

2021 Legislative Positions

The Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce and Clovis Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC) are non-profit organizations that represent business and economic development in Clovis and Curry County. The Chamber and CIDC are a unified voice of **750 plus representative members** including business and community leaders within Clovis and Curry County. Both the Clovis Industrial Development Corporation and the Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce are tasked with strengthening the economic vitality of the City of Clovis and Curry County by developing business opportunities and recruiting new business and industry.

City of Clovis and Curry County Capital Outlay

The Chamber and CIDC **support** the City of Clovis and Curry County Capital Outlay requests.

Open Up, New Mexico

The Chamber and CIDC **support** all efforts to open up businesses in New Mexico as soon as possible.

“Driving New Mexico’s Future”

The Chamber and CIDC **support** the New Mexico Chamber’s economic legislative initiatives as outlined in their December 2020 document: “Driving New Mexico’s Future.” [Click Here to View](#)

State LEDA Amendment – HB 11

The Chamber and CIDC **support** HB 11, a major economic recovery initiative, that would pump another \$200 million into New Mexico small businesses to create jobs and rehire workers. **House Bill 11** taps into the unused dollars set aside by the State Investment Council and the New Mexico Finance Authority for the Small Business Recovery Loan Fund, converting the funds into grants to assist business that have incurred steep revenue loss. House Bill 11 is a lifeline for small businesses who need relief now.

A second part of the legislation would permit the partial recapture of GRT revenues for very large LEDA-approved projects during construction. This would better position New Mexico to quickly attract major job-creating businesses.

The tax portion of the bill allows for 75% of some GRT revenues from large LEDA projects (over \$350 million) to be recaptured for the LEDA fund to help with future job-growth and economic development. Only costs associated with new construction of the project will be subject to this provision.

State LEDA Funding

The Chamber and CIDC **support** NM Economic Development’s request for \$30 million to maintain the LEDA fund balance. LEDA invested in 18 companies in 2020. These companies will create 2,486 jobs, investing \$756 million and creating an annual payroll of \$152 million. These companies will have an economic impact of more than \$1.5 billion over 10 years.

The Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce and Clovis Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC) request and **support** 45% of the State capital outlay LEDA funds to be **dedicated for communities outside the Albuquerque/Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, Las Cruces areas** to **support** rural economic development projects.

Retail Amendment to LEDA – SB49

The Chamber and CIDC **support** an amendment to the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) to allow for municipalities to use up to twenty-five percent (25%) of municipal LEDA funding for expansion of existing retail businesses or recruitment of new retail businesses. This amendment, led by the City of Clovis, will be a tremendous help with COVID-19 business recovery and will sunset in 2030.

SoloWorks

The Chamber and CIDC **support** continued funding of the SoloWorks program through the NM Economic Development Department in the amount of \$250,000. Clovis is collaborating with SoloWorks as a part of the Clovis Gig City initiative to create job opportunities for Cannon Air Force Base spouses and other remote workers. The increase of remote work due to COVID makes New Mexico a very attractive place to recruit new businesses and remote workers.

Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority

The Chamber and CIDC strongly **support** the continued support and funding for the Water Trust Board and the endorsement of the 20/30/40 proposition of the Interim Groundwater Project. We encourage the state legislature to continue their support of the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority, a regional water supply project in east-central New Mexico.

Small Business Development Center

The Chamber and CIDC **support** increased funding and/or restoration of continued expansion of services and related activities for the NMSBDC Network. Now more than ever, the New Mexico Small Business Development Center is a viable economic partner for New Mexico businesses. Over the last 28 years and especially in 2020, NMSBDC has faithfully served New Mexico’s entrepreneurs. The NMSBDC will continue to place its fundamental focus on the important task of helping businesses impacted by the COVID-19 health emergency and expand efforts in serving economic-based businesses. The NMSBDC provides technical assistance in the form of one-on-one confidential business advising, seminars, workshops, resources, and referrals to local businesses during the pandemic.

Additionally, the Chamber and CIDC **support** the Governor’s Economic Recovery Council’s January 12, 2021 Roadmap to Recovery report policy recommendation to restore the NMSBDC 6% budget cut (\$250,000) that occurred in the June 2020 Special Legislative Session.

Cannon Air Force Base

The Chamber and CIDC **support** the legislative priorities as outlined by Cannon AFB leadership:

- Emphasis on public education and getting children back in school; Concern with how the state is moving away from letter grades, making it hard to track progress of improvements in NM school systems. Align with the Secretary of the Air Force's Support to Military Families by advocating for charter schools in the areas that surround NM military bases.
- Environmental issues with emphasis on continuing challenges that Cannon AFB and other NM bases have experienced with the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) associated with the Melrose Bombing Range and hazardous waste disposal. CAFB does not, nor has ever, needed hazardous waste disposal at Melrose Bombing Range.
- Renewable Energy: Cannon AFB supports some level of coordination before issuing permits for builders of wind farms.
- Reestablishing the Cannon AFB Recreation Area near Conchas Lake – Cannon AFB Force Support Squadron has laid some ground work, however the permit release on the north area will require some coordination
- Support improvements to the military professional licensure reciprocity bill passed last year for spouses of active-duty military stationed in New Mexico.
- Military Retiree Tax Policy – Support a tax structure that incentivizes people to remain after they finish out their service.
- Economic Development with respect to quality of life and spouse employment (Soloworks). Possibly a tax incentive or developmental opportunity specific to base locations as a way to leverage the area's fiber backbone, etc.

Clovis Community College (CCC)

The Chamber and CIDC **support** a complete network infrastructure assessment for CCC in order to create and begin an implementation plan for replacing outdated networking infrastructure, including the core network switch.

The Chamber and CIDC also **support** the plan, design, and complete phase II of renovation of Mesa Theater at CCC, including installing flooring, interior paint, and installation of sound and projection system to enable hosting events on-site at this location.

Clovis Municipal Schools

The Chamber and CIDC **support** increased discretionary funding to public schools, thereby facilitating local control and decision-making concerning expenditures of school budgets. Our priority is meeting the needs of NM students via financial solvency by ensuring operational and transportation funding stability. We also request that adequate funding will be provided for current programs, plus any new mandates or requirements. The Chamber and CIDC request that the Legislature protect reserves to help districts navigate unforeseen challenges.

Higher Education FY22 Legislative priorities

The Chamber and CIDC support the following higher education legislative priorities for the 2022 fiscal year:

- Enhance Student Financial Aid
 - Lottery Scholarship Funding
 - 2-year & 4-year Opportunity Scholarships
 - College Affordability Endowment Fund
 - Teacher Prep Affordability Scholarship
- Fully Fund Dual Credit
- Invest in the Higher Ed Endowment Fund
- Support the High Skills Fund
- Support a Compensation Increase
- Increase Funding for HED
- Address State Agency Reductions

State-Owned Public Banks

The Chamber and CIDC **oppose** the creation of a state-owned public bank. New Mexico is well served by a strong community banking industry and public programs that have been put in place by the New Mexico Legislature. There is no justification for a public bank. [View the resolution.](#)

MainStreet

The Chamber and CIDC **support** increased investment for the New Mexico MainStreet program. MainStreet works throughout the State's downtown communities to create an economically feasible business environment through the preservation of historical and cultural locations.

Economic Development Incentives

The Chamber and CIDC **support** retaining all economic development incentives and **oppose** any legislative changes that would create a competitive disadvantage, as outlined by the NM Economic Development Department. New Mexico must maintain a competitive environment to attract new jobs and industry. Increase Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) funding & maintain a closing fund of between \$60-75 million for economic development projects (LEDA).

Industrial Revenue Bonds

The Chamber and CIDC **oppose** any changes to the Municipal Industrial Revenue Bond Act that would limit the ability of a municipal government to issue IRB's within 15 miles of its borders. Current New Mexico State Law requires municipalities to notify the County, County Assessor and provide public notice of the intent for the municipality to issue an IRB in the newspaper. Any change in the process that would complicate or delay the ability of municipalities to issue IRB's would harm economic development efforts within the State.

The Chamber and CIDC **support** changes to the Municipal Industrial Revenue Bond Act that would allow municipalities to issue retail industrial revenue bonds within municipal borders.

Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP)

The Chamber and CIDC **support** adequate funding of JTIP for economic development as requested by the New Mexico Economic Development Department. We also **support** recurring, non-reverting funding for the JTIP Program. This incentive is very important to new and expanding industries.

Economic Development Staff Augmentation

The Chamber and CIDC **support** funding the staff augmentation program through the Economic Development Department in the amount of at least \$1.5 million to assist local economic development agencies in growing their business attraction efforts, as well as entice retention and expansion of local companies.

New Mexico Partnership

The Chamber and CIDC **support** the continued funding of the NM Partnership with a budget amount of \$2 million. The Partnership has been instrumental in bringing a number of projects to Clovis including the SEI Call Center and a bio-diesel plant project that we hope will move forward soon.

New Mexico Department of Tourism and NM Film Office

The Chamber and CIDC **support** the continued funding of the New Mexico Department of Tourism, specifically the Cooperative Advertising Fund. The Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce and CIDC also **support** legislative incentives and funding of the New Mexico Film Office.

Agriculture

The Chamber and CIDC **support** preserving the Agriculture GRT structure. We **oppose** duplicate regulations or those that are more stringent than the federal requirements. The Chamber and CIDC **support** redistricting that is equitable to rural New Mexico. We **oppose** legislation that would take agricultural land out of production. We **support** SB 84 that allows a tax credit of \$5 per ton of manure when transported from a dairy to a renewable energy producer.

Legalized Recreational Marijuana

The Chamber and CIDC **support** employers' rights to set alcohol and drug policies to assure workplace safety. Marijuana laws that are at odds with federal law increase the risk of workplace injury and decrease employee reliability. We **oppose** any bill that does not offer workplace protections or proper testing protocols.

Infrastructure and Roads

The Chamber and CIDC **support** highway funding to convert Highway 60-84 from Clovis to Ft. Sumner and Ft. Sumner to Santa Rosa to a four-lane highway.

NM Restaurant Association

The Chamber and CIDC **support** the NM Restaurant Association's 2021 legislative priorities. The New Mexico Restaurant Association is working diligently on supporting and fighting bills that could make or break restaurant recovery in our state. [View NMRA Priorities.](#)

Legislative Oversight – SB 74

The Chamber and CIDC **support** legislative oversight of future emergency health orders.

Minimum Wage Increase for Secondary School Students - SB5

The Chamber and CIDC **oppose** minimum wage increase for secondary school students since it will impact small businesses.

New Mexico Chamber Executives Association

The Chamber and CIDC **support** the New Mexico Chamber Executives Association's 2021 legislative priorities. [View NMCEA Priorities.](#)

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