

SUPPORT SB102 & HB194

Frontier Community Challenges Work Group

Purpose: An appropriation to the economic development department to fund a working group to identify ways to direct investment and reinvestment in frontier communities.

Critical need to invest in New Mexico's most remote communities now!

Frontier communities are the remote and geographically isolated settlements and villages that over centuries evolved into the Land of Enchantment.



Ojo Sarco, New Mexico. Albuquerque Journal, Eddie Moore, Photographer

- New Mexico has 341 census designated places (CDPs), defined as a concentration of population, identifiable by name, but not within an incorporated place. Of New Mexico's 108 incorporated places, 33 have populations under 1000.
 - "...Geography of poverty calls for more crosscutting and responsive approaches that work at a more effective scale to address poverty in the context of place." – Elizabeth Kneebone Testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Human Resources, 02/15/2017
 - Across New Mexico the smallest communities struggle to respond to growing and more complicated needs.
 - Without an economically healthy community, families are often forced to migrate to urban centers for jobs, education and other opportunities. Often this leaves elders without a support system and working families isolated from their home community and extended family. Two-thirds of New Mexico's population lives in four Metropolitan Statistical Areas with 100,000 or more inhabitants.
 - Many small communities have zero economic activity or plans for economic development.
- Frontier communities face unique economic and social challenges. They typically have higher unemployment, a higher proportion of older and disabled residents, lower educational attainment, and less access to health care, childcare, healthy food, adequate housing, broadband and reliable transportation.

SOLUTION

- Identify innovative ways to direct investment and reinvestment of state and federal resources into frontier communities for the development of infrastructure, jobs, community and essential services.
- Review existing law to determine if it facilitates equitable investment in frontier communities and, if needed, develop recommendations for legislative action.

For more information contact:

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