

Water Infrastructure Projects and the Integrated Water Financing Plan

Rebecca Roose, Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

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State Infrastructure Program Priorities



Leverage and Integrate Federal Funding



Revitalize Local Economies and Advance Equity



Build Lasting Local Capacity to Maintain and Enhance Infrastructure



Modernize State Infrastructure Programs



Prioritize Infrastructure Investments to Increase Climate Resilience and Decarbonize our Economy



Track and Measure Progress



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Challenges and Opportunities

“If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you’ve always got.” - Anonymous



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Snapshot of BIL Funding in NM

- \$5.9 billion of BIL funding for New Mexico programs and projects as of August 2024, including:
 - \$2.4 billion for transportation
 - \$1.6 billion for broadband
 - \$1.2 billion for water
 - Other awards for pollution cleanup, clean energy and other projects, such as orphan well plugging program
- Increased federal investments in local capacity building and technical assistance
 - Ex: Creation of the South-Central Environmental Justice Resource Center at NMSU (\$10 million)
 - Ex: Increased funding for Southwest Environmental Finance Center at UNM (\$4 million)
- Prioritization of BIL funding to advance equity and justice and invest in historically disadvantaged communities

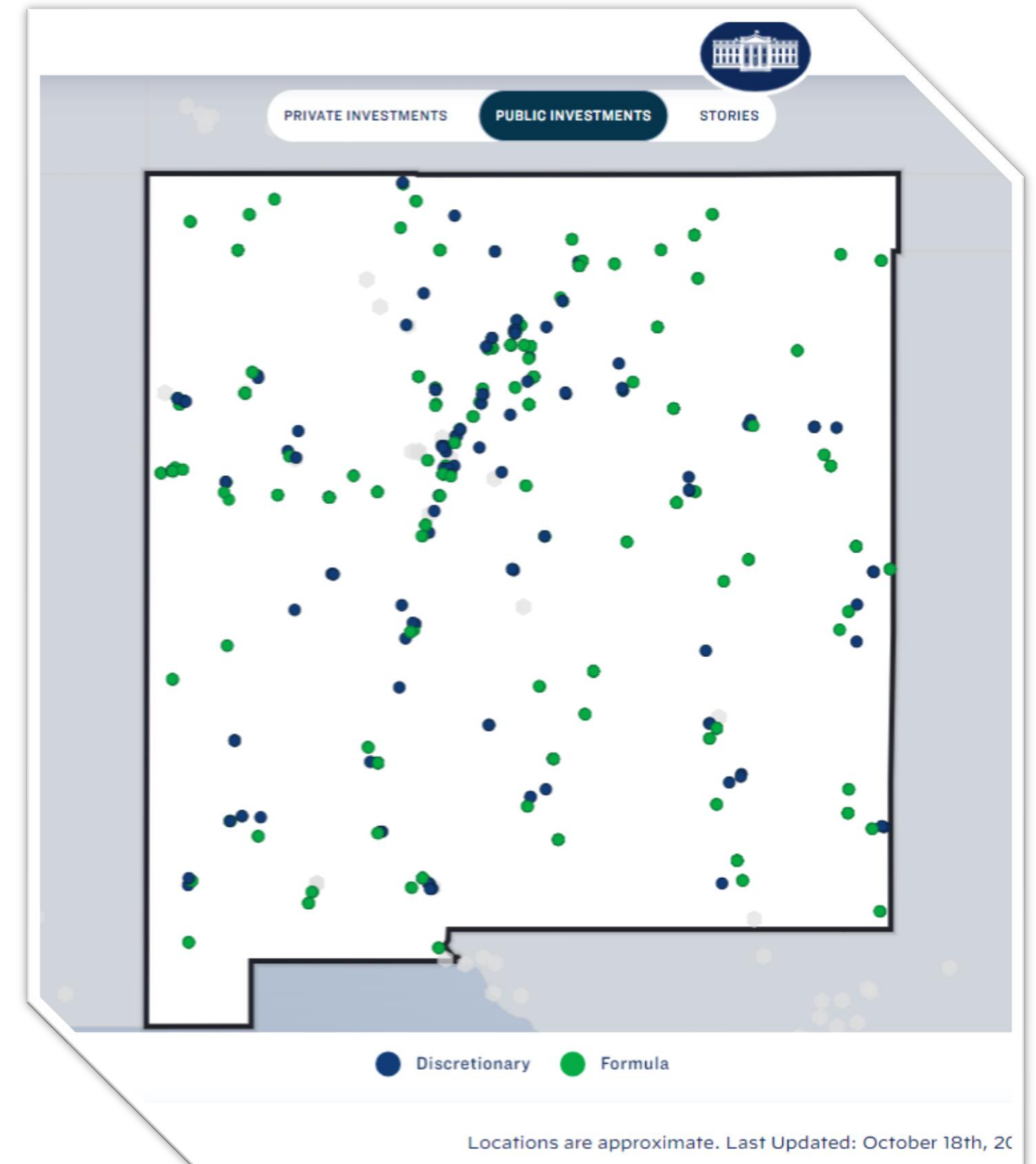


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National Resources and Tools

- https://www.whitehouse.gov/invest/?utm_source=invest.gov
- <https://www.nlc.org/resource/rebuilding-america-tracking-federal-investment-in-local-infrastructure-projects/>
- <https://www.nga.org/bestpractices/infrastructure/>
- <https://www.usaspending.gov/>
- <https://grants.gov/>
- <https://www.communityinfrastructurecenter.org/>



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NM Key Resources and Tools (General)

- Federal Funding Dashboard at <https://www.nm.gov/federal-funding/>
- NM Catalog of Local Assistance Programs currently at <https://www.thegrantplantnm.com/opportunities/>
- New Mexico Match Fund at <https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/nmmatchfund/>
- Infrastructure Planning and Development Division at DFA, including the Federal Grants Management Bureau
 - Contact Anna Naruta-Moya at anna.naruta-moya@dfa.nm.gov to sign-up for the e-Newsletter and read past newsletters at <https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/budget-division/federal-grants-bureau/>



NM Key Resources and Tools (Water)

- **50-Year Water Action Plan** at <https://www.nm.gov/water-security-in-new-mexico/>
- **NMISC Regional Water Planning** at <https://mainstreamnm.org/>
- **NM Environment Dept. Funding Opportunities** at <https://www.env.nm.gov/funding-opportunities/>
- **Water Trust Board** information at <https://www.nmfinance.com/water-trust-board/>
- **Colonias Infrastructure Fund** at <https://www.nmfinance.com/colonias/>
- **Tribal Infrastructure Fund** at <https://www.iad.nm.gov/programs-and-funding/tribal-infrastructure-fund/>
- **Acequia construction** funding programs at https://www.ose.nm.gov/Acequias/isc_acequiasConstruction.php
- **State Board of Finance emergency** funding at <https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/board-of-finance/emergency-loans/>



Technical Assistance for Water Projects

- USEPA “**Water TA**” Program – submit online request form at <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/water-technical-assistance-waterta>
- **National Water Infrastructure Environmental Finance Centers:**
 - Environmental Finance Center Network at <https://efcnetwork.org/>
 - Rural Communities Assistance Partnership
 - U.S. Water Alliance
 - Moonshot Missions
- **Regional Environmental Finance Centers** and other TA Providers:
 - Southwest Environmental Finance Center (housed at UNM) at <https://swefc.unm.edu/home/>
 - Rural Communities Assistance Corporation at <https://www.rcac.org/>
 - NM Rural Water Association at <https://nmrwa.org/>
- **NM Environment Dept.** technical assistance programs:
 - <https://www.env.nm.gov/construction-programs/>
 - https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/dwb-assistance/
- **NM State Auditor** “Small Local Public Body Assistance Program” at <https://www.osa.nm.gov/slpb/>



Overview of New Mexico Integrated Water Financing Plan (IWFP)

- Partners include Western States Water Council, the Western Federal Agency Support Team (16 federal agencies), state and private entities in New Mexico (including philanthropies)
- Project goal to **maximize federal funding and resources** invested in New Mexico's water resources to help implement water action priorities.
- Once complete, will share lessons learned with New Mexico stakeholders and with other western states.
- Project timeline: Dec. 2023 – Nov. 2024



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Process to Select Three Demonstration Activities for IWFP



- Conducted surveys and held online workshops
- Individual interviews with over 50 people
- Reviewed existing state plans:
 - 2022 Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force Report
 - 50-Year Water Action Plan
 - Intended Use Plans
 - State Forest Action Plan
 - Nonpoint Source Plan
 - State Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Climate Strategy Report
 - Acequia Water Planning Working Group recommendations
 - Tribal Water Working Group recommendations
- Reviewed dozens of suggested programs, projects and initiatives to select three demonstration activities



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FACING NEW MEXICO'S 21ST CENTURY
WATER
— CHALLENGES —

50-YEAR
WATER ACTION PLAN

**New Mexico Integrated
Water Financing Plan
Demonstration Activities**

Community drinking water,
wastewater and
stormwater infrastructure
capacity and finance

Water Conservation



Accelerating Small
Community Drinking
Water System
Regionalization

Water resources
management and planning

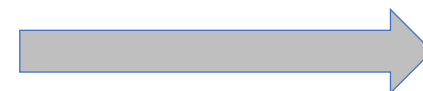
New Water Supplies



Aquifer Mapping and
Monitoring

River, aquifer, and
watershed health

Water and Watershed
Protection



Ribbons of Life: Upper
Rio Grande Riparian
Restoration and
Conservation



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Promising Funding Strategies

Accelerating Small Community Drinking Water Regionalization

Accessing more grants to leverage existing low-interest loan funds

Additional loan programs

Statewide Aquifer Mapping and Monitoring

Aquifer-specific funding (e.g., desal, Ogallala, aquifer storage and recovery projects)

In-kind federal agency resources

Ribbons of Life: Upper Rio Grande Riparian Restoration and Conservation

Federal funding tied to watershed designations

Federal grants not typically used for restoration activities

Recurring resource-specific implementation funding

Funding for coalition building



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Contact Information

Rebecca Roose

Infrastructure Advisor

Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

Rebecca.roose@exec.nm.gov

(505) 487-6869

Denise Gonzalez

Infrastructure Program Coordinator

Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

Denise.Gonzalez@exec.nm.gov

(505) 470-4438



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