in need. New Mexico Human Services Department will administer this funding. Please visit [www.hsd.state.nm.us](http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/) for more information.

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