



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW MEXICO GAS COMPANY SUPPORTS YOUTH FIRE CADET PROGRAMS AND MENTAL WELLNESS RESOURCES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Helping Heroes grant program has invested \$781,000 in first responder and community volunteer organizations statewide

ALBUQUERQUE – New Mexico Gas Company announced today that eight first responder organizations across the state have received support through its Helping Heroes program, which supports first responder and volunteer community organizations. The latest round of funding helps enhance community safety through youth fire cadet programs, mental wellness resources, updated lifesaving equipment, and improving emergency response technology.

With this latest round of grants, the program has delivered \$781,000 in support to 22 first responder organizations since the program began in 2024. The most recent awardees include:

- Pecos Valley Public Services (Chaves County) in Roswell to purchase equipment, medical supplies, and licensing for the Doctors on Wheels program, which provides mobile community EMS care in underserved areas.
- Milan Fire Department (Cibola County) to support fire-prevention education tools to strengthen public safety outreach and firefighter recruitment.
- New Mexico Search and Rescue Council for the purchase of Starlink satellite systems to improve communication during remote and wilderness search-and-rescue missions across New Mexico.
- The Sodality Foundation (Eddy & Lea Counties) to provide first responders with free multi-year access to the PowerLine mental wellness app, supporting emotional resilience and wellbeing.
- Dixon Community Fire (Rio Arriba & Taos Counties) to expand youth summer fire cadet programs in three Pueblo fire departments, offering firefighting fundamentals, CPR/First Aid, home safety, and wildland fire education for youth ages 10 – 18.

- Heroes on the Water – Elephant Butte Chapter (Sierra County) to provide equipment, supplies, and participant support for kayak-based wellness programs to first responders and veterans.
- Curry County Volunteer Fire Department to purchase essential safety gear, including firefighter and extrication gloves, reflective vests, flashlights, accountability tags, and SCBA masks.
- Hondo Fire and Rescue (Santa Fe County) to purchase gear, SCBA masks, wildland PPE, EMS protective equipment, and rescue tools for volunteers serving the Highway 285 corridor.

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About New Mexico Gas Company

As the largest natural gas distribution utility in the state, New Mexico Gas Company (www.nmgco.com) provides service to more than 550,000 homes and businesses throughout New Mexico. The Company has about 740 employees in 26 offices, who are responsible for safely and reliably operating more than 12,000 miles of pipelines. New Mexico Gas Company is a subsidiary of Emera Inc., an expert team of utility and energy services companies serving 2.5 million customers in the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean.