Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes
Deputy Secretary Jon Clark

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State Awards LEDA Funding to Specialized Compounding Pharmacy in Albuquerque
Contigo plans to add 22 jobs over next five years

SANTA FE, N.M. – An Albuquerque pharmacy business that is developing its property to accommodate the technical specifications required for the compounding medications has been awarded State of New Mexico economic development assistance, Economic Development Department Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes announced today.

Contigo Compounding and Infusion Pharmacy LLC is constructing a building at 8300 Carmel NE, Suite 601, Albuquerque, NM 87122 to operate under new federal compounding regulations. The business is expected to hire 22 full-time employees over the next five years at an average salary of $65,000.

The pharmacy is investing $1.3 million for plumbing, electrical HVAC, windows, doors, fixtures, retail space, and patient treatment rooms. It is expected to open by the end of July.

The $150,000 grant from the Economic Development Department's LEDA job-creation fund allows the owners to finish work and open faster with more patient options. The business has also received assistance through the Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) to offset training costs for new employees.

"This is another great example of how the Economic Development Department continues to work with and help expand our local economic base businesses," Secretary Keyes said. "It's these types of expansions that are the key to growing and diversifying New Mexico's economy."

The expansion comes after Contigo owners saw the need for an independently-owned compounding pharmacy for sterile compounding services in Albuquerque. Individualized compounding can help solve problems for patients that have personalized medications needs that cannot be met by a chain pharmacy.

Customizations that patients and providers require include producing medication in a strength or dosage that is not commercially available, flavoring a medication to make it more palatable to a child or pet, reformulating a drug that contains a non-essential ingredient that causes an allergy for the patient, and changing the form of the drug for patient, such as a pill to a liquid, for a patient that cannot swallow.

Pharmacist and co-owner Christopher Smith said that many of the compounding treatments are not available in Albuquerque or any place else in New Mexico using the sterile, careful process that is required to ensure patient safety. Many compounding customers now seek their medications outside New Mexico. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration does not allow shipping of some compounded medications across state lines. Contigo will now be able to to fill these gaps.

"These medications are highly specialized and very unique to the patients. If the doctors decide this is the best approach for the patients, we can now provide these services, like sterile compounding, right here in Albuquerque," Smith said.

David Newman, president of Contigo Compounding and Infusion Pharmacy, said the state assistance means the business can move quickly, finishing construction of the 3,600-square foot building, with all the facilities and patient amenities, and hiring its first employees, including two full-time pharmacists and three technicians.

The pharmacy will have three infusion chairs to start in a private room where patients can get infusions therapies.

"We're not big pharma," Newman said. "The state grant is a really big deal for us. It allows the business to move forward quickly, with all the resources in hand, so we can hire employees and open with full operations."

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Photos courtesy of Contigo Compounding and Infusion Pharmacy

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.