



NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Drinking Water Bureau

Public Involvement Plan (PIP)

For the
State of New Mexico Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Intended Use Plan and Project Priority Lists
Comment Period

May 25-June 25, 2023

APPROVAL PAGE

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I. Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Overview

The New Mexico Environment Department (Department), Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) developed this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP) for the State Fiscal Year 2024. The purpose of this PIP is to plan for public involvement and participation in the Intended Use Plan development process through a 30-day public comment period.

Comments Accepted: May 25, 2023 –June 25, 2023

The PIP integrates information about the affected communities and identifies resources needed by the Bureau to successfully incorporate community participation activities into the decision-making process for the public comment period for the DWSRF IUP. DWB encourages public water systems statewide to understand the content of the annual IUP and to participate in the DWSRF program. The PIP identifies the Department staff and resources needed to accomplish these activities.

The IUP requires public notification of public comment opportunities. The Bureau will meet the public participation requirements for the DWSRF IUP by following this PIP, which includes all applicable policy, regulatory and statutory public participation requirements. The PIP identifies the DWB staff and resources needed to accomplish these activities.

In developing this PIP, state-wide community participation needs were assessed to ensure appropriate promotion of public outreach by identifying whether there is a combination of environmental and demographic factors (i.e., low-income community, minority community, limited English proficiency individuals, Linguistically Isolated Households, etc.) that may impact public participation¹. This assessment identifies community outreach needs and provides for public access opportunities above and beyond statutorily mandated requirements and underscores the provision of adequate public access to information about the DWSRF IUP.

As much as possible, public participation and informational activities related to the DWSRF IUP will be held within the timelines outlined in the PIP. This timeline is tentative and subject to change.

The DWSRF IUP comment period is open for thirty (30) days and is a state-wide document pertinent to a relatively large community of Spanish speakers, and DWB will provide pertinent information in both English and Spanish in public comment notices. During public comment periods, hardcopies of relevant documents may be reviewed at the information repositories listed in "Public Participation and Outreach Activities" in Section V of this document.

More detailed information about planned Bureau outreach is available in this PIP.

This PIP is a "living" document that may be amended after considering public comments and feedback. The Bureau Chief provides final approval of the PIP and amendments.

¹ See Section IV Location and Demographics for Demographic Summary.

II. Contacts

Bureau contacts for questions regarding the State of New Mexico Intended Use Plan, the public review and comment process, the Bureau's website, or this PIP, are listed below:

Tanya Trujillo, Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group Manager
Drinking Water Bureau
121 Tijeras Ave. NE Suite 1000 Albuquerque, NM 87102
Phone: 505-372-8273
Email: tanya.trujillo2@env.nm.gov

A. Non-English Language Speaker Assistance and Accommodations

In accordance with the DWB Limited English Proficiency Customer Service Plan non-English speakers may call the Bureau contact listed below and request language assistance services, such as an interpreter, so they can learn more about the State of New Mexico IUP.

Pedro Archuleta
Spanish Language Service for Drinking Water Bureau
1190 St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505
Phone: 505-372-8168 or 877-654-8720
Email: pedro.archuleta@env.nm.gov

Maria Medina
Spanish Language Service for Drinking Water Bureau
1190 St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505
Phone: 505-629-7223
Email: maria.medina@env.nm.gov

B. Department Websites

New Mexico Environment Department - <https://www.env.nm.gov/>
Drinking Water Bureau - https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/
Funding Opportunities - <https://www.env.nm.gov/funding-opportunities/>
Public Comment Portal - <https://nmed.commentinput.com/comment/search>

C. Location of Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List for Review

The Bureau and its partner, the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA), maintain website locations for the Intended Use Plan. These websites will be kept up to date and contain information about the DWSRF program and important documents.

New Mexico Environment Department Funding Opportunities:

<https://www.env.nm.gov/funding-opportunities/>

New Mexico Finance Authority – Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund:

<https://www.nmfinance.com/water-project-fund/drinking-water-state-revolving-loan-fund/>

III. Regulatory Framework

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act created a public involvement requirement that applies to the DWSRF program. Specifically, the DWSRF IUP requirements as part of the capitalization grant application and the “meaningful public review and comment” requirement are detailed in 40 CFR 35.3555.

Through the enactment of the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Act (Fund Act), Chapter 6, Article 21A, NMSA 1978, as amended, the New Mexico Legislature created a revolving loan fund (Fund). The purpose of the Fund Act “is to provide local authorities in New Mexico with low-cost financial assistance in the construction and rehabilitation of necessary drinking water facilities through the creation of a self-sustaining revolving loan program so as to improve and protect drinking water quality and public health” §6- 21A-2 NMSA (2017).

The Fund is administered by the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) in cooperation with the Drinking Water Bureau. NMFA is the State’s grantee for Capitalization Grants allotted to the State, and it administers the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRLF) which consists of the annual Capitalization Grant from the EPA, and the 20% State Match required by the SDWA. The amount of annual the Capitalization Grant is determined by Congress and administered by the EPA. The SDWA allows each state the discretion to utilize up to 31% of each annual DWSRF Capitalization Grant to fund four different Set-Aside categories, with the remainder of the Capitalization Grant directed to the state’s loan funds:

1. Administration and Technical Assistance (up to 4%);
2. Small System Technical Assistance (up to 2%);
3. State Program Management (up to 10%); and
4. Local Assistance and Other State Programs (up to 15%).

The duties and responsibilities of the NMFA and the DWB are described in a Memorandum of Understanding in carrying out the provisions of the Fund Act and in monitoring construction projects receiving financial assistance. The NMFA, as grantee, is responsible for the administration of DWSRLF financing and related functions funded by the Administration Set-Aside of the Capitalization Grant. The DWB, as the State’s regulatory drinking water agency, is responsible for the oversight and implementation of the Small Systems Technical Assistance, State Program Management, and Local Assistance Set-Asides.

Each state fiscal year (SFY) as part of the capitalization grant application, New Mexico prepares DWSRF IUP to describe how it proposes to use the DWSRF to meet the objectives of the SDWA and the New Mexico DWSRLF Act. This IUP is the central component of the State’s Capitalization Grant application to the EPA. The IUP communicates the plans to stakeholders and covers the state fiscal year from July 1 – June 30. This document describes the short- and long-term goals of the program, the priority setting process used to rank projects on the Fundable Priority List, and it describes how the State will use the set-asides to support the program.

IV. Location and Demographics

The IUP is a statewide document, and thus contains the proposed projects and program goals for the entire state.

A. Demographic Summary – 2023 Update

Using U.S. Census Quick Facts² for the State of New Mexico for July 2022, New Mexico has an estimated population of 2,113,344 where 50.1% identify as Hispanic or Latino (which may be of any race) and 11.2% identify exclusively as American Indian. For the rest of the United States 18.9% identify as Hispanic or Latino and 1.3% identify exclusively as American Indian. The percent of persons over 5 years of age that communicate in a language other than English (non-English) at home is 31.2%, compared to 21.6% for the United States. Census data of Detailed Languages Spoken at Home³ and Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over: 2017-2021 estimates 24.5% of this population speaks Spanish in the home. The 5-year (2017-2021) median household income in 2021 dollars for New Mexico is \$54,020, compared to the national figure of \$69,021, with 18.4% of New Mexico's population living in poverty. See Appendix A for U.S. Census Quick Facts supporting data and Appendix B for Language Spoken at Home supporting data.

These results indicate for the State of New Mexico, the percentage of Spanish speaking communication is considerable (i.e., substantially greater than the national percentage) and there are demographic factors such as low-income and minority communities, that may impact public participation. Therefore, the Bureau will provide notification in Spanish and in English to announce the invitation for the public to review and make comment on the DWSRLF IUP.

V. Public Participation & Outreach Activities

The public may ask questions about the IUP at any time. Interested community members do not need to wait for a formal public comment period to contact the Bureau. However, the Bureau emphasizes that to be included in the official record, comments solicited by public notices about the IUP must be submitted during the noticed comment periods, and in accordance with the public notice.

To ensure the public has an opportunity to review and provide input on the DWSRF IUP, the draft document will be made available to the public through public notice and notifications by email and posting on the NMED website. The Bureau encourages comments to be submitted through the new NMED Public Comment Portal found on the NMED website at the link below.

- GovDelivery Listserv notification: includes all water system contact addresses
- Funding Opportunities - <https://www.env.nm.gov/funding-opportunities/>
- Public Comment Portal - <https://nmed.commentinput.com/comment/search>
- NMED Events Calendar - <https://www.env.nm.gov/events-calendar/>
- New Mexico Finance Authority - <https://www.nmfinance.com/water-project-fund/drinking-water-state-revolving-loan-fund/>

² <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/NM,US/PST045219#PST045219>

³ <https://data.census.gov/table?q=languages&g=040XX00US35>

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund – State Fiscal Year 2024 Intended Use Plan (IUP)

Activity	Dates
Public Notice for Draft SFY24 DWSRF IUP – websites, listserv email, social media	May 25, 2023
Public Comment Period for Draft SFY24 DWSRF IUP	30 Days May 25, 2023- June 25, 2023
Public comments addressed in document and final FY24 IUP sent to EPA for approval	By July 30

The public comment period will be open for 30 days. A summary of the comments received and the DWB response will be included as an Appendix in the final version of the IUP, which will be posted on both agency’s websites once complete and approved by EPA.

Specific outreach activities related to the draft DWSRF IUP include:

- Maintaining specific DWB and NMFA web pages with attachments and links to all pertinent documents
- Developing a public notice announcing the opening of the 30-day public comment period in both English and Spanish
- Posting this notice to the DWB website
- Emailing this public notice to DWB's DWSRF email list through the GovDelivery e-mail delivery service (over 1,500 email addresses as of May 2020),
- Posting a notice of the 30-day public comment period on department social media

A. Postal Mailing or E-Mailing of Notices to Persons on the Drinking Water Bureau's Email List

DWB maintains an extensive email list (over 1,500 email addresses as of May 2020) that includes individuals interested in funding information, water system board members and administrative contacts from the SDWIS database for community public water systems that are eligible for the DWSRF program.

Interested persons providing both an address and email may receive physical mail upon request and an email. Additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties are added to the email list as requested.

B. Email Updates

The Bureau regularly maintains contact information which is updated or supplemented if additional information is found, or existing information has changed.

C. Public Meeting Notices, Public Comment Notices, and Other Notices

Based on the Bureau's evaluation of the community needs, public notices will be translated into Spanish. In addition, the Bureau post notices on the several Department webpages:

Public Notices: <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/>

Events Calendar: <https://www.env.nm.gov/events-calendar/>

D. Informational Pamphlets

The Bureau has developed informational pamphlets for the DWSRF loan program that briefly explains the program and who is eligible for funding and what the interest rates and contact persons are. The Bureau may determine whether they will be available in languages other than English, online (e.g., Bureau website) and in print (hardcopy) at the information repositories listed in this PIP. They may also be distributed via email to interested organizations and individuals, including those who sign up for email notices through the website.

E. Public Comment Period for 2024

The 30-day public comment period on the draft 2024 DWSRF IUP is planned to start May 25, 2023, and end June 25, 2023, at midnight.

F. Other Outreach

Other means of outreach such as flyers announcing public comment periods may be posted in locations throughout the community (e.g., local businesses, schools, libraries) and on the Department's website, at the Bureau's discretion after consideration of public interest and input.

G. Information Repositories

Copies of the draft DWSRF IUP may be obtained from the Bureau's website at:

New Mexico Environment Department Funding Opportunities:

<https://www.env.nm.gov/funding-opportunities/>

New Mexico Finance Authority – Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund:

<https://www.nmfinance.com/water-project-fund/drinking-water-state-revolving-loan-fund/>

The following is a list of locations where hard copies of relevant documents will be available:

None identified at this time.

H. IUP Final Submission and Approval including Responses to Comments

To address stakeholder and community members submitted comments, the Drinking Water Bureau will prepare the final DWSRF IUP to include an appendix with a summary of the public comments received and the bureau response to any comments received following the close of the public comment period. The state is required to submit the final DWSRF IUP to EPA Region 6 for review and approval. The final draft IUP and all appendices will be available to the NMED and NMFA websites, or upon request. The Bureau will also send a copy of responses to comments directly to the commenter.

APPENDIX A: U.S. Census Quick Facts Data Tables

Retrieved May 2023



QuickFacts

New Mexico; United States

QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a *population of 5,000 or more*.

Table

All Topics	New Mexico	United States
Population Estimates, July 1, 2022, (V2022)	▲ 2,113,344	▲ 333,287,557
PEOPLE		
Population		
Population Estimates, July 1, 2022, (V2022)	▲ 2,113,344	▲ 333,287,557
Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2022)	▲ 2,117,527	▲ 331,449,520
Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2022, (V2022)	▲ -0.2%	▲ 0.6%
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	2,117,522	331,449,281
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	2,059,179	308,745,538
Age and Sex		
Persons under 5 years, percent	▲ 5.4%	▲ 5.7%
Persons under 18 years, percent	▲ 22.4%	▲ 22.2%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	▲ 18.5%	▲ 16.8%
Female persons, percent	▲ 50.2%	▲ 50.5%
Race and Hispanic Origin		
White alone, percent	▲ 81.3%	▲ 75.8%
Black or African American alone, percent (a)	▲ 2.7%	▲ 13.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a)	▲ 11.2%	▲ 1.3%
Asian alone, percent (a)	▲ 1.9%	▲ 6.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a)	▲ 0.2%	▲ 0.3%
Two or More Races, percent	▲ 2.7%	▲ 2.9%
Hispanic or Latino, percent (b)	▲ 50.1%	▲ 18.9%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	▲ 35.9%	▲ 59.3%
Population Characteristics		
Veterans, 2017-2021	139,347	17,431,290
Foreign born persons, percent, 2017-2021	9.2%	13.6%
Housing		
Housing units, July 1, 2022, (V2022)	956,778	143,786,655
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2017-2021	68.2%	64.6%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2017-2021	\$184,800	\$244,900
Median selected monthly owner costs -with a mortgage, 2017-2021	\$1,359	\$1,697
Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2017-2021	\$378	\$538
Median gross rent, 2017-2021	\$897	\$1,163
Building permits, 2022	8,838 ¹	1,665,088
Families & Living Arrangements		
Households, 2017-2021	797,596	124,010,992
Persons per household, 2017-2021	2.59	2.60
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2017-2021	87.4%	86.6%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2017-2021	33.0%	21.7%
Computer and Internet Use		
Households with a computer, percent, 2017-2021	89.7%	93.1%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2017-2021	80.0%	87.0%
Education		
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2017-2021	86.8%	88.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2017-2021	28.5%	33.7%
Health		
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2017-2021	11.3%	8.7%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	▲ 12.0%	▲ 9.8%

Economy

In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2017-2021	56.6%	63.1%
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2017-2021	53.2%	58.7%
Total accommodation and food services sales, 2017 (\$1,000) (c)	5,526,025	938,237,077
Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2017 (\$1,000) (c)	13,602,375	2,527,903,275
Total transportation and warehousing receipts/revenue, 2017 (\$1,000) (c)	2,816,277	895,225,411
Total retail sales, 2017 (\$1,000) (c)	26,404,284	4,949,601,481
Total retail sales per capita, 2017 (c)	\$12,616	\$15,224
Transportation		
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2017-2021	22.9	26.8
Income & Poverty		
Median household income (in 2021 dollars), 2017-2021	\$54,020	\$69,021
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2021 dollars), 2017-2021	\$29,624	\$37,638
Persons in poverty, percent	▲ 18.4%	▲ 11.6%

BUSINESSES

Businesses

Total employer establishments, 2021	43,953	8,148,606
Total employment, 2021	606,085	128,346,299
Total annual payroll, 2021 (\$1,000)	29,775,953	8,278,573,947
Total employment, percent change, 2020-2021	-7.0%	-4.3%
Total nonemployer establishments, 2019	129,145	27,104,006
All employer firms, Reference year 2017	32,562	5,744,643
Men-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	16,309	3,480,438
Women-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	6,651	1,134,549
Minority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	7,437	1,014,958
Nonminority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	20,591	4,371,152
Veteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	2,445	351,237
Nonveteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	25,733	4,968,606

GEOGRAPHY

Geography

Population per square mile, 2020	17.5	93.8
Population per square mile, 2010	17.0	87.4
Land area in square miles, 2020	121,312.75	3,533,038.28
Land area in square miles, 2010	121,298.15	3,531,905.43
FIPS Code	35	1

[About datasets used in this table](#)

Value Notes

- Includes data not distributed by county.

▲ Estimates are not comparable to other geographic levels due to methodology differences that may exist between different data sources.

Some estimates presented here come from sample data, and thus have sampling errors that may render some apparent differences between geographies statistically indistinguishable. Click the Quick Info icon to the left of each row in TABLE view to learn about sampling error.

In Vintage 2022, as a result of the formal request from the state, Connecticut transitioned from eight counties to nine planning regions. For more details, please see the Vintage 2022 release notes available here: [Release Notes](#).

The vintage year (e.g., V2022) refers to the final year of the series (2020 thru 2022). Different vintage years of estimates are not comparable.

Users should exercise caution when comparing 2017-2021 ACS 5-year estimates to other ACS estimates. For more information, please visit the [2021 5-year ACS Comparison Guidance](#) page.

Fact Notes

- (a) Includes persons reporting only one race
- (c) Economic Census - Puerto Rico data are not comparable to U.S. Economic Census data
- (b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories

Value Flags

- Either no or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate, or a ratio of medians cannot be calculated because one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest or upper interval of an open ended distribution.
- F Fewer than 25 firms
- D Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information
- N Data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.
- FN Footnote on this item in place of data
- X Not applicable
- S Suppressed; does not meet publication standards
- NA Not available
- Z Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown

QuickFacts data are derived from: Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, Current Population Survey, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits.

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Appendix B: US Census – Language Spoken at Home

2021 Estimates (most recent available)

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=languages&g=040XX00US35>

New Mexico				
	Total		Percent	
Label	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Population 5 years and over	2,000,775	±2,415	(X)	(X)
Speak only English	1,376,004	±15,379	68.8%	±0.8
Speak a language other than English	624,771	±15,200	31.2%	±0.8
SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH				
Spanish	489,215	±13,416	24.5%	±0.7
5 to 17 years old	66,203	±5,585	3.3%	±0.3
18 to 64 years old	320,533	±9,644	16.0%	±0.5
65 years old and over	102,479	±3,409	5.1%	±0.2
Other Indo-European languages	19,746	±3,011	1.0%	±0.2
5 to 17 years old	1,479	±784	0.1%	±0.1
18 to 64 years old	14,114	±2,673	0.7%	±0.1
65 years old and over	4,153	±1,070	0.2%	±0.1
Asian and Pacific Island languages	20,618	±3,008	1.0%	±0.2
5 to 17 years old	2,320	±1,045	0.1%	±0.1
18 to 64 years old	15,154	±2,202	0.8%	±0.1
65 years old and over	3,144	±641	0.2%	±0.1
Other languages	95,192	±5,261	4.8%	±0.3
5 to 17 years old	11,644	±2,115	0.6%	±0.1
18 to 64 years old	67,043	±4,039	3.4%	±0.2
65 years old and over	16,505	±1,179	0.8%	±0.1
CITIZENS 18 YEARS AND OVER				
All citizens 18 years old and over	1,545,938	±7,442	(X)	(X)
Speak only English	1,088,468	±12,076	70.4%	±0.7
Speak a language other than English	457,470	±11,712	29.6%	±0.7
Spanish	348,640	±10,294	22.6%	±0.6
Other languages	108,830	±5,627	7.0%	±0.4

United States				
Total			Percent	
Label	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Population 5 years and over	313,232,500	±17,131	(X)	(X)
Speak only English	245,478,064	±170,291	78.4%	±0.1
Speak a language other than English	67,754,436	±163,583	21.6%	±0.1
SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH				
Spanish	41,254,941	±121,964	13.2%	±0.1
5 to 17 years old	8,118,810	±56,894	2.6%	±0.1
18 to 64 years old	28,891,508	±88,866	9.2%	±0.1
65 years old and over	4,244,623	±20,686	1.4%	±0.1
Other Indo-European languages	11,802,904	±84,426	3.8%	±0.1
5 to 17 years old	1,662,388	±27,136	0.5%	±0.1
18 to 64 years old	8,060,525	±70,869	2.6%	±0.1
65 years old and over	2,079,991	±23,569	0.7%	±0.1
Asian and Pacific Island languages	10,915,574	±65,831	3.5%	±0.1
5 to 17 years old	1,243,850	±18,976	0.4%	±0.1
18 to 64 years old	7,754,578	±51,701	2.5%	±0.1
65 years old and over	1,917,146	±17,124	0.6%	±0.1
Other languages	3,781,017	±65,785	1.2%	±0.1
5 to 17 years old	666,229	±26,493	0.2%	±0.1
18 to 64 years old	2,739,141	±46,823	0.9%	±0.1
65 years old and over	375,647	±11,676	0.1%	±0.1
CITIZENS 18 YEARS AND OVER				
All citizens 18 years old and over	239,035,960	±130,097	(X)	(X)
Speak only English	199,887,125	±151,193	83.6%	±0.1
Speak a language other than English	39,148,835	±127,051	16.4%	±0.1
Spanish	22,828,281	±96,483	9.6%	±0.1
Other languages	16,320,554	±70,410	6.8%	±0.1