



2024 Federal Priorities

Los Alamos County

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Summary Request

The following are Los Alamos County's federal priorities for 2024 (Federal Fiscal Year 2025):

- 1. Fund and support Los Alamos National Laboratory Missions.**
- 2. 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.**
- 3. Secure funding for the County from the relevant agencies and programs to support infrastructure projects that serve the County and Northern New Mexico.**
- 4. Pass the amendment to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.**
- 5. Create a DOE Community Infrastructure Grant Program based on the successful Department of Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot (DCIP) Program under the NDAA.**

Detailed request

The following are Los Alamos County's federal priorities for 2024 (Federal Fiscal Year 2025):

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.
- **Support Environmental Cleanup and the Health and Safety of the Community:**
 - Request and appropriate at a minimum \$350 million in funding for defense environmental cleanup.
 - NNSA should plan and fully fund or transfer the responsibility to EM to fund (in NNSA or EM budget) the Rendija Canyon munitions and explosives of concern clearance and transfer the land to the County.
 - This munitions remediation has been on hold for over a decade, (this is at least the third time that NNSA has been clearing the land over the past 30+ years).
 - The area is fenced off by NNSA with large warning signs indicating how unsafe the area is – despite telling the County they should take the land “as is.”
 - Require EM 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.
 - Accelerate the final remedy of the cleanup of the Chromium Plume and protect the PM-3 Drinking Water well.
 - Continue and accelerate shipping TRU waste from LANL to WIPP.
 - Appoint a new EM-Los Alamos Cleanup Manager without further delay.

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. NNSA has recognized this for over a decade and has taken little action. The County has requested land for development of new housing from NNSA, as it has done throughout the history of LANL.

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 for development. Development in the County supports Northern New Mexico and the operations at LANL. NNSA has not acted on the County's land transfer requests over the past 10+ years despite support from the Congressional delegation.

III. Congressional Funding Request – Secure funding for the County from the relevant agencies and programs 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 include the following:

- Jemez Mountain Fire Protection Project (Camp May water pipeline)
- Women's Army Corps Dorm Renovation
- Construction and equipment for the new food composting facility
- Regional Transit, Transportation, and Transit-Oriented Development Projects

IV. 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 will expire this year, provides 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.
- At present, only those who lived near the Nevada Test Site and other specific states during a period of atomic weapons testing are eligible for compensation for their status as a downwinder. This measure seeks to remedy that to include other states impacted by above ground nuclear testing.
- This amendment 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. This legislation would also expand eligibility for certain individuals working in uranium mines, mills or transporting uranium ore after 1971.

V. Congressional Authorization Request – Create A DOE version of the successful Department of Defense (DOD) Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP) in the NDAA.

Proposed Policy: DOE should develop a new program, based on the Department of Defense (DOD) Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP), 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, K-12 and higher education, 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. Just as DOD facilities require additional support from communities around the country, DOE facilities require much of the same. DOD initiated DCIP which has provided grants that directly assist DOD missions in the amount of over \$200 million in the last four years to address this issue. See <https://oldcc.gov/defense-community-infrastructure-program-dcip>

A similar 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.