



Dear County and Municipal Leaders,

I'm pleased to announce that the federal government allocated \$170m to the State of New Mexico and the City of Albuquerque to disperse for rental and utility assistance for those individuals in need in our state. The Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) is spearheading The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) for the State of New Mexico. Identifying New Mexicans in need of rental and utility assistance will take a massive and collaborative effort from the state as well as local governments. We would greatly appreciate your help in collaborating with the state to ensure we reach the people in need within your communities. Below is a brief breakdown of ERAP and how your collaboration is essential to the success of this program.

### **What is ERAP?**

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program is rental and utility assistance to households experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

### **How will it work?**

DFA and several partners are developing an online application portal for New Mexicans to apply for assistance at [www.RentHelpNM.org](http://www.RentHelpNM.org). The state will maintain and administer this program.

### **Who is eligible for this program?**

- New Mexicans across the state, except those who reside in Bernalillo County (outside of Albuquerque city limits) or Dona Ana County. Those counties are administering their own programs.
- One or more individuals within the household has qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 outbreak;
- One or more individuals within the household can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- The household has a household income at or below 80% of area median income as defined by Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Priority will be given to households with income less than 50% of area median income and to households with one or more members that have been unemployed for at least 90 days.

### **How will it work?**

DFA and several partners are developing an online application portal for New Mexicans to apply for assistance. The state will maintain and administer this program.

### **How you can help?**

We need your help in community outreach and pushing out marketing materials to your communities. You know your communities best, so all you can do to reach out to renters, landlords, property management companies, and any other groups related to this program is extremely helpful. We will coordinate with you to help create anything specific you need to assist with marketing this program



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor



**NM Emergency Rental Assistance Program**  
www.RentHelpNM.org



Deborah K. Romero  
Cabinet Secretary

through distribution lists, social media accounts, newsletters and websites. Please have your communication team contact our PIO, Henry Valdez at [Henry.Valdez@state.nm.us](mailto:Henry.Valdez@state.nm.us) for more information.

Thank you and I hope together we can bring rental and utility assistance to New Mexicans.

In partnership,

*Donnie Quintana*

Donnie Quintana

Division Director

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