



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

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### **Governor Richardson Signs “Invest New Mexico” Package**

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today signed the “Invest New Mexico” Package, including Affordable Housing legislation - SB 115 (Senator Rodriguez), an affordable Housing Tax Credit (Speaker Lujan), and SMART Money/Jobs Initiative -HB 518 (Representative Silva).

“Under my administration, New Mexico and all its citizens are getting the tax relief they deserve,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “We’re cutting taxes for all New Mexicans, helping to provide affordable housing for more New Mexico families and providing incentives to attract new business and high-wage jobs.”

(The SMART Money Initiative) will provide the New Mexico Finance Authority with \$10 million to be used for loans to businesses wanting to build or expand in New Mexico, specifically in the more rural areas of our state. This puts business growth where it is needed the most; and, where new jobs are needed the most.

“Invest New Mexico” is one of my most important priorities, because it has so many initiatives that improve our everyday lives,” said Governor Richardson. “This work and planning is also critical to rural economic development and building a better New Mexico for our next generation.”

This was the second year of the “Invest New Mexico” Plan, under which the Governor’s Finance Council produced its next phase of coordinated planning to strengthen and grow New Mexico’s Infrastructure.

“It is by improving these vital brick and mortar necessities that we can make our state not just competitive, but a leader in the nation,” Governor Richardson said.

The Finance Council concentrated on both basic needs and critical initiatives, focusing on five main areas, including:

Jobs, and the creation of a “Smart Money” initiative, which encourages cooperation between the state, growing businesses and bank lenders to attract new industry and high wage jobs to some of New Mexico’s most under-served and rural communities.

**Affordable Housing:**

SB 115 - Senator Rodriguez

- Creates a \$10 million Housing Trust Fund
- Opens door to home ownership & American Dream to working NM families
- Approved Unanimously by Legislature
- Endorsed by 150 businesses, groups, counties, cities
- Statewide impact, emphasis on underserved & rural areas
- Advisory panel appointed jointly by Governor, Senate Pres. Pro-Tem & Speaker
- Managed by Mortgage Finance Authority (NMMFA)

Affordable Housing Tax Credit (Included in Substitute bill for HB 410) - Speaker Lujan

- Allows MFA to issue vouchers for new affordable housing developments
- A strong incentives for builders to make housing for working families a priority
- Similar programs successful in other states

**SMART Money/Jobs:** HB 518 - Representative Silva

- Creates \$10 million fund to help bridge the existing funding gap for businesses looking to expand or bring new jobs to New Mexico
- Fulfills two Governor's priorities: creates high wage jobs & brings new industry to rural areas of New Mexico
- The New Mexico Finance Authority administers the Fund, selecting top candidates, with legislative oversight
- Gives New Mexico competitive advantage by providing incentive not available in other states
- State works with banks & businesses in a public/private partnership, providing loans or loan guarantees, sparking new business or expansion of existing industry
- This is a one time funding request & not a handout. The SMART money loan fund will grow to an estimated \$30 million in 10 years
- Initiative will create about 3000 jobs in the next decade

- SMART money will also help keep NM families together by providing better jobs and new career opportunities, so native New Mexicans don't have to leave their home state to find good jobs.

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