



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2026-012

AMENDED ORDER DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN TAOS COUNTY, RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, SANTA FE COUNTY, THE CITY OF ESPAÑOLA, THE JICARILLA APACHE RESERVATION, AND THE PUEBLOS OF POJOAQUE, OHKAY OWINGEH, SANTA CLARA, SAN ILDEFONSO AND TESUQUE, AND AUTHORIZING FUNDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, Taos County, Rio Arriba County, Santa Fe 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, Taos County has seen a severe and escalating substance use disorder crisis which has resulted in rising overdose fatalities and widespread community impacts;

WHEREAS, in order to address some of these issues, Taos County requires funding to reestablish and expand their Detoxification Center, which has been closed for nearly ten years;

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 issued Executive Order 2025-358 on August 12, 2025, which declared a state of emergency in Rio Arriba County, the City of Española, and the pueblos of Santa Clara and Ohkay Owingeh after they indicated that local resources are insufficient to address this emergency and requested assistance from the State of New Mexico;

WHEREAS, since that time, Taos County, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the Pueblos of Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, and Tesuque, and the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office have also requested assistance from the State of New Mexico because they are experiencing similar increases in public safety threats and they do not have sufficient resources to combat these significant and unprecedented challenges;

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

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; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management requires additional funding to continue its efforts to protect public peace, health, and safety in Taos County, Rio Arriba County, Santa Fe County, the City of Española, the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, and the Pueblos of Pojoaque, Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso and Tesuque.

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 Taos County, Rio Arriba County, Santa Fe 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 emergency financial resources in an amount not to exceed seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 12-11-23 to -25, and NMSA 1978, Sections 12-10-14 to -15. The funds shall be expended for the resources and services necessary to avoid or minimize economic or physical harm until the situation becomes stabilized; on a temporary, emergency basis for lodging, sheltering, health care, food, any transportation or shipping necessary to protect lives or public property; or for any other action necessary to protect the public health, safety, welfare, and property. The funds shall be expended in accordance with the policy and procedures of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as approved by the Governor or her Authorized Representative.

2. The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management shall coordinate all requests for assistance and responses to such requests under the authority of and as determined by the Governor or her Authorized Representative. In addition to such other eligibility criteria as may be established by the Governor or her Authorized Representative, applicants requesting financial assistance from the State for necessary action taken in response to the emergency shall be required to demonstrate that the cost of the necessary action exceeds their

available resources, as determined based upon criteria developed in conjunction with the State agencies, if any, with financial and budgetary oversight responsibilities for the applicant.

3. 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, 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.

4. All Cabinet Departments and agencies under gubernatorial control shall provide any assistance that may be required by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management or by the State Emergency Operations Center under the authority of the Governor's 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
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 14TH DAY OF APRIL 2026

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



HOWIE MORALES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

