



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2026-072

AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR THE NEW MEXICO NATIONAL GUARD DUE TO EMERGENCY IN RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, SANTA FE COUNTY, TAOS COUNTY, THE CITY OF ESPAÑOLA, THE JICARILLA APACHE RESERVATION, AND THE PUEBLOS OF POJOAQUE, OHKAY OWINGEH, SANTA CLARA, SAN ILDEFONSO AND TESUQUE

WHEREAS, Rio Arriba County, Santa Fe County, Taos County, the City of Española and neighboring pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apache Reservation are experiencing a significant increase in crime, including but not limited to violent offenses, property crimes, drug trafficking, and other public safety threats;

WHEREAS, for example, police calls in the City of Española—which straddles Santa Fe and Rio Arriba Counties—have more than doubled in the past two years, and police dispatches to businesses in Santa Clara have quadrupled during that same time;

WHEREAS, the impacts of these public safety threats are severe and far-reaching, manifesting in increased homelessness, family instability, and fatal drug overdoses;

WHEREAS, a significant number of residents of Rio Arriba County, Española, Santa Clara, and Ohkay Owingeh struggle with addiction to alcohol and illicit substances such as fentanyl, resulting in Rio Arriba County having the highest overdose death rate in the state;

WHEREAS, the surge in criminal activity and addiction has placed an extraordinary burden on the local governments, especially local police departments;

WHEREAS, Governor Lujan Grisham has recently issued executive orders declaring a state of emergency in Rio Arriba County, Santa Fe County, Taos County, the City of Española, the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, and the Pueblos of Pojoaque, Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, and Tesuque after they indicated that local resources are insufficient to address this emergency and requested assistance from the State of New Mexico;

WHEREAS, these previous orders released emergency funds to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and directed the Adjutant General to order into service any elements of the New Mexico National Guard as are or may be needed to provide military support to civil authorities as needed for this emergency;

WHEREAS, the New Mexico National Guard possesses the personnel, logistical capabilities, and resources necessary to provide non-law enforcement support this effort, including assistance with traffic control, administrative duties, prisoner transport, court security, emergency response, and other critical functions that allow local law enforcement to focus on crime reduction efforts;

WHEREAS, the New Mexico National Guard requires additional funding to provide this critical support;

WHEREAS, this emergency requires immediate action to protect public peace, health, and safety; and

WHEREAS, this disaster is of such magnitude as to be beyond local control and requires the resources of the State of New Mexico to minimize economic or physical harm and to take actions necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Howie Morales, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Mexico and acting Governor pursuant to Article V, Section 7 of the New Mexico Constitution, by

the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby **DECLARE** a state of emergency to exist in Rio Arriba County, Santa Fe County, Taos County, the City of Española, the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, and the Pueblos of Pojoaque, Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, and Tesuque, and **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. The Department of Finance and Administration shall make available additional emergency financial resources in an amount not to exceed seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) to the New Mexico National Guard in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 12-11-23 to -25, and NMSA 1978, Sections 12-10-14 to -15. Such funds shall be expended for the purposes of avoiding or minimizing economic and physical harm; protecting the public health, safety, welfare; and providing emergency and disaster relief, including but not limited to the payment of any expense incident to the provision of humanitarian relief and other assistance to civil authorities. Such funds shall be paid out upon warrants drawn by the Secretary of Finance and Administration upon vouchers approved by the Governor, or an agent or agency designated by her for that purpose.

2. The Adjutant General shall order into service any elements of the New Mexico National Guard as are or may be needed to provide military support to civil authorities as needed for this emergency. This action is pursuant to and in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 20-1-1 to -8, NMSA 1978, Sections 20-2-1 to -8, NMSA 1978, Section 20-3-2(E), and NMSA 1978, Sections 20-4-1 to -14. Such emergency assistance shall be provided during the period of need at the discretion of the Governor or her Authorized Representative.

I FURTHER ORDER and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until all authorized funds are expended or no longer necessary to provide emergency assistance.

ATTEST:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 28TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Howie C. Morales

HOWIE MORALES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

