



NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

New Mexico IDEA Annual Meeting
October 13, 2011

Overview

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- Regional Planning Districts were created in 1965 under the New Mexico Planning Act and the District boundaries were set by then Governor Cargo in Executive Order 1
- Seven Planning District across the State based in Gallup, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Clovis, Silver City, Roswell and Elephant Butte and were established either as a Council of Governments or Economic Development District
- All seven Districts are now designated by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) as Economic Development Districts
- All seven Districts are Councils of Governments – Voluntary associations of local public bodies committed to addressing issues of regional impact and improving the quality of life of our communities

Similar Functions

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- **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** - aligned with meeting EDA requirements, coordinates local economic development plans that advance regional and state strategies.
- **Technical Assistance** - planning, development and management services to local public bodies and as required by the state's local government division (LGD).
- **Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plans (ICIP)** - planning, training and technical assistance to member governments including year-round consultations on local project priorities and financing strategies, annual updating of the ICIP document and use of the ICIP in support of annual legislative capital outlay proposals.
- **Legislative Capital Outlays** - planning and technical assistance during project development and request submission, review, due diligence assessment, certification and other tasks.
- **Clearinghouse and Coordination** - technical assistance for local input into state and federal plans and programs, reviewing and approving requests for state and federal funding.
- **Information Dissemination** - develop, maintain, and disseminate regional demographic, natural resource, economic and infrastructure databases for local and regional planning.
- **Other Activities** - initiation and management of regional initiatives such as regional transportation and water planning, research and analysis services to strengthen project financing for members, etc.

Examples from Respective COGs

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- The COGs are similar but have differences to address the uniqueness of the respective Districts throughout the state.
- Examples from SWNMCOG
- Examples from Eastern Plains COG
- Examples from NCNMEDD

Take Aways

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- We work toward economic development from the public sector, local public body perspective
- COGs have a breadth and depth of knowledge and years of experience in the local perspective
- COGs are connected at all levels of government , federal, state, and local and at all levels of particular agencies
- COGs collaborate with all sectors – higher education, chambers of commerce, economic development corporations, national labs and federal installations, water associations, non-profit corporations, etc.