

Governor Bill Richardson Announces Homeland Security and Emergency Response Grants Totaling \$318,000 for New Mexico Tribes

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today announced New Mexico Native American Tribes have been awarded more than \$318,000 for homeland security and domestic emergency response. The funds are being provided through grants from the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Domestic Preparedness.

“Our Native American Tribes are a critical partner in homeland security, and must not be overlooked by the Federal Government,” said Governor Richardson. “My administration is working closely with the tribes to ensure their needs are met as we provide for the safety of all New Mexicans.”

Indian Affairs Secretary Bernie Teba is a member of the New Mexico Homeland Security Advisory Council and the New Mexico Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Council (PHEPRAC), and has encouraged tribes to apply for grants through the 2003 Homeland Security Grant Program.

The Indian Affairs Department (IAD) is working with the New Mexico Department of Public Safety and the Office of Emergency Management to allocate emergency management equipment to the twenty-two New Mexico tribes.

In August 2003, the IAD, in coordination and collaboration with the 22 New Mexico Tribes and the 53 Navajo Nation Chapters, completed a State-Tribal emergency management response and preparedness assessment that is the only one of its kind in the country. Currently, ten tribes have received funding, and others are awaiting funding review and allocation. These funds will fulfill basic equipment needs in four specified categories (personal protective equipment, communication, decontamination, and detection equipment).

“The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department is the only agency in the country that has implemented a State-Tribal emergency management assessment. This assessment is the foundation for future funding. This partnership is another example of Governor Richardson’s commitment to strong and productive Government-to-Government relationships among State agencies and the tribes. This funding is essential for tribes to have the infrastructure necessary for appropriate and quick emergency responses,” remarked Secretary Teba.

Chief Tony Boyd of the Pueblo of Acoma Fire Department commented on the funding his department will receive for emergency preparedness. “This is a tremendous benefit to

our tribe, and we can now put our training to its best use,” said Chief Boyd. “This is something that all tribal entities should look into for their Public Safety Departments.”

“I am grateful for the funding. The radios that we have received will be used for emergency preparedness, EMS, and for tribal officials,” said Alvin Tenorio, Director of Public Safety of Santo Domingo Pueblo’s Department of Public Safety. “We still have many safety issues that need to be addressed, but this is a terrific start.”

The funding breakdown for the tribes is as follows:

Pueblo of Laguna	Communication Equipment	\$9,969.40
	Decontamination Equipment	\$100,000.00
Pueblo of Acoma	Communication Equipment	\$9,981.80
	Decontamination Equipment	\$100,000.00
Pueblo of Picuris	Communication Equipment	\$9,237.40
Pueblo of San Juan	Communication Equipment	\$13,856.10
Pueblo of Jemez	Communication Equipment	\$13,856.10
Pueblo of Santa Clara	Communication Equipment	\$13,856.10
Pueblo of Nambé	Communication Equipment	\$9,237.40
Pueblo of Santo Domingo	Communication Equipment	\$9,237.40
Pueblo of Taos	Communication Equipment	\$19,206.80
Pueblo of San Felipe	Communication Equipment	\$9,237.40

The Office of Homeland Security has allocated \$316,675.90 on equipment for these ten tribal entities. Equipment needs for the Pueblos of Sandia, Zuni, Isleta, Pojoaque, and Tesuque are currently being finalized. The equipment needs of the Navajo Nation, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the Mescalero Apache Tribe are also being evaluated.

For more information concerning funding for tribes, contact Greg Salazar, Homeland Security Coordinator at the Indian Affairs Department at (505) 476-1610.