

NEW MEXICO
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

The Municipal Reporter

A Publication of the New Mexico Municipal League

Fall 2025



Trees and Valley at Sunset on Organ Mountains in Las Cruces, New Mexico



New Mexico Municipal League



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Municipal Reporter

Fall 2025

Published quarterly by the New Mexico Municipal League

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President's Message

Dear Members,

It is a tremendous honor to serve as President of the New Mexico Municipal League. For those I haven't yet had the chance to meet, I'm Gregg Hull, Mayor of the City of Rio Rancho. I was first elected in 2014 and have been proud to serve my community for more than a decade. As a small business owner and longtime resident, I've always believed that when local leaders work together, we can achieve real results for our communities, and the League continues to be a place where that collaboration and problem-solving thrive.

This year's Annual Conference in Ruidoso was a great example of what makes this organization so special. From the educational sessions to the evening events, it was an inspiring, informative, and enjoyable gathering. My thanks go to Mayor Lynn Crawford and the entire Ruidoso team for their outstanding hospitality and hard work. Mayor Crawford's leadership as League President these past two years guided us through important legislative wins and organizational progress. His dedication to serving New Mexico's municipalities has strengthened the League, and I look forward to working closely with him in his new role as Immediate Past President.



As we move into the 2025 legislative session, I encourage every member to stay engaged. There is no substitute for local officials showing up at the Roundhouse, speaking directly with legislators, and letting them know how their decisions affect communities back home and how those decisions translate into better roads, safer neighborhoods, and stronger economies. Whether it's testifying in a committee hearing or having a conversation in the hallway, your voices matter, and they make a difference.

The League's legislative priorities this session reflect both today's needs and future aspirations. A key priority is securing additional investment in municipal water infrastructure. We will also advocate for streamlining how Water Project Fund dollars are distributed so that shovel-ready projects can move forward quickly, saving both time and taxpayer money. We also remain focused on protecting our local tax base. Each year, new exemptions and deductions chip away at the gross receipts tax — our primary revenue source — forcing cities to stretch dollars further even as community expectations continue to grow. Maintaining a broad and fair tax base allows for lower rates, supports local businesses, and ensures municipalities can sustain essential services like public safety, infrastructure, and quality-of-life programs.

I'm excited to serve as your League president for the coming year, helping to ensure that every community, large or small, has the tools and resources it needs to thrive. Thank you for your continued commitment to service and to the mission of the New Mexico Municipal League. I look forward to working with each of you in the year ahead as we continue building strong, resilient, and vibrant communities for all New Mexicans.

Warm regards,

Gregg Hull
Mayor, City of Rio Rancho
President, New Mexico Municipal League

Municipal League News & Events

Save the Date!

**Municipal Day
February 5**

**Evening Welcome Reception on February 4
La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe**

More details and registration coming soon

Join us for Election School!

NMML will lead a **virtual Municipal Officer Election School on November 18**. This training will include guidance on process and duties related to running a Municipal Officer Election on March 3. The Secretary of State will also provide information on software used to conduct the election.

Please refer to the NMML events page for details and registration.

Calling All Newly Elected Officials!

Join us for two back-to-back training opportunities for newly elected officials:

- **Newly Elected Officials Orientation:** *January 13-14, Santa Fe*

We invite all newly elected municipal officials to join us for a one-and-a-half-day orientation. Begin your public service journey effectively and confidently, with an overview of Municipal League and Self-Insurers' Fund resources, as well as fundamental topics in local governance, such as parliamentary procedure, Open Meetings Act compliance, and ethics in local government.

- **Municipal Officials Leadership Institute (Level I):** *January 14-15, Santa Fe*

The Municipal League's Municipal Officials Leadership Institute (MOLI) provides municipal leaders with the knowledge and tools for effective leadership, through a two-part series (Level I and Level II), covering topics such as forms of municipal governance, municipal revenue and taxes, social media use and communications, risk management, and more. This training is open to all elected municipal officials.

More details and registration information coming soon!

Municipal League Holds Annual Conference in Ruidoso

The New Mexico Municipal League held its **68th Annual Conference from September 16–19** in **Ruidoso**, where municipal leaders from across the state gathered for four days of learning, networking, League business, and community service against the scenic backdrop of the village and the Sacramento Mountains.

Mayor Lynn Crawford of Ruidoso welcomed attendees to the event, hosted at the Ruidoso Convention Center. The Opening General Session featured keynote speaker "**Marvelless Mark**" **Kamp**, an author and corporate trainer whose presentation "Unleash the Rockstar Within" encouraged participants to elevate performance and teamwork through attitude, mindset, and passion.

Conference workshops covered a wide range of topics including economic mobility and community development, effective partnerships with consulting engineers, workplace etiquette and professional communication, and Ruidoso's ongoing fire and flood recovery and management efforts. Attendees also had

the opportunity to connect through subsection meetings, exhibits, and specialized sessions focused on best practices in local governance and municipal operations.

During the Past Presidents' Luncheon, attendees **recognized graduates of the Municipal Officials Leadership Institute (MOLI)** as well as the 2025 State Auditor's Audit Award winners, presented by **State Auditor Joseph Maestas**. The Closing General Session featured **Dr. Scott Paine**, a longtime municipal leadership expert, who delivered an inspiring message titled "Be the Light," encouraging public servants to bring clarity and compassion to their communities.

The conference also included several community and social events hosted by the Village of Ruidoso, including a **Community Project at Two Rivers Park**, a **5K Fun Run/Walk**, **Wild West Night** at Wingfield Park with a chuckwagon dinner and music from country singer Clay Hollis. The week concluded with **"Dinner at the Derby"** at the Ruidoso Jockey Club, featuring some great Derby-inspired fashion, the Fungi Mungle band playing 70s and 80s hits, and plenty of dancing.

The League extends its gratitude to the Village of Ruidoso for hosting, as well as the sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, staff, and volunteers who made the 68th Annual Conference a success.

See you next year in Las Cruces!



Morning elk sighting on the golf course



The Town of Clayton receives an audit award from State Auditor Joseph Maestas



Conference attendees enjoy a performance by Clay Hollis at Wingfield Park



Newly elected and reelected NMML Board members



Marvelless Mark fires up the crowd

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: Mayor Jack Torres, Bernalillo

Vice-President: Mayor Mike Morris, Clovis

Treasurer: Mayor Javier Perea, Sunland Park

Directors-at-Large: Mayor Stephen Aldridge, Jal; Mayor Russell Hernandez, Mesilla; Mayor David Romero of Las Vegas

Congratulations to all – thank you for your service!

2025 Audit Award Winners

Most Improved Audits

Small: Encino

Medium: Anthony

Large: Eunice

Best Overall Audits

Small: Corona

Medium: Clayton

Large: Socorro

Congratulations!

Meet the League's 2025-2026 Executive Committee!

President

Gregg Hull, Mayor, Rio Rancho



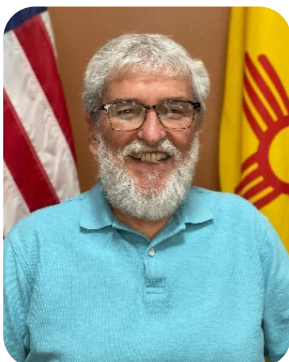
Gregg Hull has served as Mayor of Rio Rancho since 2014. A small business owner turned public servant, he entered local government with a simple belief — that good leadership starts with listening and putting people first. Over the years, he's worked side by side with residents, city staff, and local leaders to build a community that reflects the best of New Mexico: strong families, safe neighborhoods, and opportunities for growth.

Mayor Hull is passionate about collaboration among municipalities and believes that when communities work together, the entire state benefits. He often says his proudest accomplishments aren't found in reports or awards, but in the people and partnerships that have made Rio Rancho a place families are proud to call home.

When he's not serving the community, Gregg enjoys spending time with his wife, Carrie, Rio Rancho's First Lady, and their family.

President-Elect

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, Treasurer, and Vice President. 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.

Vice President

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, ENMRSH 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.

Treasurer

Javier Perea, Mayor, Sunland Park



Mayor Javier Perea was first elected mayor of the City of Sunland Park in 2012 and has been re-elected to multiple terms, continuing to lead his fast-growing border community with a focus on fiscal stability, infrastructure investment, and economic development. Since taking office, he has guided Sunland Park from a period of financial distress to one of strong growth and improved governance, earning recognition for his collaborative leadership.

Mayor Perea has been an active member of the New Mexico Municipal League, serving on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, including as League President from 2021 to 2022. He also represents Sunland Park and southern New Mexico on several regional and national boards, including the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization, Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority, and South Central Regional Transit District.

A lifelong resident of southern New Mexico, Mayor Perea is dedicated to strengthening cross-border partnerships, improving quality of life for residents, and expanding opportunities for economic development in his community and throughout the region.

Immediate Past 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.

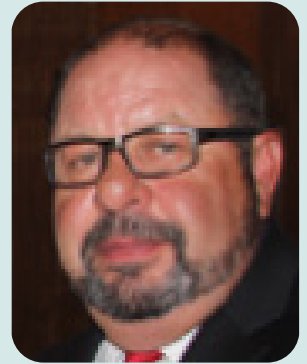
Over the years, Lynn has honed his skills as an entrepreneur. Lynn and his wife, Traci, opened The Dream Catcher Café and Catering Company in Ruidoso. He also serves as the General Manager of the Ruidoso Jockey Club and RJC Catering, which is owned and operated by 400 independent members. Previously, 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.

Municipal League News & Events

Thank you, Mayor Miller!

The New Mexico Municipal League and the New Mexico Self-Insurers' Fund extend their heartfelt appreciation to Mayor Mike Miller of Portales for his many years of dedicated service on both the NMML Board of Directors and the NMSIF Board of Trustees. Mayor Miller has been a champion for local government and a trusted voice in legislative affairs. Drawing on decades of experience in public service – from his early years as Fire Chief to his tenure as County Manager, City Councilor, and Mayor — Mayor Miller has helped to strengthen the League's voice at the state capitol and advanced policies that benefit communities across the state. As he concludes his service on the NMML and NMSIF boards, we thank Mayor Miller for his leadership, mentorship, and commitment to Portales, the League, and the state of New Mexico. We wish him and his wife Julie the best in their next chapter – we know we'll continue to see Mayor Miller around the Roundhouse!



Municipal League Announces 2026 Legislative Priorities

At the Municipal League's Annual Conference in Ruidoso in September, the League membership formally approved legislative priorities for 2026, following meetings of the League's policy committee over the summer. Legislative priorities for 2026 focus on infrastructure investment, local fiscal stability, and protecting municipal authority. The 2026 legislative session is a 30-day session, meaning that legislation is limited to budget-related bills and bills on the governor's agenda or "call," and League priorities in 30-day sessions tend to be more narrow.



Key priorities for the 2026 session are:

- **Investing in Water Infrastructure:** Support for appropriations to the Water Project Fund to help close the gap between available funding and the more than \$600 million in project applications.
- **Streamlining Water Project Approvals:** Allowing the Water Trust Board to directly approve eligible Water Project Fund projects without waiting for legislative approval on specific projects, speeding up funding for shovel-ready infrastructure and avoiding costly construction delays.
- **Defending Municipal Revenues:** Opposing proposals that continue to erode municipal Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) revenues. Protecting GRT remains a top priority, as it serves as the primary source of revenue for most municipalities and is essential to funding public safety, infrastructure, and essential community services. Tax credits and deductions for industry continue to erode municipal revenues.
- **Protecting Local Decision-Making:** Defending local control against state preemption efforts that limit municipalities' ability to manage issues such as zoning, taxation, public safety, and housing policy. The League will advocate for local flexibility to craft solutions that reflect the diverse needs of New Mexico's communities.

These priorities reflect ongoing challenges facing cities, towns, and villages across New Mexico and the League's commitment to ensuring that local governments have the tools and independence they need to serve their residents effectively. As always, League staff, with direction from the Board, will evaluate bills as they arise for potential support or opposition. Look out for our weekly updates during the session where we let you know what we're watching, what we need member engagement on, and the status of priority bills.

Please reach out to the NMML legislative team with any questions!



Clerks Corner

Ask a Clerk: Understanding Closed Sessions Under the Open Meetings Act

The Open Meetings Act (OMA, Section 10-15-1 NMSA 1978) governs meetings of public bodies in New Mexico. While most meetings must be open to the public, the law provides limited and specific exceptions that allow a public body to close a meeting. These exceptions are outlined in Subsection H of the statute and apply only under narrowly defined circumstances.

Under Subsection H, there are ten categories of matters that may be discussed – but not acted upon – in a closed session (see a full list below). *For more information about the Open Meetings Act please click here to view the full statute or here to view the Department of Justice OMA Compliance Guide.*

The New Mexico Municipal League frequently receives questions about the use of exemption (2):

- (2) *limited personnel matters; provided that for purposes of the Open Meetings Act, "limited personnel matters" means the discussion of hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment or resignation of or the investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual public employee; provided further that this paragraph is not to be construed as to exempt final actions on personnel from being taken at open public meetings, nor does it preclude an aggrieved public employee from demanding a public hearing. Judicial candidates interviewed by any commission shall have the right to demand an open interview.*

Important points to be aware of when considering a closed session under this provision include:

- 1. Can this exemption be used to discuss actions of elected officials, such as mayors, councilors, or municipal judges?**
No. Elected officials do not fall under the definition of public employees. Therefore, discussions regarding their actions may not be held in a closed session.
- 2. Can a municipal officer be excluded from a closed session?**
No. Elected officials are chosen by voters to represent them and participate in policymaking.

NMML Legislative Team

- AJ Forte, Executive Director
505-699-6944 / ajforte@nmml.org
- Alison Nichols, Director of Policy
505-470-3931 / anichols@nmml.org
- Tim Johnson, Public Safety Director
505-946-7207 / tjohnson@nmsif.org
- Rebecca Martinez, Senior Policy Analyst / 505-690-3278
rmartinez@nmml.org
- Jacob Rowberry, Senior Policy Analyst / 505-992-3538
jrowberry@nmml.org

They are entitled and expected to attend all governing body meetings, including closed sessions.

3. **Can a public employee be fired in a closed session?**

No. A closed session may be used to discuss a potential dismissal, but any final action must be taken during an open public meeting.

The Municipal Reporter's "Ask a Clerk – Your Guide to Local Governance" addresses frequently asked questions by providing informative snippets about processes, policies, and statutes concerning many of the duties fulfilled by Municipal Clerks and other local officials.

To submit a question, email Rebecca Martinez (rmartinez@nmml.org)



H. The provisions of Subsections A, B and G of this section [the Open Meetings Act] do not apply to:

- (1) meetings pertaining to issuance, suspension, renewal or revocation of a license, except that a hearing at which evidence is offered or rebutted shall be open. All final actions on the issuance, suspension, renewal or revocation of a license shall be taken at an open meeting;
- (2) limited personnel matters; provided that for purposes of the Open Meetings Act, "limited personnel matters" means the discussion of hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment or resignation of or the investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual public employee; provided further that this paragraph is not to be construed as to exempt final actions on personnel from being taken at open public meetings, nor does it preclude an aggrieved public employee from demanding a public hearing. Judicial candidates interviewed by any commission shall have the right to demand an open interview;
- (3) deliberations by a public body in connection with an administrative adjudicatory proceeding. For purposes of this paragraph, "administrative adjudicatory proceeding" means a proceeding brought by or against a person before a public body in which individual legal rights, duties or privileges are required by law to be determined by the public body after an opportunity for a trial-type hearing. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the actual administrative adjudicatory proceeding at which evidence is offered or rebutted and any final action taken as a result of the proceeding shall occur in an open meeting;
- (4) the discussion of personally identifiable information about any individual student, unless the student or the student's parent or guardian requests otherwise;
- (5) meetings for the discussion of bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining negotiations between the policymaking body and a bargaining unit representing the employees of that policymaking body and collective bargaining sessions at which the policymaking body and the representatives of the collective bargaining unit are present;
- (6) that portion of meetings at which a decision concerning purchases in an amount exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) that can be made only from one source is discussed and that portion of meetings at which the contents of competitive sealed proposals solicited pursuant to the Procurement Code are discussed during the contract negotiation process. The actual approval of purchase of the item or final action regarding the selection of a contractor shall be made in an open meeting;
- (7) meetings subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant;
- (8) meetings for the discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body;
- (9) those portions of meetings of committees or boards of public hospitals where strategic and long-range business plans or trade secrets are discussed; and
- (10) that portion of a meeting of the gaming control board dealing with information made confidential pursuant to the provisions of the Gaming Control Act [Chapter 60, Article 2E NMSA 1978]." [explanatory emphasis added]

Board Chair's Update

Linda Calhoun, NMSIF Board Chair, Mayor, Town of Red River

As the year comes to a close, the New Mexico Self-Insurers' Fund continues to strengthen the programs that protect our member municipalities. The recent transition to **CorVel Corporation as our new third-party administrator** for our Workers' Compensation program brings improved responsiveness to members on claims, as well as a streamlining of internal operations (see more details below). Looking ahead to FY27, members can expect to see **renewal proposals by November 21**, with **property premiums stabilizing or increasing only slightly** for most members as reinsurance costs level out. Updated appraisals for buildings and other insured assets will ensure replacement values and premiums remain fair and accurate. We anticipate conducting updated appraisals for all insured assets next year.

Our **Loss Control and Public Safety programs continue to expand**, providing members with practical tools and training to prevent losses and strengthen operations, through instruction in defensive driving, first aid/CPR, hazard communications, and much more, as well as in-depth site visits and safety assessment. The **Lexipol platform**, offered at no cost to members, remains central to that effort, giving law enforcement agencies access to up-to-date policies and training while qualifying for a 20 percent premium discount on Law Enforcement Liability coverage (see more details below). As we move toward the legislative session and a new year, the Fund remains committed to helping every member community operate safely, efficiently, and confidently. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for your partnership, and best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

NMSIF Transitions to New Workers' Compensation Administrator

The New Mexico Self-Insurers' Fund (NMSIF) is transitioning its Workers' Compensation program to a new Third-Party Administrator (TPA), CorVel Corporation, as part of a broader effort to streamline claims management and provide better service for members.

CorVel was selected through a competitive process earlier this year to provide fully integrated administration of Workers' Compensation claim, including claims management, medical bill review, pharmacy benefits, and nurse case management. The move combines several separate functions that were previously handled by multiple vendors – including a previous TPA, Integrion – and internal staff into one streamlined program.

The transition is intended to make things easier for both members and injured workers and ensure quicker communication, while leveraging CorVel's national experience in claims administration. CorVel began handling new claims on October 1 and began management of all existing claims on November 1. Members and claimants won't see any change to coverage or benefits – this is strictly an administrative change designed to improve efficiency and responsiveness.

The Fund appreciates our members' patience during this transition. For additional information about the Workers' Compensation program or CorVel, contact Alison Nichols, Deputy Director (anichols@nmml.org).

For questions about your Workers' Compensation policy and coverage, please contact Allen Fugler, Director of Underwriting (afugler@nmsif.org).



New claims can be submitted directly to CorVel at fno1_fax@corvel.com with a copy to workcomp@nmsif.org, or by phone at 844-391-9167. CorVel will be reaching out to members and injured workers directly to provide adjuster contact information on open claims.

You can always contact NMSIF (workcomp@nmsif.org) with any questions!

New Mexico Self-Insurers Fund

What to Expect in FY27: NMSIF Rate Preview

Renewal Proposals, Flood Coverage Changes, and Law Enforcement Discounts

Property insurance premiums for most NMSIF members will stabilize, or marginally increase, in FY27, reflecting a slight flattening in reinsurance costs. Property claims remain frequent and are largely driven by building conditions and recurring weather events such as flood, wind, hail, and freeze-related pipe bursts. The Fund continues to work closely with members on projects to harden and upgrade facilities to reduce future losses.

A key change in our property coverage document is the **removal of flood as a covered peril for buildings in FEMA Flood Zone A.** The limited availability of flood reinsurance means that flood coverage in these flood zones under our program is currently very limited and the potential exposure to the Fund creates significant financial risk for the pool as a whole. NMSIF staff will let members know if any of their buildings are located in FEMA Flood Zone A. Importantly, these buildings will still be covered for all other perils and limits of liability remain unchanged. FY27 renewal proposals detail coverage changes for specific buildings for each member.

If you are interested in flood coverage, the National Flood Insurance Program may be able to provide coverage within its limits of liability and with applications and fees for individual buildings. *Please reach out to Allen Fugler (afugler@nmsif.org) to discuss further and look for webinars scheduled soon.*

The Fund's Board of Trustees recently adopted a resolution to **require adoption of Lexipol as a condition to receive a Law Enforcement Liability premium discount.** Proposals for FY27 renewal premiums for Law Enforcement Liability will include 20 percent premium discounts for members who adopt Lexipol law enforcement policies. Lexipol is offered to members at no cost, and NMSIF believes that department implementation of Lexipol policies will result in improving loss trends in this critical line of coverage, as well as provide a valuable tool to our local law enforcement departments. The underwriting team will display both discounted and non-discounted premium options to help members evaluate the financial impact of Lexipol adoption. For questions about Lexipol or the status of your adoption of Lexipol policies, please contact Director of Public Safety Tim Johnson (tjohnson@nmsif.org).

FY27 renewal proposals for Liability, Property, and Workers' Compensation will be available in the FY27 Documents section of Member Profiles in the NMSIF member portal by November 21. The Underwriting Department will also notify members via email. For assistance with access, please contact Underwriting Analyst Ada Ruff (aruff@nmsif.org).



The NMSIF Loss Control Team has launched new training opportunities!

Safety Short Trainings take place via Zoom **every second Thursday of the month** and offer a quick, convenient way to keep safety top of mind. Each two-hour session covers a key safety topic that municipal employees encounter on the job, providing practical tips and reminders to help prevent accidents and injuries.

These short trainings are ideal for **all municipal departments** looking to refresh safety awareness and strengthen teamwork around risk prevention. Make it part of your monthly routine to help keep your workplace safe, productive, and compliant.

- When: Every Second Thursday of the Month
- Time: 9 am to 11 am

Learn more and view upcoming topics:
<https://www.nmml.org/218/Loss-Control>

Let's stay proactive — because safety is everyone's responsibility!

For more information, please contact:

Erica Olguin, Loss Control Director -
eolguin@nmsif.org, 505-490-7098

Joy Beth Tucker, Loss Control
Administrative Assistant -
jtucker@nmsif.org, 505-992-3530

Local Official Checklist: Navigating a Federal Government Shutdown

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

Local officials expect our leaders in Washington to meet their most basic obligation and keep the federal government open. Federal shutdowns, partial or total, have an immediate impact – both on local budgets and the most vulnerable residents in our communities. Those impacts are compounded by the broad economic uncertainty resulting from the shutdown itself.

While political and economic uncertainty at the federal level makes it difficult to anticipate all possible consequences of a government shutdown, local leaders can take steps to help their cities prepare for and navigate the loss of communications and resources from their federal partners. This checklist is a tool to assist in those preparations.



During a shutdown, federal agencies must discontinue all non-essential discretionary functions until new funding legislation has been signed into law. While essential services and mandatory spending programs continue to function, they may be automated and incapable of resolving problems or accounting for unusual circumstances. Moreover, federal employees who provide administration and oversight of federal grant programs important to cities and towns (including oversight, inspection, payment or accounting) are generally not permitted to continue work during a lapse in appropriations.

In other words, federal discretionary grants administered to local governments by shut-down federal agencies will be unavailable for reimbursement, and the application process for new grants will be paused until the shutdown ends. Federal agency staff will generally be unavailable to answer questions or offer technical assistance throughout the duration of a federal government shutdown. Federal contractors and employees across the country will likely stop receiving paychecks during the shutdown, and local employees funded by federal grants may also be required to stop work.

There are steps local officials can take to reassure vulnerable residents and mitigate the impact on local budgets. NLC's checklist for cities, towns and villages will help local leaders mitigate the local economic harm of the federal shutdown and prepare for additional stress on local operations and services.

Mitigate the Local Economic Impact of the Federal Shutdown and Protect Your Operations

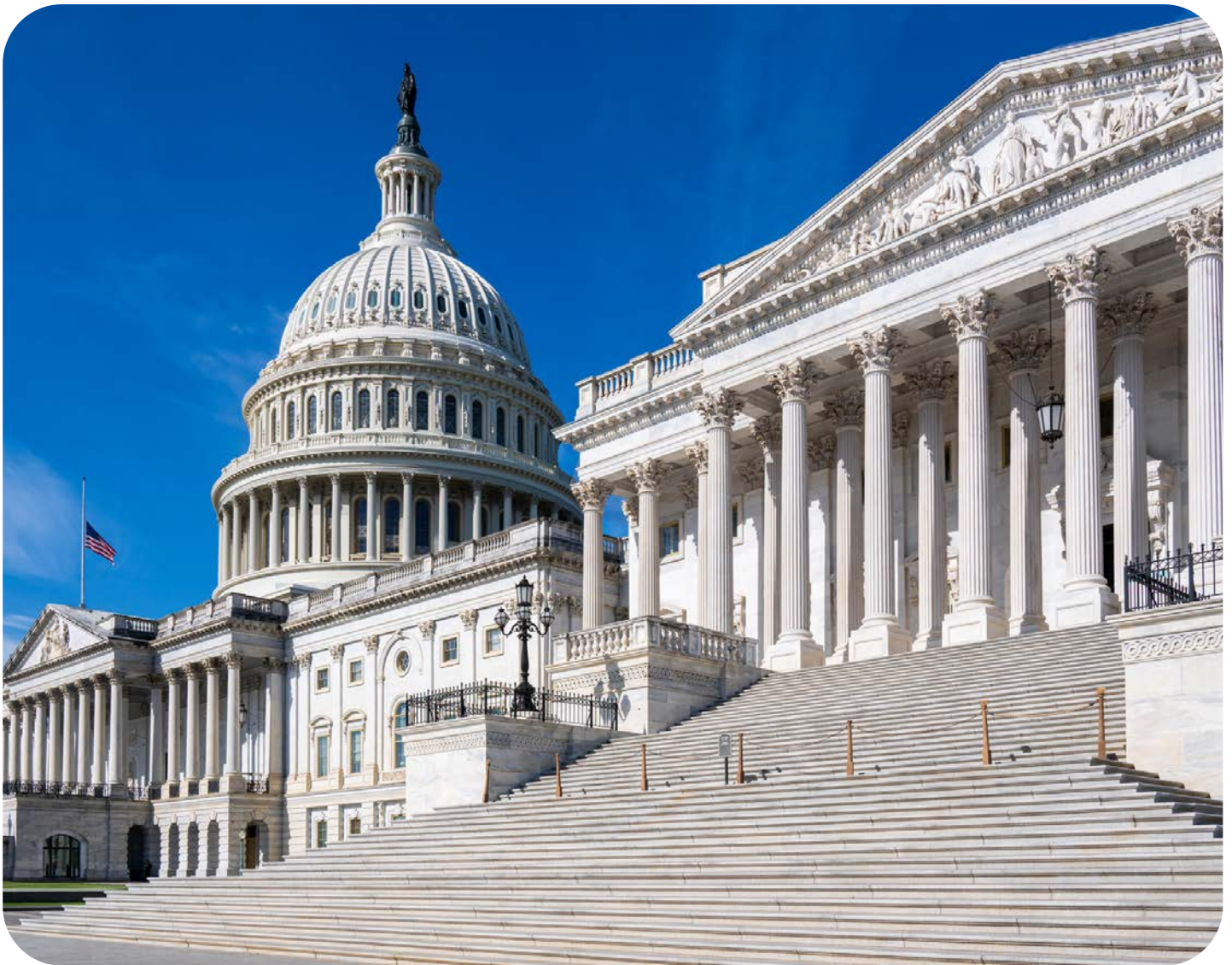
A federal shutdown can have economic impacts on your community and municipal operations. Below are ways to mitigate those impacts and ensure essential operations continue.

- Federal lands, monuments, landmarks, and parks within your jurisdiction may be "closed." Work with state officials and/or local civic institutions and volunteers to "reopen" these areas so that they remain safely accessible to visitors and tourists.
- Develop a communications plan with your department of tourism to keep visitors and convention organizers updated. Consider whether your city has the financial resources to allow municipal employees, including public safety and sanitation crews, to temporarily supplant services usually performed by furloughed federal employees. Temporarily providing city services for sanitation and security needs, when possible, will reduce potential profit losses to tourism-reliant small businesses.
- Take steps to discover if there are federal workers who will be subject to furlough in your community and develop plans to help federal contractors and employees living paycheck-to-paycheck or facing other hardships related to loss of pay. Military bases, federal buildings and non-profit institutions are good places to start. In an extended shutdown, furloughed federal employees may need help paying housing and utility

Federal Focus

bills to, among other things, avoid damaging credit reports that will follow them long after the immediate shutdown comes to an end. Loss of paychecks will also negatively impact sales revenue for small business owners and tax collection for local governments. If you don't know where to start, contact the U.S. Office of Personnel Management Office of Intergovernmental Affairs before the federal government officially shuts down to ask for data on federal employees in your area.

- Anticipate disruption, particularly if there are “essential” federal employees in your community who will be forced to work without pay. Past examples include air traffic controllers, Transportation Security Agency employees, FBI agents, DEA agents and correction officers. During an extended shutdown, food insecurity may become a critical concern for the families of federal employees who are required to work without regular pay.
- Work with your local Chamber of Commerce and other small business associations to establish emergency assistance programs, such as a fund for forgivable loans or grants to eligible small businesses and local entrepreneurs at risk of shutting down as a result of losses related to the federal shutdown.
- Reach out to local utility providers and financial institutions to request a period of credit relief, during which missed payments will not be reported to credit bureaus. Include any special temporary financial products they can offer in your communications to residents, such as no-interest loans or low-cost credit.





New Incentives for New Mexico Landlords

Partner with Housing New Mexico to expand affordable housing across the state.

Housing New Mexico is offering two new programs that reward landlords for helping create and maintain affordable rental homes.

1

Rehab-2-Rental provides funding to help property owners renovate vacant or substandard units and make them rent-ready.



2

The Statewide Landlord Incentive Program (SLIP) offers financial incentives to landlords who rent to eligible tenants, including reimbursement for repairs and vacancy loss.



Whether you're restoring an old property or offering a safe home to someone in need, these programs make it easier, and more rewarding, to be part of the solution.

Benefits include:	Rehab-2-Rental	SLIP
Reimbursement for eligible repairs and improvements	✓	
Guaranteed rent and reduced vacancy risk		✓
Direct partnership with Housing New Mexico staff	✓	✓
Helping strengthen communities statewide	✓	✓

Scan the QR codes to Learn More or Visit:

housingnm.org/programs/landlord-incentive-programs-new





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Santa Fe, NM 87501



The Municipal Reporter

A Publication of the New Mexico Municipal League

Fall 2025

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