



# 2025 Federal Priorities

*Los Alamos County*

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## Summary Request

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**The following are Los Alamos County's federal priorities for 2025 (Federal Fiscal Year 2026):**

- I. Legislative Request - EM and NNSA Appropriations**
  - a. Fund and support Los Alamos National Laboratory Missions, including the national security mission and budget and the environmental cleanup mission and budget.**
    - i. Support the National Defense Mission**
    - ii. Support Laboratory-County essential operations, e.g., fire department, recognizing the intertwined nature of operations**
    - iii. Support and increase the EM Budget**
      - 1. Increase the budget to ensure safe drinking water for the Laboratory and the Community**
      - 2. Support clean up efforts**
- II. Legislative Request - Congressional Legislation**
  - a. Pass new land transfer law in the NDAA for Housing and Sustainable Development in the County to support NNSA Mission and the citizens of Los Alamos County.**
  - b. Support efforts for alternative energy projects, including new nuclear and consent-based siting.**
- III. Congressional Request and Appropriation –**
  - a. Create a DOE Community Infrastructure Grant Program in the NDAA that will ensure communities are able to support the DOE Mission.**
- IV. Secure funding for the County from the relevant agencies and programs to support infrastructure projects that serve the County and Northern New Mexico.**
- V. Pass the amendment to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.**

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## Attachment A: Detailed request

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The following are Los Alamos County's federal priorities for 2025 (Federal Fiscal Year 2026):

### **I. Legislative Request – NNSA and EM Appropriations: Fund and support Los Alamos National Laboratory ("LANL") missions.**

Los Alamos County supports the national security science mission at LANL. The County requests the following:

- **Support National Defense Missions:**
  - Fully fund national security science at LANL, including the plutonium science and pit production mission, and ensure the Administration continues to identify LANL as the Plutonium Science and Production Center of Excellence.
  - Support current and emerging critical national security missions at LANL through programmatic and infrastructure investments along with a diversified science mission
  - Fully fund joint LANL/Los Alamos County critical operations, including but not limited to the budget for the fire department – ensuring the safety of nuclear materials, scientists, and the community.
- **Support Environmental Cleanup:**

Request and appropriate an increase in funding for defense environmental cleanup for the following purposes:

- Provide a realistic recommendation for County water supply as quickly as possible
- Provide funding for any additional wells or infrastructure required to keep the drinking water in Los Alamos safe. Require EM to fully fund the Independent Technical Review recommended actions to clean up the hexavalent chromium plume and ensure clean drinking water for the community
- Protect our water supply by including County staff in working groups and County wells in all modeling.
- Require EM to maintain its schedule to provide the County with a full risk assessment and information to make an informed decision on its position on possible future conveyance of MDA-T, as currently committed by EM for 2025.
- Continue and accelerate shipping TRU waste from LANL to WIPP.
- NNSA should fully fund the Rendija Canyon munitions and explosives of concern clearance and transfer the land to the County.
  - The County has indicated parcels of this property for immediate evaluation and possible remediation. NNSA should fund this work and coordinate a short schedule for completion.

## **II. Congressional Request – Pass new land transfer law in the NDAA for Housing and Sustainable Development in the County to support the NNSA mission and the citizens of Los Alamos County.**

NNSA needs housing for the workforce. The County is land-constrained by federal land ownership and needs land for housing, economic development, and open space. Most land transfers have occurred only through Congressional action – supporting housing, education, transportation, economic development, and the people who work at the Laboratory. The last land transfer legislation became law over 25 years ago.

The County is requesting that Congress create a new land transfer law to convey land to the County to enable the County to make land available primarily for housing and other development.

A law requiring all federal agencies surrounding Los Alamos County to identify land for conveyance for the purpose of housing is vital to addressing housing needs for the national security mission.

## **III. Congressional Authorization Request – Create A DOE grant program that supports infrastructure projects which support the DOE missions in the NDAA.**

**Proposed Policy:** DOE should develop a new program which would:

- Define eligible infrastructure projects that directly benefit the operations and/or workforce of the DOE facility;
- Include transportation, affordable, workforce, and other identified housing and housing infrastructure, workforce development, fire, emergency response, water, wastewater, telecommunications, electric, gas, or other utility projects and other projects that support DOE's missions;
- Require the applicant to detail the specific stressors resulting from the proximity of the DOE facility to the community, including environmental, workforce, traffic, transportation, gentrification, inequity to be addressed directly through the project; and
- Be applicable to impacted County, Municipality, and Tribal Governments that surround DOE facilities.

**Background:** DOE has facilities in at least 39 states, with 17 laboratories in 14 states, affecting hundreds of cities and counties across the country. The operations include a wide variety of activities that support military bases and the people who live and work at the bases. DOE facilities require community support for transportation, utilities, housing, and workforce which do not have funding sources. A program for DOE communities would assist DOE to accomplish its critical national defense missions. For example, in New Mexico this program could assist communities and DOE around Sandia, LANL and WIPP.

## **IV. Congressional Funding Request – Secure funding for the County from the relevant agencies and programs including Congressionally Directed Spending to support improved infrastructure projects that serve the County and Northern New Mexico.**

The County has developed a set of projects based on current County activities and priorities for which federal funding is sought. Projects may include the following.:

- Jemez Mountain Fire Protection Project
- Women's Dorm Renovation
- NM State Road 4
- Housing infrastructure
- Etc.

**V. Congressional Request – Pass the amendment to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) extending the time of and eligibility of coverage and adding New Mexico and other states' eligibility.**

- RECA, which expired, provided a one-time benefit payment to individuals who may have developed cancer or other specified diseases after being exposed to radiation from atomic weapons testing or uranium mining, milling, or transporting.
- Support an amendment that would update the current RECA program by expanding the geographic downwinder eligibility to include then-residents of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah who would fall under the eligibility requirements.