



For immediate release  
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## **Governor Bill Richardson's Competitive Grant Advisory Team Wraps Up Statewide Meetings with Las Cruces Summit**

LAS CRUCES-Governor Bill Richardson's Competitive Grant Advisory Team today wrapped up a series of community meetings around the state designed to educate and inform elected officials, as well as representatives from local communities, businesses, and organizations, about money that is available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The conferences focused primarily on funding offered through federal competitive grants, although many aspects of the recovery act were discussed. Today's final meeting was an all-day conference in Las Cruces at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum.

"Communities across New Mexico, especially those in rural areas, are now better prepared to access critically needed funding through the recovery act and competitive grant process," said Governor Richardson. "I am grateful to the members of the team for their time and effort-the state will benefit from this process for years to come."

The Governor formed the Competitive Grant Advisory Team to support the efforts of the New Mexico Office of Recovery and Reinvestment, led by former Governor Toney Anaya, which is dedicated to securing as many federal funds as possible for New Mexico to revitalize the economy, protect existing jobs and create new jobs. The team held six community meetings- Ruidoso, Acoma Pueblo, Silver City, Gallup, Tatum, and Española, and two full-day "summits"- Albuquerque and Las Cruces. The conferences drew a total of approximately 1,500 participants.

"The response from the communities has been amazing- people are engaged in the process and hungry for information and we have been excited to help," said Secretary of the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department and the Chair of the grant advisory team. "New Mexico is in great position to secure significant funding through the competitive grant process."

Participants heard presentations from and were able to interact with representatives from about a dozen state agencies, as well as those from federal agencies responsible for allocating recovery act funding, including:

- US Department of Energy
- US Department of Labor
- US Department of Agriculture
- US Housing and Urban Development
- US Small Business Administration
- US Economic Development Administration
- US Bureau of Indian Affairs
- US Indian Health Services

The agencies also provided information regarding other federal funding that is available, and direction on how those who do not qualify for funding at this time can access money in the future.

“The cooperation among federal and state agencies was unprecedented and a great example of how we can come together to help the people of New Mexico,” said former Governor Toney Anaya, Executive Director of the New Mexico Office of Recovery and Reinvestment.

The Competitive Grant Advisory Team will hold a final meeting next week to provide feedback on the meetings and to discuss possible next steps in the competitive grant process.

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