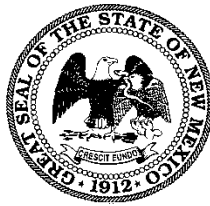


NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Regulation Commission encourages utility providers and ratepayers to participate in NM Home Fund financial relief program

SANTA FE, N.M. — The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC) encourages utility service providers and customers to utilize the benefits available through the New Mexico Home Fund, a statewide financial assistance program administered by the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration and funded by the U.S. Treasury Department. The program offers monetary relief for homeowners and renters who have fallen behind on rental, mortgage, and utility payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first round of awards is for eligible recipients who need help paying bills dating from May 2020 through September 30, 2022.

The New Mexico Home Fund offers a single access point for several emergency housing situations, including rental assistance, homeowner assistance, utility assistance, temporary housing assistance, and eviction prevention support. The program provides financial assistance for past-due, current, and future rent, utility bills, relocation expenses such as first and last month's rent and security deposit, and temporary lodging for those facing housing insecurity. Eligible utilities include electric, gas, water, sewer, trash removal, fuel oil, wood, and pellets.

For utility service providers with customers who are renters that qualify for New Mexico Home Fund support, the program has established a process for bulk payments so that utility companies can submit information on behalf of multiple customers at once. Homeowners must apply directly to the New Mexico Home Fund, which has a \$1,000 cap for homeowner utilities.

More than \$175 million to date has been awarded by the New Mexico Home Fund to qualifying renters, including over \$25 million to cover the cost of utility bills. Additionally, over \$8 million has been awarded to homeowners. More than \$200 million is available to support renters and \$55 million is available to support homeowners. The program is available to eligible state residents through September 2025 or until funding is exhausted. All financial assistance is considered a grant and does not need to be repaid.

For more information about the New Mexico Home Fund, please visit <https://nmhomefund.org/>

The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) regulates the [utilities](#), [telecommunications](#), and [motor carrier](#) industries to ensure fair and reasonable rates, and to assure reasonable and adequate services to the public as provided by law. The NMPRC also promotes public safety through the offices of [Pipeline Safety Bureau](#) and [Transportation Division](#).

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