



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Lynn Trujillo, Secretary
Nadine Padilla, Deputy Secretary

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**New Mexico Indian Affairs Department Presents Annual Report
and Budget Request to Legislative Finance Committee**

SANTA FE, NM - The Indian Affairs Department (IAD) on Tuesday presented its annual report to the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee, increasing its total yearly budget request in order to provide critical services and to add new staff members to fulfill increased state mandates for the Agency's programs and services to New Mexico's Nations, Tribes and Pueblos.

"As we turn the corner on the COVID pandemic, the dedicated work of the Indian Affairs Department to meet the state's commitment to our Tribal communities is more critical than ever," said Lynn Trujillo, Secretary of Indian Affairs. "Increased demand for services means increased staffing requirements, and we're grateful to the Governor and Legislature for providing the opportunity for IAD to exceed the expectations of our statewide Indigenous community."

During the presentation, Cabinet Secretary Trujillo highlighted the work of the department over the last year, including critical capital investments and grant funding:

- Led the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR) Task Force to address this crisis in Indian Country
- Administered historic investments in Tribal communities through Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF) and Capital Outlay funding
- Elevated the Native American youth perspective in New Mexico through the Indigenous Youth Council (IYC), dramatically improving young peoples' holistic wellness via cultural and behavioral health supports
- Updated cultural competency trainings for state employees
- Established the Tribal Water Working Group to help guide the 50 Year Water Plan

- Supported Tribes in vaccine distribution and on-going strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19

The updated budget request represents a nominal increase from the previous year, focused on recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff to meet the increasing needs and challenges of Tribal communities across the state. This includes seven new full-time employees who will help to manage a growing portfolio of 450 active Capital Outlay and Tribal Infrastructure Fund projects. The Department has again reduced its vacancy rate from 17.6% to 11.8%, and continues to leverage outside partnerships to build capacity.

“I’m proud of our Department and our committed team who has answered the call to lead and assist on numerous new initiatives this past year, ensuring that Nations, Tribes, Pueblos, and individuals most vulnerable to this pandemic, haven’t been left behind. The Indian Affairs Department will continue to grow and lead, all the while staying true to our core values of service, respect, and community,” added Secretary Trujillo.

While the FY23 budget represents a slight increase from the previous year, the Indian Affairs Department is not yet restored to the 2008 budget of \$3.8M.

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Since 2003 the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) has implemented groundbreaking state-tribal policies intended to improve the quality of life for the state’s Native citizens. Our initiatives are designed to strengthen Tribal and state relations and address the challenges we face in our communities; challenges such as economic development, infrastructure improvement, the protection of our cultures and languages, health care accessibility, and educational opportunities for our most precious resource— our children. Learn more at www.iad.state.nm.us.