



Manager's Memo

Hello!

The fourth quarter is full of promise and activity for our NMDOT STAR program. Based on the feedback received from you and what we learned in the summer mini-summit, we are pleased to be hosting not one, but two training programs on topics you have recommended. On October 10, B2Gnow and LCPtracker will be offering training on topics including system overviews and navigation, answering audits and more. We have heard from our DBEs and other small businesses about the need for this training. Many primes have also shared that a potential sub's familiarity and capability with these systems is a factor in selection. On November 13, we are pleased to offer a workshop on the implications of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. There are many changes affecting small business of which you should be aware. As a bonus, our experts will help you understand how the new law will affect New Mexico businesses and individuals. These are two don't miss events in the fourth quarter and both are offered at no charge. See the Upcoming Events section below for more information.

We are working hard with our consultant team planning for 2019. I'd love to hear from you about what you think is needed. You can contact me at ReneeD.Roybal@state.nm.us or simply answer this month's question below.

Next Month

Next Month - Planning for 2019

- Renee Roybal, STAR Program Coordinator

Upcoming Events

October 10

NMDOT STAR Training
B2Gnow and LCPtracker

[Click Here for More Information](#)

November 7-8

AICCNM with AIPTAC & NMPTAC:
Preparing for Economic Opportunities and
Procurement Matchmaking Event

[Click Here for More Information](#)

November 13

NMDOT STAR Training
The New Federal Income Tax Law and
You

[Click Here for More Information](#)

We want to hear from you! Answer this month's question.

Take this Month's Survey!

Business Buzz

CyberSecurity - Did You Know?

-44 percent of small businesses reported being the victim of a cyber attack, with an average cost of approximately \$9,000 per attack.

-Nearly 59 percent of U.S. small and medium-sized businesses do not have a contingency plan that outlines procedures for responding to and reporting data breach losses.

SIMPLE TIPS

1. Make sure all of your organization's computers are equipped with antivirus software and antispyware. This software should be updated regularly.
2. Secure your Internet connection by using a firewall, encrypt information, and hide your Wi-Fi network.
3. Establish security practices and policies to protect sensitive information.
4. Educate employees about cyber threats and how to protect your organization's data. Hold employees accountable to the internet security policies and procedures.
5. Require employees to use strong passwords and to change them often.
6. Invest in data loss protection software, use encryption technologies to protect data in transit, and use two-factor authentication where possible.
7. Protect all pages on your public-facing websites, not just the checkout and sign-up pages. (Source: DHS Tip Card)

[Click here to review the DHS Small Business Tip Card](#)

[Click here to review FCC "Cybersecurity Tips for Small Business"](#)

[Click here to review the SBA Advisory on Ransomware](#)



Industry News

Federal Highway Administration Makes \$225 Million Available for Highway Bridge Improvement Grants

WASHINGTON – The Federal Highway Administration today published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in the Federal Register for rural states to compete for \$225 million in Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grants.

"Bridges are an integral part of our infrastructure, and these funds will help rural states ensure that their bridges remain safe and well-maintained," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

By law, the funds are restricted to states with a population density of less than 100 people per square mile. Twenty-five states qualify: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, **New Mexico**, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming.

The funds must be used for highway bridge replacement or rehabilitation

projects on public roads that leverage the efficiencies associated with "bundling" at least two highway bridge projects into a single contract.

"This program represents an important funding source to repair and replace bridges," said Deputy Federal Highway Administrator Brandye L. Hendrickson. "Bundling projects will relieve rural bridge owners of administrative burden and capitalize on buying in bulk which will make it easier for bridge repairs or replacement projects to begin."

Congress funded the CHBP grant program in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, from the U.S. Treasury's General Fund. State Departments of Transportation in the eligible states are invited to apply under the program.

Additional Thoughts

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure."

– Colin Powell

New Mexico Project Leads



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City of Roswell
Montana/Stone St. Re-
Alignment Project

Next Month: NMDOT STAR Announces New Training Programs!

[Civil Rights Bureau](#) | [Procurement Services](#) | [Prequalification Requirements](#) | [RFP Schedule](#) | [DBE Directory](#) | [Statewide Transportation Improvement Program](#)

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