

NEW MEXICO  
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

# The Municipal Reporter

A Publication of the New Mexico Municipal League

Fall 2024



*Fall Colors and Rainbow at Ski Santa Fe*

# NEW MEXICO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

## New Mexico Municipal League



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## Municipal Reporter

Fall 2024

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## New Mexico Municipal League Board of Directors

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**Vice President:** Jack Torres, Mayor (Bernalillo)

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Jamie Wall, Clerk-Treasurer (Fort Sumner)

Merat Zarreii, Program Manager (ABCWUA)

Dear members,

In my last president's message, I shared our experience in Ruidoso dealing with devastating wildfires and flooding earlier this summer. Unfortunately, this president's message also comes in the midst of member communities suffering the effects of a natural disaster – in this case, communities in Chaves County have experienced catastrophic flooding that has resulted in loss of life and severe damage to homes, business, and public infrastructure.

Our collective strength and resilience are more crucial than ever. Roswell – and many other communities – stepped forward with aid and support to help Ruidoso with disaster response and recovery. Today, we stand ready to return that gesture of goodwill, recognizing the bonds that tie our communities together. The outpouring of assistance from municipalities across New Mexico following these events exemplifies the strength of our network and the value of the Municipal League and New Mexico Self-Insurers' Fund.

I also want to – again – encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities available through the League for members to share ideas and resources, get advice, and support each other. For example, the New Mexico Mayors' Caucus recently met to elect a new chair. This caucus is an invaluable resource for mayors from across the state to connect and build our networks. If you are a mayor and would like more information about the caucus, please reach out to League staff.

Looking forward, the upcoming legislative session represents a significant opportunity for us to further our advocacy and enhance the resources available to our municipalities – including strengthening our communities' resilience in the face of natural disasters and severe weather events. Our legislative priorities include enhanced investments in infrastructure, notably increasing funding for road projects and investing in community water infrastructure. In addition, we will advocate for strategic updates to the Inspection of Public Records Act and the Municipal Code to improve transparency and streamline operations, adapting our legal and governance frameworks to better meet emerging needs and risks. Your engagement is crucial as we advance these priorities. Together, we can achieve meaningful improvements that will benefit all our communities.

I am – again – inspired by the commitment to service exhibited by members all over the state and in all types of municipal roles, and I am grateful for your continued support. We know our communities will face hardship, but I believe we also have opportunities in front of us, and by uniting our efforts, we can build stronger, more resilient communities.

Lynn Crawford

Mayor, Village of Ruidoso

President, New Mexico Municipal League



# Municipal League News & Events



## New Payment Policy for Event Registration

Beginning January 1, 2025, the New Mexico Municipal League will require payment at the time of registration for all NMML and NMSIF events. Payment can be made by credit card or ACH transfer. Purchase orders and checks will no longer be accepted. **All registrations must be paid in advance in order to secure attendance at events.** This will help us streamline event operations and ensure a smooth and efficient registration and event check-in process for attendees. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we implement this new policy.

*Event and registration information can be found on the events calendar on our website ([www.nmml.org](http://www.nmml.org))*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*For a full list of events, please refer to the Municipal League website*

November 20  
Judges & Court Clerks Association  
Judicial Training  
Virtual

November 20-22  
DFA Local Government Division  
Budget Workshop\*  
Albuquerque

December 10-12  
New Mexico Government Finance  
Officers Association Meeting  
Albuquerque

December 10-12  
New Mexico Municipal Attorneys  
Association Meeting  
Albuquerque

December 11-12  
New Mexico City Managers  
Association Meeting  
Albuquerque

December 4-6  
New Mexico Law Enforcement  
Conference  
Ruidoso

*\*In partnership with the Department of Finance and Administration*

## Municipal League Holds Annual Conference in Clovis

The New Mexico Municipal League held its **67th Annual Conference** from **August 13-16** at the **Clovis Civic Center**, where municipal leaders from across the state gathered for a busy week of workshops, subsection meetings, community service, League business, and networking.

# Municipal League News & Events

Host **Mayor Mike Morris of Clovis** welcomed attendees, with **Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales** also providing opening remarks. The general session featured a talk from memory expert **Paul Mellor**, focusing on enhancing memory skills to improve leadership and communication. Conference workshops covered topics such as **long-term water security planning, strategies for local housing development, and the use of innovative technologies in municipal law enforcement**. Attendees had the chance to learn best practices, engage with statewide initiatives, and explore cutting-edge solutions to current challenges.

During the Past Presidents' Luncheon, **Municipal Officials Leadership Institute (MOLI) graduates** were recognized, and **State Auditor Joseph Maestas** presented the 2024 annual audit awards. Speaker and performer **Devin Henderson** captivated the audience at the closing session with his message on breaking through perceived limits and tapping into greater potential, coupled with some mind-blowing illusions and tricks.



Golf tournament participants tee off

The conference also featured several fun social events hosted by the **City of Clovis**, including a **golf tournament** and a **Fiesta on Main Street**, where attendees enjoyed local food, entertainment, and the opportunity to explore Clovis's downtown. A highlight of the event was the **"Clovis Takes the Stage" Dinner and Dance**, featuring a Broadway-themed celebration and a performance from the **Full Circle Band**.

The New Mexico Municipal League thanks the **Clovis** for its excellent hosting, as well as all the sponsors, speakers, volunteers, and attendees that made the **67th Annual Conference** a success!

See you next year in Ruidoso!



Dancers perform at the Clovis Main Street Fiesta



Speaker Devin Henderson wows the crowd with his soccer juggling skills



New and returning members of the NMML Board and Executive Committee

# Municipal League News & Events

## Annual Business Meeting Election Results

Delegates voted to elect the following League members to the Executive Committee and Board:

**President-Elect:** Gregg Hull, Mayor, Rio Rancho

**Vice-President:** Jack Torres, Mayor, Bernalillo

**Treasurer:** Mike Morris, Mayor, Clovis

**Directors-at-Large:** Michael Rael, Judge, Questa; Oscar Robinson, Councilor, Portales; Tim Jennings, Mayor, Roswell; Russell Hernandez, Mayor, Mesilla

**Congratulations to all – thank you for your service!**

## 2024 Audit Award Winners

### Most Improved Audits

Small: Santa Clara

Medium: Tijeras

Large: Grants

### Best Overall Audits

Small: Reserve

Medium: Hatch

Large: Socorro

**Congratulations!**

## Meet the League's 2024-2025 Executive Committee!

### President

**Lynn Crawford, Mayor, Ruidoso**



Since moving to Ruidoso in 2006, Mayor Lynn Crawford has been civic-minded and continuously involved in the betterment of the community. He served on the Ruidoso Village Council for six years prior to being elected mayor in March of 2018.

Over the years, Lynn has honed his skills as an entrepreneur. Lynn and his wife, Traci, opened The Dream Catcher Café and Catering Company in Ruidoso. He also serves as the General Manager of the Ruidoso Jockey Club and RJC Catering, which is owned and operated by 400 independent members. Previously, Lynn owned a video business and a mechanical business that specialized in electrical service, plumbing and construction. He also spent time working as a catastrophe adjuster for major insurance companies.

Lynn has two daughters, Amanda, an attorney in Dallas, and Cadyn, a doctor in Corpus Christi. He is also the proud grandfather to three adorable grandbabies.

## President-Elect Gregg Hull, Mayor, Rio Rancho



Mayor Gregg Hull was elected as mayor in April 2014 via a runoff election to a four-year term. He was re-elected in March 2018 and again in March 2022, to four-year terms. Gregg has called New Mexico home for over thirty years, with most of those years spent raising his family with wife Carrie, in Rio Rancho.

Having owned and operated a successful business for over a decade, Gregg's experience in creating long-term jobs and making a payroll has been a huge asset to Rio Rancho. Gregg has always seen the need to implement innovative solutions to continue moving Rio Rancho forward. With his experience as a dad, grandfather, husband, business owner, and more – Gregg has taken on the role of Mayor and served his community honorably.

*"Public service is a calling and something I don't take lightly. With a growing community, we continue to need steady and hardworking leadership. Carrie, the kids, and I love Rio Rancho and we want to continue to give back to the community that blessed us with so many great opportunities."*

## Vice President Jack Torres, Mayor, Bernalillo



Mayor Jack Torres was honored to be elected mayor of the Town of Bernalillo in 2010. He was re-elected in 2014, 2018, and 2022. Since that first election he has been an active member of the League, serving as District 8 Director, Director at large, and most recently as Treasurer. He has also served on Policy and Resolutions Committees as well as advocating and testifying before legislative committees. He also serves on several regional boards including Metropolitan Transportation, Rio Metro and MRCOG Executive Board.

Jack is a native of Bernalillo, graduating from Bernalillo High School in 1975 and Harvard University in 1979. Has been married to Anna for 40 years and has helped raise four sons and loves time spent with grandchildren. He is retired from a career as a small businessman.

# Municipal League News & Events

## Treasurer

### **Mike Morris, Mayor, Clovis**



Michael (Mike) Morris was elected mayor of the City of Clovis, New Mexico in March of 2020 and re-elected in 2024. He is a fourth-generation New Mexican raised on a cattle ranch near Conchas Dam in San Miguel County. Since arriving in Clovis in 2005, he has built a successful insurance agency and is proud to be a small business owner. A keen advocate of the Clovis area, Mayor Morris has supported the community in many ways including Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, ENMRSB Board, Soap Box Derby, coaching youth sports, and Band Boosters.

Mayor Morris is passionate about the future success of Clovis. Since taking office in 2020, he has led in making policy changes aimed at creating jobs and growing the local economy. Mayor Morris has successfully advocated at both the Federal and the State Levels on behalf of Clovis for vital infrastructure funding.

Mayor Morris serves on the City of Clovis Finance Committee, Civil Aviation Board, and Senior Services Committee. He represents the City of Clovis on the Armed Forces Support Committee and the board of directors of Ogallala Land and Water Conservancy. Mayor Morris also serves as Chairman of the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority.

Mayor Morris is married to Sara Morris and together they have two children.

## Immediate Past President

### **Mike Miller, Mayor, Portales**



Mayor Michael (Mike) Miller is a life-long resident of Portales, New Mexico where he graduated high school and earned a BBA from Eastern New Mexico University.

Mike has always been dedicated to bettering his community and began his lobbying career doing just that. In 1985, while Fire Chief for the City of Portales, Mike also served as Chairman of the New Mexico Department of Health's EMS Advisory Committee. It was during this time that Mike lobbied for legislative resources to meet the needs of fire and EMS organizations.

In addition to his work in city government, Mike also served as County Manager in Roosevelt County for five years prior to starting his own consulting business, Professional Directions in 2002.

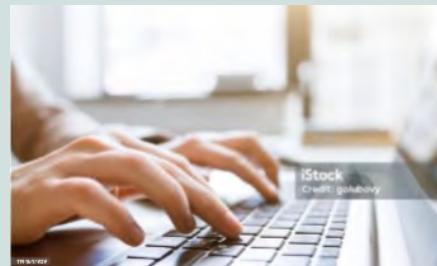
Mike continues to work in his community by serving as Mayor of Portales. Mike also serves on the Board of the New Mexico Municipal League Self Insurers' Fund. Mike is a member and has served on the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Amigos, the Official Goodwill Ambassadors of the State of New Mexico.

Mike and his wife, Julie, have one daughter, Michelle, who resides in San Angelo, TX. In his spare time Mike enjoys golf and spending time with his dog Penny and his grand-dogs Ellie and Ivan.

## Ask A Clerk!

Rebecca Martinez, Senior Policy Analyst, New Mexico Municipal League;  
Retired City Clerk

The position of Municipal Clerk is one of three required in each municipality by New Mexico state statute (the other two being treasurer and police officer). In many cities, towns and villages, the Clerk serves as Chief Records Custodian, gatekeeper to the Governing Body (parliamentarian, Open Meetings Act compliance officer), legislative Manager, Treasurer/Finance Director/Chief Procurement Officer, Human Resources Director, Elections Administrator, and the "whatever needs to be done person."



The Municipal Reporter will now feature a new column called **"Ask a Clerk – Your Guide to Local Governance"**, in which a Clerk (yours truly and sometimes special guests) will address frequently asked questions by providing informative snippets about processes, policies, and regulations concerning many of the duties fulfilled by Municipal Clerks and other local officials.

### Is a motion needed to adjourn a Governing Body meeting?

A motion to adjourn a meeting is not required. Why is this? In New Mexico, the Opening Meetings Act requires advance public notice of each specific item of business to be discussed or deliberated at the meeting. Once all items have been transacted and there is no more business to conduct, the logical next step is to adjourn, as new items can't be added to the agenda and because the public has not received advance notice.

Have a question about municipal governance? You can contact Rebecca at [rmartinez@nmml.org](mailto:rmartinez@nmml.org)

### Congratulations to the following police leaders who completed the training:

- **Portales PD:** Sergeant Brent Aguilar; Sergeant Nickolas Laurenz; Sergeant Jose Sierra; Sergeant Rowdy Smith
- **Roswell PD:** Deputy Chief Alberto Aldana
- **Taos PD:** Chief Mark Archuleta
- **Lovington PD:** Chief Joe Clark
- **Santa Fe PD:** Lieutenant Heinz DeLuca; Lieutenant John DeBaca
- **New Mexico State Police:** Lieutenant Gerardo Hernandez; Captain Michael Forgue; Captain Jacob Garcia; Lieutenant Raymundo Sanchez
- **Tucumcari PD:** Sergeant Lorenzo Emillio
- **Alamogordo PD:** Deputy Chief Ryan Glidden
- **Deming PD:** Chief Sergio Lara
- **Clovis PD:** Lieutenant Travis Loomis; Lieutenant Lyndell Stansell; Lieutenant Steven Wright
- **Belen PD:** Chief Jose Natividad
- **Red River Marshal's Office:** Marshal Jason Rael
- **Jal PD:** Lieutenant Cruz Sanchez; Sergeant Nick Sanchez

### New & Future Police Chief Training Held in Portales

The New Mexico Association of Chiefs of Police recently concluded its annual New and Future Chiefs of Police training in Portales, which ran from October 7-11. This weeklong course, led by law enforcement experts from across New Mexico, aims to prepare both current and future police chiefs for executive leadership roles.

#### Course Objectives:

- Develop leadership skills in law enforcement
- Equip attendees with tools for effective police management

**Topics Covered:** Leadership in Law Enforcement; Managing Internal Conflict; Budgeting; Leading Organizational Change; Resumes and Cover Letters; Recruiting and Hiring; Internal Affairs and the Disciplinary Process; Policy Development; Police, PIO & Social Media; the Police Chief Lobbyist; Liability as a Police Chief; Leading Civilians; the Police Chief Hiring Process; Mitigating Risk and Lawsuits

For more information on training for current and future police chiefs, please contact Tim Johnson, Public Safety Director ([tjohnson@nmsif.org](mailto:tjohnson@nmsif.org))

## Obligate it or Lose it! Preparing for the Upcoming ARPA SLFRF Obligation Deadline

The following article was originally published by the National League of Cities on its website.

The passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in 2021 provided a lifeline for local governments through its State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, which awarded every municipality a portion of \$65.1 billion in funding. June 2024 marked three years since initial disbursement, and the next three months are the home stretch for cities, towns and villages to obligate the funding they received under the SLFRF program. ARPA regulations require local governments to return grant funding that remains unobligated beyond the end-of-year deadline to the U.S. Department of Treasury, rendering this deadline one of the most important for cities, towns and villages. With three months left until the Dec. 31, 2024 obligation deadline, local governments must obligate funding now or risk potential clawbacks of these funds.

### How do you know if you've obligated your funds?

The US Code of Federal Regulations defines "obligation" as "an order placed for property and services and entering into contracts, subawards, and similar transactions that require payment." The U.S. Treasury has further clarified that "similar transactions that require payment" may include certain interagency agreements and, under certain circumstances, payroll expenses for recipients' employees.

Consequently, municipalities must do more than budget their SLFRF dollars — they must allow extra time to place orders and negotiate contracts. Finalizing obligations, including funds used for revenue replacement, includes reporting the obligation through the normal reporting process. Subrecipients are not subject to the Dec. 31, 2024 obligation deadline. Subrecipients and contractors do not need to take additional steps to obligate funds after entering a subaward or contract with the recipient.

### What is not an obligation?

- Adopted budget or budget amendment
- Appropriation of SLFRF funds
- Executive order
- Resolution
- Written or oral intention to enter a contract
- Grant of legal authority to enter a contract
- Claiming funds under the revenue loss category
- Moving SLFRF dollars to a general fund as revenue loss but not further establishing an obligation with those funds by 12/31/24

For more applications of obligations, see the U.S. Treasury's SLFRF PowerPoint "Answering Obligation FAQs." This resource includes case examples on spending down obligations, payroll expenses, estimated expenses, interagency agreements and modifying contracts.

In each of these scenarios, municipal governments must take additional steps to satisfy the obligation requirement by the end of 2024 deadline. Similar transactions that require payment include certain interagency agreements (17.6) and payroll expenses (17.7). Consequently, municipalities must do more than budget their SLFRF dollars — they must allow extra time to place orders and negotiate contracts.

### SLFRF Resources

The New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration can provide technical assistance on a range of questions, including:

- What counts as "obligating" the money?
- How much did we receive and when?
- How to expend or obligate these funds.
- Did we complete the reporting that US Treasury requires?
- If we're buying something, by when do we need to take delivery?

**You can reach out DFA today!** Leads for free expert technical assistance on your SLFRF funds are: LeAndra Garcia LeAndra.Garcia@dfa.nm.gov; Hallie Brown Hallie.Brown@dfa.nm.gov; and Ethan Branch Ethan.Branch@dfa.nm.gov.

To assist municipal government with remaining unobligated fiscal recovery funds, the **National League of Cities** and the U.S. Treasury hosted a webinar to clarify and answer questions related to the obligation deadline. Local leaders and grant administrators can watch the webinar here. Other resources include the Obligation Interim Final Rule (IFR), the U.S. Treasury's FAQ with updated obligation answers and Obligation IFR Quick Reference Guide.

## Is there any flexibility?

There is limited flexibility primarily to keep existing projects and the administration of the grant itself on track. The Obligation IFR allows SLFRF dollars dedicated for administrative and compliance costs to cover compliance with other existing federal program requirements beyond Dec. 31, 2024.

Flexibility for expenditures that go past the December 2024 obligation deadline include:

- Reporting and compliance requirements
- Single Audit costs
- Record retention and internal control requirements
- Property standards
- Environmental compliance requirements
- Civil rights and nondiscrimination requirements

The U.S. Treasury will view the above eligible uses as obligated, regardless of if they are incurred after Dec. 31, 2024. However, the Obligation IFR does not provide flexibility for payroll costs after the obligation deadline. Instead, the eligible expenditures include costs of personnel whose time is needed for the compliance process regarding these requirements. Specifically, “personnel costs must be calculated in compliance with the rules for compensation charged to federal awards (2 CFR 200.430)”.

## Examples of how to obligate remaining funds

Of the eligible categories of spending under the program, revenue-replacement provides the highest degree of flexibility with the fewest restrictions for local governments with remaining unobligated funds. All local governments can claim up to \$10 million of their ARPA SLFRF grant allocations for revenue replacement. Although revenue replacement expenditures are well-suited for quick action to meet the obligation deadline, localities that have not yet identified projects to dedicate ARPA funds toward can explore NLC resources, such as the Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker and NLC’s three-year anniversary ARPA blog series, to see how peer communities have made use of their funding:

- Government Operations
- Community Aid
- Infrastructure
- Housing
- Public Health
- Public Safety and Justice
- Economic and Workforce Development

For more examples on how to spend ARPA dollars, see PolicyLink’s case studies or The New School’s ARPA Equity Assessment.



## The status of obligations

Each quarter, the U.S. Treasury releases updated ARPA data that provide insight into the status of municipal obligations. Based on the latest U.S. Treasury data, current through March 31, 2024, obligation figures stand as follows:

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- Tier 1 recipients have obligated approximately 77.8%
- Tier 2 recipients have obligated approximately 72.4%
- Tier 5 recipients have obligated approximately 85.0%

These numbers represent a welcome increase from the prior quarter, when Tier 1 and Tier 2 obligations stood at approximately 72.3 percent and 67.6 percent, respectively. However, obligations will need to increase at a pace greater than 5 percent per quarter if municipalities are to meet the Dec. 31, 2024 deadline to use all the funds allocated to them.



## Key SLFRF Considerations

- This is your last chance to obligate grant dollars before 2025 when unobligated funds have to be returned to the U.S. Treasury.
- The definition of obligation is not only budgeting money but taking steps to create a contract, subaward or similar transaction that requires payment. Consider the time it will take you to negotiate and execute a contract to meet the obligation deadline.
- Calendar year budgeters should examine their budgets to ensure they are including their SLFRF dollars in their calculations. This could be done by claiming lost revenue and using the money on government services.
- Remind your colleagues in neighboring or other local jurisdictions about the deadline.
- All municipalities should have a designated single point of contact for communication with the U.S. Treasury. If you are unsure due to staffing or elected turnovers, you can email point-of-contact information for your municipality to [SLFRF@treasury.gov](mailto:SLFRF@treasury.gov).

## Legislative Priorities

### New Mexico Municipal League 2025 Key Legislative Priorities

The First Session of the Fifty-Seventh Legislature will begin at noon on January 21, 2025. As usual, League members and staff have spent the interim developing key legislative priorities through the League's policy process, and meeting with legislators and other stakeholders to share municipalities' interests. The Municipal League Board of Directors approved the League's 2024 legislative priorities at its October 4 meeting, with a focus spanning **emergency services, infrastructure, public records, water security, and protecting local authority**.

These priorities are not exhaustive, and as always, the League's legislative team assesses bills throughout the session to determine potential municipal impacts, and, in consultation with the League's Executive Committee, determines positions of support or opposition, if necessary. League staff sends out a weekly legislative bulletin during the session to update members on how priority bills are faring, identify new bills with potential municipal impacts, and request League member assistance to support or oppose bills.



Below is an overview of the top initiatives NMML will champion to empower our communities:

- **Amplify the Impact of Emergency Medical Services Funding.** Following a funding boost in 2024, NMML is advocating to allow EMS Fund revenues to be used for debt service. This would increase municipalities' ability to finance critical EMS investments, from lifesaving equipment to disaster response capabilities, ensuring every community can access top-quality emergency services.
- **Invest in State and Local Road Infrastructure.** With over \$6.6 billion in unmet road funding needs statewide, NMML supports reallocating 100% of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVEX) to state and local road funds. This shift would direct an additional \$166 million annually toward road infrastructure, addressing the financial strain that deteriorating roads place on New Mexicans and promoting safer, more efficient transportation.
- **Modernize the Inspection of Public Records Act.** As public records requests have surged, NMML is pushing for updates to IPRA to make compliance more manageable for local governments. Proposed changes include limits on commercial data requests and clearer dispute resolution mechanisms, to support transparency while easing the operational burden on municipalities.
- **Modernize the Municipal Code.** NMML also aims to update the outdated Municipal Code, starting with improving law enforcement cross-commissioning procedures so police departments can support each other in times of crisis or increased need, as well as clarifying the roles of mayors and council members and certain governing body voting procedures. These revisions will provide municipalities with clearer guidelines for governance, ensuring that local leaders can operate effectively and responsively.
- **Invest in Water Infrastructure Projects.** NMML advocates for a \$100 million investment in water project through the Water Project Fund to address the \$1.2 billion gap in municipal water infrastructure funding. By supporting projects that enhance water quality and security, NMML seeks to ensure that New Mexicans continue to have access to clean, reliable water for the long term.
- **Protect Local Decision-Making Against Preemption.** NMML is committed to defending local control against state preemption efforts that undermine municipal authority. By preserving local decision making, especially in critical areas like planning and zoning and tax policy, NMML ensures municipalities can enact policies tailored to their communities' specific needs.

NMML's legislative team is working hard to advance these priorities, and we encourage members to stay connected and informed. Reach out to our team to learn more, provide feedback, and join us in advocating for these essential initiatives that will strengthen New Mexico's municipalities.

## Key 2025 Session Dates

**January 21 (noon):** Opening day

**February 20:** Deadline for introduction of legislation

**March 22 (noon):** Session ends

**April 11:** Bill signing deadline

## For more information, contact the NMML legislative team

- **AJ Forte, Executive Director**  
[ajforte@nmml.org](mailto:ajforte@nmml.org) | 505-699-6944
- **Alison Nichols, Director of Policy**  
[anichols@nmml.org](mailto:anichols@nmml.org) | 505-470-3931
- **Tim Johnson, Public Safety Director**  
[tjohnson@nmsif.org](mailto:tjohnson@nmsif.org) | 505-946-7207
- **Rebecca Martinez, Senior Policy Analyst**  
[rmartinez@nmml.org](mailto:rmartinez@nmml.org) | 505-690-3278

# New Mexico Self Insurers' Fund Update

## New Mexico Self-Insurers' Fund Update

In our commitment to delivering direct services to as many of our member insureds as possible, we want to provide a refresher on the key requirements, standards, and enhancements within our program, and highlight important updates regarding loss control requirements, body-worn cameras, and ride-along programs.

**Loss Control Requirements.** As we've previously highlighted, loss control is a central and growing feature of our program. In particular, we want to encourage our member law enforcement agencies to develop comprehensive policies and procedures by taking advantage of a new partnership with Lexipol, a company that provides policy management and training solutions for public safety organizations. This partnership will allow us to standardize public safety best practices across the state using Lexipol's Knowledge Management System and PoliceOne Academy, aligning with our ongoing goal to modernize law enforcement operations in New Mexico (see *more detail on services offered to members through Lexipol earlier in this newsletter*).

**Body-Worn Cameras.** As previously communicated, the hardware required to meet legal standards for recording public interactions is fully covered. The board has authorized reasonable reimbursements for body-worn cameras, docking stations, necessary cables, and batteries. *Please submit the relevant documents, such as quotes, contracts, or invoices, along with your department's body-worn camera policy to the Executive Director for approval (ajforte@nmml.org).*

**Ride-Along Programs.** Ride-along programs are invaluable for fostering trust between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. These programs highlight the challenges of public safety roles and foster a mutual respect between law enforcement and community members. NMSIF has implemented safeguards to minimize risk and ensure these programs can be safely extended to youth, enhancing community engagement.

Our board's commitment to accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement remains steadfast. As we look forward to another productive legislative session, we invite all members to actively participate and contribute to the success of our initiatives.



# New Mexico Self Insurers' Fund Update

## Boost Your Training & Safety with Free Lexipol Access for NMSIF Members

The New Mexico Municipal League and the New Mexico Self Insurers' Fund have teamed up with Lexipol to give **NMSIF member employees, police, and fire departments free-of-charge access to powerful tools for training, policy management, and risk reduction.** This new suite of resources offers invaluable support for members – check out what's available below!



Lexipol is actively onboarding members and reaching out to members for implementation. Each of the below Lexipol tools has a different implementation timeline – you can expect to receive communication from Lexipol soon, if you haven't already.

For questions on Lexipol and the tools offered to NMSIF members, please contact Erica Olguin (eolguin@nmsif.org) for questions about LocalGovU, or Tim Johnson (tjohnson@nmsif.org) for questions about KMS, PoliceOne Academy, or FireRescue1 Academy.

Refer to the NMML website for updates and more detail on Lexipol resources.

### LocalGovU: Reduce Risk and Protect Your Personnel



As a local government leader, you have the responsibility to provide training that ensures your organization runs effectively and helps your employees advance in their careers. By having a formalized training program, your employees are continuously engaged and equipped with the knowledge they need to confidently perform their jobs.

Improve the effectiveness of your organization by implementing a training program powered by the online training platform LocalGovU.

LocalGovU provides a total training solution including:

- 24/7 access to online learning, allowing your employees to train when it's convenient
- More than 3,300 courses and videos covering all facets of local government
- Reports to help you monitor and track training completion
- Features to streamline and simplify new-hire onboarding

### Local GovU Key Features

- Upload and build your own content, including tests and quizzes to assign to employees
- Track activity status of course and skills development assignments
- Quickly and efficiently communicate organization-wide training

### Knowledge Management System: Take Your Policies to the Next Level



For most public safety agencies, it's difficult to keep track of policy content. Multiple printed copies, overstuffed binders, even PDFs stored electronically can all create problems when it comes to updating and circulating policies and related training.

Lexipol has spent years developing the smartest, most responsive public safety policy management and training platform. Their online Knowledge Management System (KMS) lets you spend less time on policy management, and more time serving your community.

# New Mexico Self Insurers' Fund Update

Lexipol's Knowledge Management System provides:

- One place to store and organize all your policies and procedures
- Efficient distribution of policies, updates and training to staff
- Archival and easy retrieval of all versions of your agency's policy manual
- Easy-to-read reports to track acknowledgement and enhance strategic planning
- 24/7 access to your procedures via a web-based platform and mobile app

## KMS Key Features

- Edit, review and approve policies in one place, and issue policies with the push of a button
- Track policy acknowledgement and remediate personnel who haven't reviewed policies
- Quickly and easily deliver training bulletins that seamlessly connect with your agency's policy content
- Use the "redline" side-by-side comparison to review policy updates from Lexipol and approve or reject the changes
- Set policy and training alerts via email and mobile devices, and create and issue custom training bulletins



## PoliceOne Academy: Improve Safety & Effectiveness with Training You Can Trust

As a law enforcement leader, you have the responsibility to properly train your officers and ensure your department can demonstrate compliance. Without an effective system in place, your officers could face challenges they're unprepared to meet, and your agency could face "failure to train" liability.

Improve the safety and effectiveness of your agency and officers with PoliceOne Academy, an online training solution from Lexipol.

The total training solution includes:

- 24/7 access to online learning, allowing your officers to train when it's convenient
- 400 courses and more than 1,100 videos
- Reports to help you monitor and track training completion, compliance and license renewal
- Reality training video series perfect for daily briefings
- Acceptance as a Certified Training Provider in 16 states and for continuing education in 23 states
- 360-degree support tailored for your department's goals and needs

## PoliceOne Academy Key Features

- Meet training mandates by tracking every activity completed for credit
- Manage and track license renewal by level, state and category requirement
- Upload and build your own content, including tests and quizzes to assign to personnel
- Create and reuse learning plans, such as for onboarding and ensuring completion of required annual training hours



### **FireRescue1 Academy: Improve Safety & Effectiveness with Training You Can Trust**

As a fire department leader, you have the responsibility to properly train your firefighters and ensure your department can demonstrate compliance. Without an effective system in place, your personnel could face challenges they're unprepared to meet, and your department could face "failure to train" liability.

Improve the safety and effectiveness of your department and personnel with FireRescue1 Academy, an online training solution from Lexipol.

The total training solution includes:

- 24/7 access to online learning, allowing firefighters to train when it's convenient
- More than 1,000 courses and videos, including more than 440 hours of approved EMS CEUs
- Reports to help you monitor and track training completion, compliance and credentials
- Features that allow you to automatically document and report ISO training for audits
- 360-degree support tailored for your department's goals and needs

### **FireRescue1 Academy Key Features**

- Meet training requirements by tracking course completions, classroom activity and hands-on training in one location
- Manage and track credential renewal by level, state and category requirement
- Upload and build your own content, including tests and quizzes to assign to personnel
- Create and reuse learning plans for situations such as onboarding, annual EMT recertification and ISO training





**Construction Programs Bureau**  
Clean Water State Revolving Fund  
Rural Infrastructure Program

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## About Us

The Construction Programs Bureau helps New Mexico communities develop sustainable and secure water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure through funding and technical assistance.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

## Who We Serve

- ✓ Municipalities
- ✓ Mutual Domestic
- ✓ Water & Sanitation
- Water Associations
- Districts
- and more

## What We Can Fund

- ✓ Centralized Wastewater Collection and Treatment Projects
- ✓ Variety of Water Projects
- ✓ Solid Waste Projects and more

## Apply Now



- Application does not create an obligation
- Year-round application
- No match funds required
- Up to 30-year repayment term
- In person application assistance is available



# Restoring Our Communities One Home at a Time

Housing New Mexico | MFA is investing \$4 million to support affordable housing and revitalize communities. Through the *Restoring Our Communities* (ROC) program, eligible service providers can access funding to acquire, rehabilitate, and resell single-family homes, helping reduce vacant and abandoned properties.

This initiative expands homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate and middle-income households across the state.

Funding is now available! Visit our website for the Notice of Funding Availability and application details.



[www.housingnm.org](http://www.housingnm.org)

NEW MEXICO  
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

1229 Paseo de Peralta  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

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# The Municipal Reporter

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