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## **Secretary Mondragón Announces \$2 Million Federal Job Creation Grant for Silver City**

SANTA FE, NM – Today New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD) Cabinet Secretary Fred Mondragón announced that the federal Economic Development Administration will seek to assist Silver City with a \$2 million dollar job creation grant.

“This funding is critical for the people of Grant County and Silver City who have been hit especially hard by the recession and the recent mine closures,” said Secretary Mondragón. “We will continue to work diligently to support the people in Southwestern New Mexico, to create new jobs and to help diversify and grow the economy of the region.”

During recent visits and town halls in Silver City, Secretary Mondragón and his staff have helped the community to identify a viable project to increase economic growth of the area. Silver City community leaders plan on renovating the old Wal-Mart building owned by Grant County, so that it can be used as a multi-purpose site to house potential businesses, and also provide the community with an event center.

According to Secretary Mondragón, the Economic Development Administration has committed to fund the renovation through a \$2 million job creation grant. The town of Silver City has developed a special grant writing task force to complete and finalize the grant paperwork. The task force is led by Priscilla Lucero of the local Council of Governments and will be assisted by the state Economic Development Department’s regional community representatives and the Office of the Secretary.

Silver City Mayor James Marshall said, “I am extremely pleased that the EDA has chosen to help us develop our economic potential through this grant. These things only really started moving forward in our community when the Cabinet Secretary and Economic Development Department came down to assist us in evaluating a potential project.”

The Economic Development Department is also working with communities and businesses around the state to support their efforts to attain funding made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. EDD is specifically focused on assisting communities around the state that have faced extreme job loss and growing unemployment numbers.

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