

Industry Cluster Development Grant winners

February 1, 2015



Eight northern New Mexico entities will share \$95,000 in Industry Cluster Development Grants from Los Alamos National Laboratory's Major Subcontractor Consortium. The grants are designed to help support projects such as small business incubators, formalized cluster groups, cluster associations, commercial kitchens, small business technical assistance providers and micro-lenders who serve the counties of Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe or Taos and the Eight Northern Pueblos.

This year's grant awardees are:

- Española Fiber Arts Center to help restore and improve the center's historic store in downtown Española.

- Picuris Pueblo to help them bring a line of sustainably harvested and produced natural charcoal to market.
- Rio Arriba County to help fund a paid internship for the soon-to-be reopened Sostenga Commercial Kitchen in Española.
- Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute to help fund programs that support small farmers in developing products and bringing them to market.
- Siete del Norte to help fund the development of the Northern New Mexico Food Hub and to reopen the Sostenga Commercial Kitchen in Española.
- Taos Entrepreneurial Network to help expand their entrepreneurial assistance program to the town of Questa, which recently lost 300 jobs with the closing of a mine.
- Visiones Collaborativas to help fund entrepreneurial assistance in the Mora Entrepreneurial Network.
- Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team (WESST) to help fund client access to high-speed internet services and provide website consulting.

The winners have a track record of diversifying the economy in one or more of the seven target counties, implementing long-term sustainability strategies and having proven and diverse community support.

The LANL Major Subcontractors Consortium, which is composed of 35 of the largest subcontractors at Los Alamos National Laboratory, raised \$47,500, with another \$47,500 matched by Los Alamos National Security, LLC. Individual grants will range from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

“Any time we can celebrate the successes of fantastic economic development programs such as these is a great time,” said Liddie Martinez, president of the LANL Major Subcontractor Consortium.

Los Alamos National Laboratory

www.lanl.gov

(505) 667-7000

Los Alamos, NM

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