

Funding Relief Opportunities (Draft)

State, federal, and nonprofit aid available to Rio Arriba County Citizens

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Federal

American Rescue Plan of 2021: Funding for State and Local Government

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (the Rescue Plan) included significant funds for States, local, and tribal governments. These include both direct funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury (Treasury) and program monies that will flow through other federal agencies. Cities and counties will receive a total of \$130.2 billion.

The funds can be used for the following purposes:

1. To respond to the coronavirus health impacts or economic impacts including assistance to households, small businesses, nonprofits, and impacted industries including hospitality, travel, and tourism.
2. By providing premium pay for essential workers up to \$13 an hour with an annual cap of \$25,000.
3. To cover for lost revenue in providing services.
4. To make investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure.

Further details to be provided by U.S. Department of Treasury: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/american-rescue-plan/>

COVID Funeral Assistance

FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. Applicants can receive up to \$9,000 per burial.

To apply, you must call 844-684-6333. The call center will be open from 7am to 7pm ET. [For more information, visit the FEMA website.](#)

Unemployment

Department of Labor is adding an [additional \\$300 weekly enhancement](#) to unemployment checks.

State

Rental and Housing Assistance

The State will grant **\$170M** of federal aid to New Mexicans for rental and utility assistance to households experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19. Applications will be open through August.

Those seeking assistance should review the current FAQ at www.RentHelpNM.org to learn more about eligibility and documentation needed for their application. The help desk phone number is 1-833-485-1334.

The State of New Mexico will either pay the landlord and/or the utility provider directly depending on the financial assistance request by the applicant. Landlords and utility providers are encouraged to [download a W9](#) and submit it to DFA via ERAVendor.Relations@state.nm.us as soon as possible to ensure a streamlined process for receiving payment.

Note: Renters across the state are eligible for the program -- except for residents of Bernalillo County, Dona Ana County, and those who live in a pueblo or tribal area. Those two counties, as well as tribal governments, will administer their own Rental Assistance Programs.

Emergency Housing

The [New Mexico Mortgage and Finance Authority](#) offers Emergency Temporary Housing for those who are experiencing a crisis. MFA offers this service through partnerships with nonprofit partners. [Click this link to learn more about the program.](#)

Housing Costs

Applications for the COVID-19 Housing Cost Assistance Program, operated by the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority, **must be completed by 5pm on April 15.**

Income-eligible recipients will receive as much as \$1,500 per month for up to three months for rental and mortgage-related payments. Details can be found at www.housingnm.org, or they can call 505-308-4206 or toll free at 866-488-0498 for more information.

Utility Costs

New Mexico Gas Company has \$1.2 million in COVID-19 relief funding to assist income-qualifying customers and small business owners who have fallen behind on their gas bills because of the pandemic.

Qualified residential customers will receive a one-time payment of \$150 toward their bill, and small business owners who qualify will be eligible for a one-time credit of up to \$250. Residential customers can apply for help through New Mexico Gas Company's HEAT New Mexico program.

For customers seeking to learn more, please go to nmgco.com or reach out to 1-888-664-2726. Small business owners can apply online at www.nmgco.com/SmallBusiness/CovidRelief.

Nonprofits with Relief Programs

United Way of Northern New Mexico

[The United Way of Northern New Mexico](#) is an invaluable coordinator of other nonprofits around the County. They are one of the largest organizations operating in Rio Arriba, and work to identify issues in our committee, and address challenges by connecting nonprofits with these areas of need. Find [volunteering opportunities here](#).

HELP NM

HELP New Mexico is a nonprofit affiliated with UnidosUS, the largest Latino Civil Rights and Advocacy Organization in the Country. HELP offers a broad array of services. This includes direct assistance to individuals in need of food or housing, and job placement, education, and training programs. [Find their programs here](#).

LANL Foundation

The LANL Foundation Supports individuals and causes in the communities around the Los Alamos National Laboratories. They have a significant focus on education, including STEM and access early childhood care. [Find their initiatives here](#).

Mesa to Mesa

Mesa to Mesa is a nonprofit working with low-income homeowners to ensure that they can stay in their homes. They work on small repairs and help facilitate and coordinate larger ones.

They are also funding utility assistance due to the pandemic. [Find their application here](#).

Somos un Pueblo Unido

Somos is a statewide community-based and immigrant-led organization that promotes worker and racial justice. With an active membership of 2,500 people in eight counties, *Somos*: Offers community education about rights and remedies; Forges leadership opportunities for immigrants and low-wage workers; Provides legal services to wage theft victims and initiates impact litigation to defend worker's rights.

Somos es una organización comunitaria de inmigrantes que se dedica a promover la justicia racial y la de los trabajadores. Con una participación de 2,500 miembros repartidos en ocho condados, *Somos*: Informa a las comunidades sobre sus derechos; Forja nuevas oportunidades de liderazgo para inmigrantes y para los trabajadores de escasos recursos; Proporciona asistencia legal a los trabajadores que son víctimas del robo de salario e inicia litigación de impacto para defender los derechos laborales

<https://www.somosunpueblounido.org/>; 505-424-7832; Email: somos@somosunpueblounido.org

Other Local Nonprofits and Programs

Rio Arriba Adult Literacy Program

Free! Improve your writing and reading with tutoring. 2 hours per week. Confidential.

505-747-6162 (office)

505-303-6437 (cell)

read@raalp.org

www.raalp.org

¡Free! Aprenda a hablar y leer en inglés.

Ayuda individual, 2 horas por semana.

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505-303-6437 (celular)

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