

2009 State-Tribal Leaders Summit

Issues and Proposed Solutions Regarding Tribal Economic Development

The following issues and proposed solutions were identified and put in order of priority by the 2009 State-Tribal Leadership Summit Planning Committee based on input from all 22 tribes, nations and pueblos. The Committee is comprised of representatives from eight of the tribes, nations and pueblos. These will be the core issues and solutions presented to and discussed with Governor Richardson at the upcoming 2009 State-Tribal Leaders Summit on May 5, 2009.

Problem Statement: The Committee identified three specific issues that present significant barriers for tribes in achieving successful economic development on tribal land. First, many tribes have difficulty attracting businesses (particularly publically-held companies and franchises) to locate tribal land. Second, tribal governments need additional guidance and technical assistance with navigating the process for accessing and utilizing current state economic development programs, funds, and technical assistance. Finally, tribal lands lack sufficient broadband infrastructure and access, which is vital to increase commerce and economic development as well as provide for public safety.

Solution #1: Propose legislation providing for a Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) rebate as an incentive for new businesses that locate on tribal land. This would be implemented using existing or future tribal-state GRT sharing agreements.

Solution #2: Direct the Economic Development Department and Indian Affairs Department to create a “template” or guide for tribes to access and utilize existing programs, technical assistance, and funding for economic development through the Economic Development Department, New Mexico Finance Authority, New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority, Department of Finance and Administration, and other agencies with economic development and infrastructure programs. This should be disseminated using workshops that provide training and technical assistance for such programs.

Solution #3: Commit an appropriate level of current and potential resources (including from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) to develop broadband infrastructure and access on all tribal land in New Mexico and direct the Economic Development Department, Indian Affairs Department and Governor’s staff to work with tribal leaders and staff to accomplish this.