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## **State-Led CyberReady Initiative will Assist Businesses with Cybersecurity Best Practices**

*Cyber Security Workshop Available May 12-14*

**Santa Fe, N.M.** – The New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD), through its Office of Science & Technology (OST), received a grant in July of 2020 from the Department of Defense (DOD) to pioneer a cybersecurity awareness and preparedness training initiative. OST, in conjunction with the New Mexico Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (CCoE), has used the funding to develop a new CyberReady initiative to help New Mexico businesses become compliant with federal cybersecurity standards.



"As one of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham targeted industries, cybersecurity is an essential component for small businesses in today's digital age," Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes said. "With efforts like CyberReady, the state can leverage statewide partnerships and assist small businesses as they develop the next generation of workforce and foster high-tech economic development."

As part of the CyberReady joint initiative, EDD and CCoE have worked together to develop a cybersecurity training workshop focused on the new Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) guidelines. The CyberReady workshop will help prepare New Mexico businesses for the required cyber practices set forth by the federal government. The \$200 workshop will take place online from May 12-14 and is open to all NM businesses.

"Cybersecurity threats are on the rise and targeting industries and small businesses that are core to New Mexico's economy." OST Director Myrriah Tomar, PhD, said. "New Mexico's small businesses are unique because they often intersect with state and federal entities, making the adoption of cybersecurity best practices increasingly essential."

CyberReady will focus on the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) Training. CMMC accreditation is a new unified standard for implementing cybersecurity

practices across the defense industrial base. Getting businesses up to speed with the new requirements will help government contractors remain competitive and keep jobs in New Mexico.

By September 30, 2025, all DOD contractors and subcontractors will be required to have certification at the level needed for the specific work in the contract. It is anticipated that by 2030 all government contracts will require CMMC.

The training will include information on the regulatory context for government contracting, an overview of the CMMC model, and how to prepare for the certification process. With the help of MEP and CCoE, companies will be evaluated for individual security needs and be provided with one-on-one assistance, connecting each business with one or more cybersecurity experts in New Mexico.

Up to 10 companies in the photonics/optics sector may be granted up to \$10,000 per company to help them upgrade policies, systems, and certifications.

In addition to helping businesses with cyber-resiliency, this initiative will result in the development of a statewide cybersecurity training plan that will include input from statewide stakeholders, including the Governor's Office, EDD, Councils of Governments, MEP, Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), CCoE (housed at New Mexico Tech), and others.

"This grant is a first step in moving New Mexico from a state with a history of having cybersecurity challenges to becoming a leader in cybersecurity" Lorie M. Liebrock, Ph.D., Director of the New Mexico Cybersecurity Center of Excellence and the New Mexico Tech Cybersecurity Education Center, said. "Working with our New Mexico companies will connect our Center of Excellence with industry to develop better cybersecurity and funding for our companies and more opportunities for cybersecurity students."

Companies interested in participating in the first cohort should contact Tisha Webb, Outreach Coordinator of New Mexico Tech Cybersecurity Centers, at 575-835-5558. Though there will be a special focus on photonics/optics technology companies, all businesses with a need for compliance assistance are welcome to attend. Participants should register for the workshop by May 3, 2021, in order to receive print materials in time.

Register online by May 3 at: <https://bit.ly/3dqjzx5>.

[Click here to download the workshop flyer.](#)

[Click here to read the full press release about the DOD grant...](#)

For more information about the Office of Science and Technology, visit [gonm.biz/OST](http://gonm.biz/OST).

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*The New Mexico Economic Development Department's mission is to improve the lives of New Mexico families by increasing economic opportunities and providing a place for businesses to thrive.*

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