



MSC02 1625 | Albuquerque, NM 87131 | (505) 277-3494 | nmsc.unm.edu



September 2, 2025

Andrew Miner
State Budget Director
Department of Finance and Administration
State Budget Division
190 Bataan Memorial Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Charles Sallee, Director
Legislative Finance Committee
325 Don Gaspar Avenue, Suite 101
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: FY27 Appropriation Request

Dear Mr. Miner and Mr. Sallee,

Attached is the FY27 New Mexico Sentencing Commission appropriation request, as required by Section 6-3A-7 NMSA 1978.

The Commission has requested a base budget appropriation expansion request of \$444,000. The expansion request includes a request for a full time Staff Attorney (\$125,000), a full time Senior Contracts and Grants Administrator (\$125,000) and a Research Scientist 3 (\$125,000). The balance of the expansion request is to assist NMSC in covering mandatory compensation increases that have been unfunded. NMSC is housed at UNM and UNM acts as fiscal agent for NMSC. Staff of NMSC are UNM employees. NMSC reimburses UNM for salary expenses incurred at UNM.

No other programmatic changes are anticipated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Carver', written over a horizontal line.

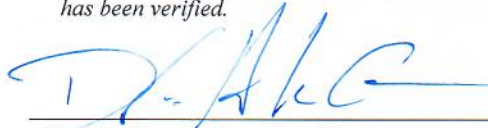
Douglas Carver
Executive Director

**APPROPRIATION REQUEST
CERTIFICATION
FORM S-1**

Agency Name: New Mexico Sentencing Commission

Business Unit: 35400

I hereby certify that the accompanying summary and detailed statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and that the arithmetic accuracy of all numeric information has been verified.



Douglas Carver, Executive Director



Bob Cleavall, Chair



Amanda Armstrong, CFO

MSC02 1625
Albuquerque, NM 87131

505-331-7198

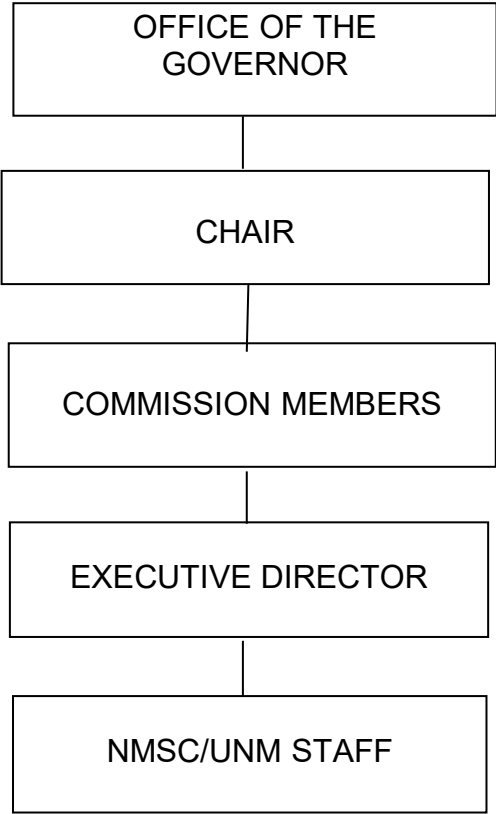
aarmstrong@unm.edu

Note: Appropriation Requests for agencies headed by a board or commission must be approved by the board or commission by official action and signed by the chairperson. Operating Budgets of other agencies must be signed by the director or secretary. Appropriation Requests not properly signed will be returned.

Agency Name: New Mexico Sentencing Commission
Program Name: New Mexico Sentencing Commission

Business Unit: 35400
Program Code: P636

**FY27 Appropriation Request
ORGANIZATION CHART
FORM S-2**



S-8 Financial Summary

(Dollars in Thousands)

BU PCode Department
35400 0000 0000000000

	2024-25 Opbud	2024-25 Actuals	2025-26 Opbud	2026-27 PCF Proj	Base	----- FY 2027 Agency Request ----- Expansion	Total
REVENUE							
111 General Fund Transfers	1,514.3	1,514.3	1,514.3	0.0	1,958.3	0.0	1,958.3
112 Other Transfers	52.0	57.0	57.0	0.0	58.4	0.0	58.4
REVENUE, TRANSFERS	1,566.3	1,571.3	1,571.3	0	2,016.7	0.0	2,016.7
REVENUE	1,566.3	1,571.3	1,571.3	0	2,016.7	0.0	2,016.7
EXPENSE							
300 Contractual services	1,230.2	1,237.1	1,235.2	0.0	1,681.1	0.0	1,681.1
400 Other	336.1	334.2	336.1	0.0	335.6	0.0	335.6
EXPENDITURES	1,566.3	1,571.3	1,571.3	0	2,016.7	0.0	2,016.7
EXPENSE	1,566.3	1,571.3	1,571.3	0	2,016.7	0.0	2,016.7

BU PCode Department
 35400 0000 0000000000

S-9 Account Code Revenue/Expenditure Summary
 (Dollars in Thousands)

		2024-25	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	----- FY 2027 Agency Request -----		
		Opbud	Actuals	Opbud	PCF Proj	Base	Expansion	Total
499105	General Fd. Appropriation	1,514.3	1,514.3	1,514.3	0.0	1,958.3	0.0	1,958.3
111	General Fund Transfers	1,514.3	1,514.3	1,514.3	0.0	1,958.3	0.0	1,958.3
425909	Other Services - Interagency	52.0	27.0	27.0	0.0	28.4	0.0	28.4
499905	Other Financing Sources	0.0	30.0	30.0	0.0	30.0	0.0	30.0
112	Other Transfers	52.0	57.0	57.0	0.0	58.4	0.0	58.4
TOTAL REVENUE		1,566.3	1,571.3	1,571.3	0	2,016.7	0.0	2,016.7
535200	Professional Services	0.0	150.0	30.0	0.0	150.0	0.0	150.0
535309	Other Services - Interagency	52.0	27.0	27.0	0.0	28.4	0.0	28.4
535310	Other Services - Higher Ed	1,156.7	1,040.7	1,156.7	0.0	1,476.7	0.0	1,476.7
535400	Audit Services	21.5	19.4	21.5	0.0	26.0	0.0	26.0
300	Contractual services	1,230.2	1,237.1	1,235.2	0.0	1,681.1	0.0	1,681.1
542500	Transp - Fuel & Oil	1.5	0.0	1.5	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0
542800	State Transp Pool Charges	5.9	5.9	5.9	0.0	5.9	0.0	5.9
546800	Employee Training & Education	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
547450	Grants to Other Agencies	328.5	324.9	328.5	0.0	328.5	0.0	328.5
547999	Request to Pay Prior Year	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
400	Other	336.1	334.2	336.1	0.0	335.6	0.0	335.6
TOTAL EXPENSE		1,566.3	1,571.3	1,571.3	0	2,016.7	0.0	2,016.7

State of New Mexico
S-13 Line Items by Business Unit Expenditures

(Dollars in Thousands)

BusUnit	Line Item	2024-25	2025-26	Request		Recommendation		Opbud	
		Actuals	Opbud	Base	Expansion	Base	Expansion		
35400	P636-R New Mexico Sentencing Commission	535200 Professional Services	150	30	150	0	0	0	0.0
		535309 Other Services - Interagency	27	27	28.4	0	0	0	0.0
		535310 Other Services - Higher Ed	1040.7	1156.7	1476.7	0	0	0	0.0
		535400 Audit Services	19.3725	21.5	26	0	0	0	0.0
		542500 Transp - Fuel & Oil	0	1.5	1	0	0	0	0.0
		542800 State Transp Pool Charges	5.88	5.9	5.9	0	0	0	0.0
		546800 Employee Training & Education	0	0.2	0.2	0	0	0	0.0
		547450 Grants to Other Agencies	324.9365	328.5	328.5	0	0	0	0.0
		547999 Request to Pay Prior Year	3.37981	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Subtotal for:	35400 P636-R New Mexico Sentencing Commission	1571.26881	1571.3	2016.7	0	0	0	0.0	
35400		1571.26881	1571.3	2016.7	0	0	0	0.0	

Totals by Line Item

BusUnit	Line Item	2024-25	2025-26	Request		Recommendation		Opbud
		Actuals	Opbud	Base	Expansion	Base	Expansion	
35400	535200 Professional Services	150	30	150	0	0	0	0.0
	535309 Other Services - Interagency	27	27	28.4	0	0	0	0.0
	535310 Other Services - Higher Ed	1040.7	1156.7	1476.7	0	0	0	0.0
	535400 Audit Services	19.3725	21.5	26	0	0	0	0.0
	542500 Transp - Fuel & Oil	0	1.5	1	0	0	0	0.0
	542800 State Transp Pool Charges	5.88	5.9	5.9	0	0	0	0.0
	546800 Employee Training & Education	0	0.2	0.2	0	0	0	0.0
	547450 Grants to Other Agencies	324.9365	328.5	328.5	0	0	0	0.0
	547999 Request to Pay Prior Year	3.37981	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Grand Total		1571.26881	1571.3	2016.7	0	0	0	0.0

P-1 Program Overview

Program Description:

The New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC) serves as a criminal and juvenile justice policy resource to the three branches of state government and interested citizens. Its mission is to provide impartial information, analysis, recommendations, and assistance from a coordinated cross-agency perspective with an emphasis on maintaining public safety and making the best use of the state's criminal and juvenile justice resources. The Commission has 27 members, with representatives from across the criminal justice system, including members of the Executive and Judicial branches, legislators' appointees, law enforcement officials, criminal defense attorneys, and citizens.

Major Issues and Accomplishments:

The NMSC continues to publish the series of annual reports it has published for years, including the "New Mexico Prison Population Forecast", a report which is updated periodically throughout the year if conditions warrant; the "Profile of New Mexico's Prison Population", a survey of the demographics of the state prison population; the "Analysis of the Impact of Earned Meritorious Deductions"; and the "Estimated Number of Offenders in New Mexico Corrections Department Facilities in October Eligible for Controlled Release". The Commission also collects jail data from an annual survey of county jail administrators, which is validated and then provided to the Department of Finance and Administration for the purpose of reimbursing counties pursuant to the County Detention Facility Reimbursement Act. In addition, the NMSC works on a number of individual research projects and evaluations. Additionally, the Commission annually awards crime reduction grants to criminal justice entities in Judicial Districts across the state under the Crime Reduction Grant Act. The Commission also assists in organizing the Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils that were statutorily created under that Act in each Judicial District. In 2020, the NMSC created a series of webinars for members of the state's Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils and other interested members of the public on the process to apply for crime reduction grants, and on innovative criminal justice reforms that have been tried in other jurisdictions. In 2023, the NMSC inaugurated an annual convening of crime reduction grant recipients, members of CJCCs, and other interested parties to help promote awareness of innovations in other jurisdictions and to build excitement for the grants program. The three convenings held to date, which each gathered well over 80 participants, have been of great benefit to the participants and have expanded the knowledge and understanding of the Crime Reduction Grant Act.

In recent years, however, the demands on the NMSC's resources have increased, largely due to the welcome expansion of funds available for crime reduction grants, and due to the statutory obligation that the Commission work towards integrating criminal justice data systems across the state. Additionally, there have been an increasing number of research requests to the Commission from legislators and state agencies, requests that the Commission has trouble fulfilling due to its small staff.

While the initial grants that the Commission could award under the Crime Reduction Grant Act were quite limited due to the meager funding (\$178,500) provided for those grants, special appropriations in recent years and a slight increase in the Commission's base budget dedicated for grants has, until FY26, allowed the grants to be funded properly. In FY23 the Commission awarded 32 crime reduction grants, well over double the total number of grants awarded in the program's first three years, with \$2,225,577 in grants awarded; FY24 saw 36 grants, totaling \$3,855,738 awarded, many for two years; and in FY25 there were 19 additional grants awarded for \$1,451,746. The growth in the number and size of grants required a commensurate growth in the legal, accounting, and research work that is required around those grants, and in the compliance monitoring for those grants.

For FY26, however, due to the fact that there was no special appropriation to the Commission in the FY26 budget for crime reduction grants, the Commission was only able to award 19 grants for \$675,000 – this amount was cobbled together from monies not expended by grants over the prior two years and the small amount in the Commission's base budget for grants; many of the grants awarded for FY26 were for very small dollar amounts (under \$1,000). The \$675,000 awarded for FY26 was against \$8.3 million in grant requests. The Commission is requesting a special appropriation for FY27 to fund the crime reduction grants program at a level appropriate to its need, and requesting a Senior Contracts and Grants Administrator to ease the burden of administering the grants program.

Additionally, the mandate to integrate criminal justice data systems around the state has required continuing negotiations with the many criminal justice entities in the state, from small county detention centers up to the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Department of Public Safety. This work takes an increasing amount of Commission staff time, and also involves a blossoming number of legal agreements surrounding data sharing and memoranda of understanding with various entities. The Commission is in the process of re-forming the Justice Information Sharing Council, a group of New Mexico criminal justice data partners, to improve the communication between state entities about the status of criminal justice data and criminal justice data-sharing efforts.

P-1 Program Overview

BU **PCode**
35400 P636

Overview of Request:

The NMSC provides criminal justice research and data analysis for the state, and is the principal coordinating agency for the various criminal justice entities in the state. The NMSC has numerous statutory reporting and research responsibilities, including, as the statutes state, to “serve as a clearinghouse for the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of information” (Section 9-3-10(D)(11) NMSA 1978). Additionally, the NMSC has a statutory mandate to drive data-sharing across criminal justice systems, and administers the Crime Reduction Grant Act and disburses crime reduction grants under that Act. The NMSC has a wide mission, the ultimate thrust of which is to provide the best information possible to decision-makers in the state concerning the criminal justice system. The NMSC provides data and reports to the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government. The Commission works particularly closely with the New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD), issuing a variety of annual reports on the state's inmate population; and with analysts and evaluators with the Legislative Finance Committee. The NMSC performs analysis on bills pertaining to the criminal justice system during Legislative Sessions, and the Commission's Legislative Committee creates and widely distributes a Bill Tracker documenting every piece of criminal justice-related legislation during each Legislative Session.

Programmatic Changes:

N/A

Base Budget Justification: There are two aspects to the Commission's FY 2026 expansion request: first, to make the NMSC whole after the absorption of salary increases. The second relates to the need for increased staff at the NMSC due to the expanded duties mentioned in the "Major Issues" section. There is a need for a dedicated Staff Attorney, a Senior Contracts and Grants Administrator to manage the crime reduction grants, and an additional Research Scientist.

Making Commission Whole

Since its founding, NMSC staff have been housed at UNM. Under this arrangement, staff are employees of UNM, not FTEs in the state system, or, importantly, directly reflected in the state budget. Consequently, when there is a raise given to state employees in the state budget, those raises do not automatically get incorporated into the NMSC's appropriation from the state, as is the case with other state agencies. The NMSC honors raises for state employees when they occur, so without an appropriation for staff and salary benefit increases, the amount of the raise becomes an overall budget cut to the NMSC in the amount of the raise. The NMSC did not receive its requested expansion request for staff and salary benefit increases in the FY26 budget, which had a significant impact on our small and lean budget. The NMSC's Expansion Request for Staff Salary & Benefit Increases for FY27 of \$69,000 is to make the NMSC whole from the absorption of these raises for the last two fiscal years.

New Staff Attorney

The NMSC requires an FTE for a Staff Attorney. Recently, the Commission hired a new Deputy Director. In her former role, she had fulfilled many of the duties of Staff Attorney, but her salary was paid with monies drawn from special appropriations. Those additional monies are no longer available, thus the Commission is down a staff member who can perform the role of Staff Attorney. For perspective, there was a time when the NMSC had three Staff Attorneys on staff. If the NMSC is not able to obtain a Staff Attorney, there will be a detrimental impact on the NMSC's ability to fulfill its duties. Each grant awarded through the Crime Reduction Grant Act needs an attorney to negotiate and draft the agreements required for each grant; many of those agreements need amendments throughout the life of the grant, which require an attorney for negotiating and drafting. The Commission also is continuing its work to update the Criminal Code, which requires the time of a Staff Attorney. Furthermore, the NMSC has introduced a number of bills in recent years, which need to be drafted, presented, and explained by an attorney to NMSC members and the Legislature. In addition, during the Legislative Session, the NMSC reviews the hundreds of pieces of criminal justice-related legislation that are introduced, for the NMSC's Legislative Committee and for the FIRs required by LFC. There is also a regular need to review, draft, and amend legal agreements the NMSC enters into aside from those involving the crime reduction grants, such as agreements to allow evaluations of programs to assist system-involved individuals or data sharing agreements with state agencies. An attorney also responds to any IPRA requests and similar inquiries that come to the NMSC. The NMSC is delighted that the Legislature has expanded its tasks, duties, and requests in recent years. The additional work given to the NMSC, however, requires a dedicated Staff Attorney.

Senior Contract and Grants Administrator

The NMSC now awards many grants each year to various entities through the Crime Reduction Grant Act. Grants have been awarded to all but one Judicial District in the state. Each of these grants need monitoring, liaison work with the grantees, and assistance in ensuring quarterly and final reports are filed, as well as someone to ensure that grantees are spending their grant appropriately. At present, these duties have been farmed out across the NMSC staff, significantly adding to everybody's workloads. A Contracts and Grants Administrator would allow grantees to have a central point of contact for the monitoring and maintenance of the grants, would allow greater efficiencies in managing grants, and would remove the duties of grants administration from the employees who now have that task in addition to their regular duties.

Research Scientist

The NMSC requires an FTE for an additional Research Scientist. The NMSC receives numerous research requests from legislators and state agencies on top of its required annual reports and the work required for FIRs during a Legislative Session. There is no bandwidth to take on the many additional requests for research the Commission receives. Additionally, the retirement of the Commission's Executive Director at the end of last summer means that that the Commission is down a researcher. Hiring an additional Research Scientist would allow the Commission to take on the additional research tasks that are asked of it throughout the year.

State of New Mexico

BU

R-2 Transfers
(Dollars in Thousands)

Prov PCode	Prov Fund	Prov Account	Prov Account Name	Rec PCode	Rec Fund	Rec Account	Rec Account Name	2024-25 Actual Transfers	2025-26 Adopted Transfers	2026-27 Agency GF	2026-27 Agency OSF	2026-27 Agency ISF/IAT	2026-27 Agency FF	2026-27 Total Request	Justification
Sum:															

REV EXP COMPARISON

(Dollars in Thousands)

35400 - New Mexico Sentencing Commission

P636 - New Mexico Sentencing Commission

	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Transfers	Federal Funds	Total
SOURCES Totals	1,958.3	0.0	58.4	0.0	2,016.7
Contractual services	1,622.7	0.0	58.4	0.0	1,681.1
Other	335.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	335.6
USES Total:	1,958.3	0.0	58.4	0.0	2,016.7
Net:	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund	Account		2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	FY 2027 Agency Request				Total	Justification
			Actuals	Opbud	PCF Proj	GF	OSF	ISF/IAT	FF		
34700	542500	Transp - Fuel & Oil	0.0	1.5	0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	For state vehicle
34700	542800	State Transp Pool Charges	5.9	5.9	0	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	Leased vehicle
34700	546800	Employee Training & Education	0.0	0.2	0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	Defensive driving training
34700	547450	Grants to Other Agencies	324.9	328.5	0	328.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	328.5	CRGA grants
34700	547999	Request to Pay Prior Year	3.4	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	400	Other	334.2	336.1	0	335.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	335.6	
TOTAL EXPENSE			334.2	336.1		335.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	335.6	

BU PCode
35400 P636

Contract by PCode Detail
(Dollars in Thousands)

Fund	Account	#	Contract Purpose	Actuals	FY 2027 Agency Request				Total	Justification	
					GF	OSF	ISF/IAT	FF			
34700	535200	Professional Services	1000	County Detention Reimbursement Act	30.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	0.0	30.0	Statutory transfer from DFA to provide counts of prisoners in county jails @ 6/30/xx
34700	535200	Professional Services	1001	NM Tech/ICASA assist with NMSC's data integration project which seeks to standardize criminal justice data throughout the state and widen access to data from different sources	120.0	120.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	120.0	MOU with NM Tech ICASA to assist with ongoing Data Integration project
34700	535309	Other Services - Interagency	1000	Prison Population Forecast; ingoing contract with the NM Corrections Department	27.0	0.0	0.0	28.4	0.0	28.4	Ongoing annual contract to track and project prison populations for the NM Corrections Department
34700	535310	Other Services - Higher Ed	1000	IGA with UNM: UNM acts as fiscal agent for NMSC. NMSC staff are UNM employees - UNM bills NMSC to be reimbursed for salary/fringe costs and various operating costs.	1,040.7	1,476.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,476.7	Includes base expansion requests: 1. \$69,00 for mandatory salary increases for FY25 and FY26 not built into base budget; 2. \$375,000 for new FTEs: Staff attorney, grants administrator and research scientist
34700	535400	Audit Services	1000	Annual financial and compliance audit	19.4	26.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.0	Per rate sheet
TOTAL EXPENSE					1,237.1	1,622.7	0.0	58.4	0.0	1,681.1	

Business Unit	Rank	Form ID	Language Requested for GAA	Request Type Name	GF Request	Total Request	FTE Request	Agency Contact	Phone
35400	1	74305	For grants awarded under the Crime Reduction Grant Act. The New Mexico sentencing commission may use up to three percent of the appropriation for administration and may use up to two percent of the appropriation to evaluate the effectiveness of grant recipient projects, including those awarded in prior years. Any unexpended balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2027 from this appropriation shall not revert and may be extended through fiscal year 2028.	Special (FY 27)	5,000.0	5,000.0	0.00	Douglas Carver	505-239-8362
35400	2	74306	For data integration project to facilitate criminal justice data in the state. Any unexpended balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2027 from this appropriation shall not revert and may be extended through fiscal year 2028.	Special (FY 27)	2,000.0	2,000.0	0.00	Douglas Carver	505-239-8362

State of New Mexico
SPECIALS, SUPPLEMENTALS AND DEFICIENCIES DFA

(Prepare separate forms for each request)

BU: 35400
Agency: New Mexico Sentencing Commission
Program:
Analyst: Douglas Carver
Phone: 505-239-8362

Request Type: Special (FY 27)

Rank: 1

TOTAL SOURCES MUST EQUAL TOTAL USES

(Dollars in Thousands)

Sources		Uses	
Revenue Account	Amount	Uses Account	Amount
General Fund Transfers	5,000.0	Other	5,000.0
Total Sources	5,000.0	Total Uses	5,000.0
Full Time Equivalents (FTE)			
Type	Amount of FTE	Request is related to a recurring expense	No
	0.00	Request is related to a capital request	No
Total FTE	0.00	Request is related to proposed legislation	No

Language requested for inclusion in General Appropriations Act (Please Follow Legislative Bill Drafting Conventions - See Instructions)

For grants awarded under the Crime Reduction Grant Act. The New Mexico sentencing commission may use up to three percent of the appropriation for administration and may use up to two percent of the appropriation to evaluate the effectiveness of grant recipient projects, including those awarded in prior years. Any unexpended balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2027 from this appropriation shall not revert and may be extended through fiscal year 2028.

Justification Quantitative Data (Description)

The Sentencing Commission is requesting a special appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the crime reduction grants awarded by the Commission under the Crime Reduction Grant Act. The monies will be used for crime reduction grant awards, with small amounts set aside to administer the grants (\$150,000) and to evaluate the grants (\$100,000). The monies are required to ensure that the Commission can continue to make a wide variety of grant awards across the state. Thanks to prior special appropriations, the Commission has been able to award a large number of grants in significant amounts – in FY23 there were 32 grants awarded for over \$2.2 million, in FY24 there were 36 grants awarded for over \$3.8 million, and in FY25 there were 19 grants awarded for over \$1.4 million. For FY26, however, due to the fact that there was no special appropriation to the Commission in the FY26 budget for crime reduction grants, the Commission was only able to award 19 grants for \$675,000 – this amount was cobbled together from monies not expended by grants over the prior two years and the small amount in the Commission’s base budget for grants; many of the grants awarded for FY26 were for very small dollar amounts (under \$1,000). The \$675,000 awarded for FY26 was against \$8.3 million in grant requests. There is tremendous interest across the state in the crime reduction grants program, as evidenced by the fact that every year the amounts requested for grants grow. The Commission hopes that the Legislature will reflect that desire in a special appropriation for the crime reduction grants. If the Commission obtains its request for \$5,000,000, it will be able to award more grants to more entities in the state. A lesser amount would negatively impact the number of grants the Commission would be able to award, and lessen the effectiveness of the crime reduction grants program. Given the size of the request when compared to the Commission’s base budget, the Commission does not feel that it would be appropriate to make this a recurring request.

Request: Provide a brief description of what the request does, how the dollars will be spent and explain why it is a nonrecurring need.

Funds for the Crime Reduction Grants that are administered by the New Mexico Sentencing Commission.

Request: How the dollars will be spent.

The Sentencing Commission is requesting a special appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the crime reduction grants awarded by the Commission under the Crime Reduction Grant Act. The monies will be used for crime reduction grant awards, with small amounts set aside to administer the grants (\$150,000) and to evaluate the grants (\$100,000).

Request: Explain why request is nonrecurring need.

Given the size of the request when compared to the Commission's base budget, the Commission does not feel that it would be appropriate to make this a recurring request.

Consequences: Provide a brief description of consequences of not funding a performance and accountability task.

A lesser amount would negatively impact the number of grants the Commission would be able to award, and lessen the effectiveness of the crime reduction grants program.

Performance: How will agency performance be affected.

If the Commission obtains its request for \$5,000,000, it will be able to award more grants to more entities in the state.

Performance: How will agency performance will be improved.

If the Commission obtains its request for \$5,000,000, it will be able to award more grants to more entities in the state. A le

Brief description of problem agency is addressing.

The monies are required to ensure that the Commission can continue to make a wide variety of grant awards across the state. Thanks to prior special appropriations, the Commission has been able to award a large number of grants in significant amounts – in FY23 there were 32 grants awarded for over \$2.2 million, in FY24 there were 36 grants awarded for over \$3.8 million, and in FY25 there were 19 grants awarded for over \$1.4 million. For FY26, however, due to the fact that there was no special appropriation to the Commission in the FY26 budget for crime reduction grants, the Commission was only able to award 19 grants for \$675,000 – this amount was cobbled together from monies not expended by grants over the prior two years and the small amount in the Commission's base budget for grants; many of the grants awarded for FY26 were for very small dollar amounts (under \$1,000). The \$675,000 awarded for FY26 was against \$8.3 million in grant requests. There is tremendous interest across the state in the crime reduction grants program, as evidenced by the fact that every year the amounts requested for grants grow. The Commission hopes that the Legislature will reflect that desire in a special appropriation for the crime reduction grants.

State of New Mexico
SPECIALS, SUPPLEMENTALS AND DEFICIENCIES DFA

(Prepare separate forms for each request)

BU: 35400
Agency: New Mexico Sentencing Commission
Program:
Analyst: Douglas Carver
Phone: 505-239-8362

Request Type: Special (FY 27)

Rank: 2

TOTAL SOURCES MUST EQUAL TOTAL USES

(Dollars in Thousands)

Sources		Uses	
Revenue Account	Amount	Uses Account	Amount
General Fund Transfers	2,000.0	Contractual Services	2,000.0
Total Sources	2,000.0	Total Uses	2,000.0
Full Time Equivalents (FTE)			
Type	Amount of FTE	Request is related to a recurring expense	No
	0.00	Request is related to a capital request	No
Total FTE	0.00	Request is related to proposed legislation	No

Language requested for inclusion in General Appropriations Act (Please Follow Legislative Bill Drafting Conventions - See Instructions)

For data integration project to facilitate criminal justice data in the state. Any unexpended balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2027 from this appropriation shall not revert and may be extended through fiscal year 2028.

Justification Quantitative Data (Description)

The Sentencing Commission is requesting a special appropriation of \$2,000,000 over two years to continue its progress on integrating the state's criminal justice data. The Commission has a statutory mandate to facilitate criminal justice data integration in the state. The Commission has used a prior special appropriation for data integration to facilitate getting county detention centers onto the New Mexico DataXchange; to support the Department of Public Safety in the acquisition of electronic fingerprint machines for detention facilities and law enforcement offices across the state – the electronic collection of fingerprints is the first step in the criminal justice data integration process; and to construct, in conjunction with New Mexico Tech's Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis (ICASA), a criminal justice data dashboard that shows crime trends across New Mexico. The Commission is also in the process of re-establishing the Justice Information Sharing Council, a group of New Mexico criminal justice data partners, to improve the communication between state entities about the status of criminal justice data and criminal justice data-sharing efforts. One request that the Legislature has had for many years is for more and better criminal justice data. The Commission is trying to address that need. The requested special appropriation would allow the Commission to continue and expand upon all of this important work for the next two fiscal years.

Request: Provide a brief description of what the request does, how the dollars will be spent and explain why it is a nonrecurring need.

The Sentencing Commission is requesting a special appropriation of \$2,000,000 over two years to continue its progress on integrating the state's criminal justice data. The Commission has a statutory mandate to facilitate criminal justice data integration in the state.

Request: How the dollars will be spent.

The Sentencing Commission is requesting a special appropriation of \$2,000,000 over two years to continue its progress on integrating the state's criminal justice data.

Request: Explain why request is nonrecurring need.

The Commission does not feel that this is appropriate for a recurring expense

Consequences: Provide a brief description of consequences of not funding a performance and accountability task.

The ability of the Commission to provide more and better criminal justice data would be reduced

Performance: How will agency performance be affected.

The Commission has used a prior special appropriation for data integration to facilitate getting county detention centers onto the New Mexico DataXchange; to support the Department of Public Safety in the acquisition of electronic fingerprint machines for detention facilities and law enforcement offices across the state – the electronic collection of fingerprints is the first step in the criminal justice data integration process; and to construct, in conjunction with New Mexico Tech's Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis (ICASA), a criminal justice data dashboard that shows crime trends across New Mexico.

Performance: How will agency performance will be improved.

The Commission is also in the process of re-establishing the Justice Information Sharing Council, a group of New Mexico criminal justice data partners, to improve the communication between state entities about the status of criminal justice data and criminal justice data-sharing efforts. One request that the Legislature has had for many years is for more and better criminal justice data. The Commission is trying to address that need. The requested special appropriation would allow the Commission to continue and expand upon all of this important work for the next two fiscal years.

Brief description of problem agency is addressing.

The Commission has a statutory mandate to facilitate criminal justice data integration in the state.

DFA Performance Based Budgeting Data System

Annual Performance Report

Agency: 35400 New Mexico Sentencing Commission

Program: P636 New Mexico Sentencing Commission

The purpose of the New Mexico sentencing commission program is to provide information, analysis, recommendations and assistance from a coordinated cross-agency perspective to the three branches of government and interested New Mexicans so they have the resources they need to make policy decisions that benefit the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Performance Measures:		2024-25 Target	2024-25 Result	Met Target	Year End Result Narrative
Explanatory	Number of crime reduction grants awarded	N/A	21	N/A	In addition to the new grants awarded in FY25, NMSC extended the period of performance for 28 grants awarded in FY24
Explanatory	Total amount of funding awarded for crime reduction grants	N/A	\$3,122,256	N/A	NMSC seeks to maximize the use of CRGA funding to meet the requirements of the Crime Reduction Grant Act
Outcome	Percent of crime reduction grants that fully complete the scope of work outlined in the grant agreement	90%	95%	Yes	NMSC works closely with CRGA grantees to help them move forward with their projects
Output	Number of commission and subcommittee meetings held	20	15	No	NMSC holds regular meetings of the full Commission, the Juvenile sub-committee and the Legislative committee to share information and establish priorities of the membership and associated constituencies
Output	Number of presentations to the legislature on proposed sentencing reforms	2	3	Yes	NMSC continues to focus on potential sentencing reforms
Output	Number of presentations to the legislature on recommended criminal and juvenile justice system reforms the commission determines would improve those systems	2	6	Yes	NMSC interacts with as many legislators as possible to discuss potential reforms to the criminal and juvenile justice systems.
Output	Number of research projects completed	10	8	No	The Executive Director of NMSC retired early in FY25 which reduced the number of researchers by one.
Output	Percent of criminal justice bills analyzed for a legislative session	100%	100%	Yes	All criminal justice bills are analyzed by the Legislative committee of the New Mexico Sentencing Commission
Output	Percent of statutorily mandated meetings of the sex offender management board held	100%	0%	No	The sex offender management board has many vacancies and is unable to make quorum
Output	Percent of statutorily mandated research projects completed	100%	100%	Yes	NMSC completes all statutorily mandated research projects

Table 2

New Mexico Sentencing Commission

35400

Performance Measures Summary

P636 New Mexico Sentencing Commission						
Purpose:						
<p>The purpose of the New Mexico sentencing commission program is to provide information, analysis, recommendations and assistance from a coordinated cross-agency perspective to the three branches of government and interested New Mexicans so they have the resources they need to make policy decisions that benefit the criminal and juvenile justice systems.</p>						
Performance Measures:		2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Request	2026-27 Recommend
Output	Percent of criminal justice bills analyzed for a legislative session	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Output	Number of research projects completed	9	8	10	10	
Output	Number of presentations to the legislature on recommended criminal and juvenile justice system reforms the commission determines would improve those systems	7	6	2	2	
Output	Number of commission and subcommittee meetings held	36	15	15	15	
Output	Number of presentations to the legislature on proposed sentencing reforms	4	3	1	1	
Output	Percent of statutorily mandated meetings of the sex offender management board held	0%	0%	100%	100%	
Output	Percent of statutorily mandated research projects completed	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Outcome	Percent of crime reduction grants that fully complete the scope of work outlined in the grant agreement	94%	95%	90%	90%	
Explanatory	Number of crime reduction grants awarded	36	21	N/A	N/A	
Explanatory	Total amount of funding awarded for crime reduction grants	\$3,855,738	\$3,122,256	N/A	N/A	



NEW MEXICO

**Sentencing
Commission**

Agency 35400

Prepared for the FY 2027 Appropriation Request
Strategic Plan 2026-2027

Vision, Mission & Values of the NMSC

The overarching vision of the New Mexico Sentencing Commission is to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of all New Mexicans. Its specific mission is to provide impartial information, analysis, recommendations, and assistance from a coordinated cross-agency perspective, with an emphasis on maintaining public safety and making the best use of New Mexico's criminal and juvenile justice resources. The bulk of the Commission's mission is accomplished through the work of its subcommittees:

Subcommittee	Purpose
Grants Committee	To disburse and manage grants under the Crime Reduction Grant Act.
Justice Information Sharing Council	To coordinate data sharing across the criminal justice system.
Juvenile Committee	To discuss legislation pertaining to children in the state, particularly concerning the Delinquency Act.
Legislative Committee	To review all pieces of juvenile and criminal justice-related legislation introduced during Legislative Sessions.
Reform and Criminal Code Update Committee	To develop criminal justice reform ideas to present to the three branches of government; and to address the mandate in the FY21 and FY22 budget to rewrite the criminal code.

The values that the NMSC upholds as it approaches its work reflect the following:

- Collaboration
- Nonpartisan Decision-Making
- Inclusion
- Equal Justice Under the Law
- Continuous Improvement Culture

Goals, Objectives & Strategies

Goal 1 Advise the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches of government on policy matters relating to criminal and juvenile justice.

Objective 1.1:

Bring new ideas forward to New Mexico policy makers by staying abreast of best practices in criminal and juvenile justice across the country.

Objective 1.2:

Draft legislation promoting changes to laws relating to the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Objective 1.3:

Inform Commission Members of national and local criminal and juvenile justice developments.

Related Strategies for Goal 1:

- Report regularly to the Legislature's interim Courts, Corrections, and Justice Committee and any other pertinent committee of the Legislature. (Objective 1.1)
- Through the Commission's Reform and Criminal Code Update Committee, work collaboratively with Commission members and other community partners to review and, where needed, make substantive changes to the Criminal Code and related statutes. (1.2)
- Through the Commission's Juvenile Committee, consider revisions to the Delinquency Act and related statutes in the Children's Code. (1.2)
- Conduct periodic retreats of Commissioners and staff to promote the interchange of ideas and information-sharing within the Commission to create a stronger agency. (1.3)

Goal 2 Conduct analyses to support policy decisions that benefit the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Objective 2.1:

Conduct research related to criminal justice issues in the state, and report results of that research to the appropriate state entities.

Objective 2.2:

Analyze all proposed legislation concerning the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Objective 2.3:

Conduct impact estimates on proposed legislation that has the potential to affect the resources of the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Objective 2.4:

Provide data analysis as requested by criminal justice agencies, the Legislature and Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils.

Related Strategies for Goal 2:

- Through the Commission's Legislative Committee, review all pieces of legislation related to criminal and juvenile justice that are introduced during each Legislative Session. (Objective 2.2)
- Provide fiscal impact statements, where needed, for criminal justice legislation introduced during each Legislative Session. (2.2)
- Conduct evaluation of programs for offenders. (2.4)

Goal 3 Serve as a clearinghouse for the systematic collection, analysis, and dissemination of criminal justice data.

Objective 3.1:

Create and maintain a data-sharing network to receive, store, analyze, and disseminate criminal justice data for and between participating criminal justice and behavioral health agencies.

Objective 3.2:

Use the data-sharing network to evaluate local and statewide criminal justice systems and programs, and to support and encourage information sharing among criminal justice agencies and Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils.

Objective 3.3:

Maintain the list of collateral consequences as required by the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act.

Related Strategies for Goal 3:

- Work on solutions to promote data sharing across criminal justice agencies in the state. (Objective 3.1)
- Through the Commission's Justice Information Sharing Council, manage the data sharing and data integration processes. (3.2)

Goal 4 Manage Crime Reduction Grant Act.

Objective 4.1:

Oversee awarding of grants under the Crime Reduction Grant Act.

Objective 4.2:

Monitor the effectiveness and utility of programs awarded grants under the Crime Reduction Grant Act.

Related Strategies for Goal 4:

- Promote Crime Reduction grants to Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (CJCCs). (Objective 4.1)
- Through the Commission's Grants Committee, award crime reduction grants to local criminal justice entities and monitor grant performance. (4.1)
- Provide fiscal oversight to Crime Reduction Grant recipients. (4.2)
- Consult with CJCCs and local criminal justice entities concerning Crime Reduction Grants. (4.2)

FY27 Performance Measures

Below is the most current report on progress towards Performance Measures. The NMSC will continue to report on its success in achieving these measures in future strategic plans.

		FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Proposed
Provide Recommendations						
Output	Number of presentations to the Legislature on proposed sentencing reforms	6	4	3	1	1
Output	Number of commission and subcommittee meetings held	51	36	15	15	15
Output	Number of presentations to the Legislature on recommended criminal and juvenile justice system reforms the Commission determines would improve those systems	11	7	6	2	2
Output	Percent of statutorily mandated meetings of the Sex Offender Management Board held	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
Conduct Research and Analyses						
Output	Number of research projects completed	12	9	8	10	10
Output	Percent of statutorily mandated research projects completed	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Output	Percent of criminal justice bills analyzed for a legislative session	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Manage Crime Reduction Grants						
Explanatory	Percent of awarded crime reduction grant funding reverted	0%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A
Explanatory	Number of crime reduction grants awarded	32	36	21	N/A	N/A
Explanatory	Total amount of funding awarded for crime reduction grants	\$2,225,577	\$3,855,738	\$3,122,256	N/A	N/A
Outcome	Percent of crime reduction grantees that fully complete the scope of work outlined in the grant agreement	91%	94%	95%	90%	90%

Appendix A

List of Commission Members

Bob Cleavall, Chair

Martin Suazo, Vice Chair

Cindy Aragon, appointed by the State Bar

Bennett Baur, Chief Public Defender

Jason Bowie, Secretary of the Department of Public Safety

Hon. Daniel A. Bryant, appointed by the District and Metropolitan Court Judges' Association

Sheriff Mark Cage, appointed by the House Minority Floor Leader

Teresa Casados, Acting Secretary of the Children, Youth, and Families Department

Ambrosio Castellano, appointed by the Speaker of the House

Hon. John Chavez, appointed by the New Mexico Supreme Court

Mark Donatelli, appointed by the Speaker of the House

Claire Harwell, appointed by the Governor

Brady Horn, Ph.D., appointed by the New Mexico Supreme Court

Scot Key, appointed by the Senate Minority Floor Leader

April Land, for the Dean of UNM School of Law

Krista Lawrence, appointed by the Governor

Ramona J. Martinez, appointed by the Senate President Pro Tem

Anita Mesa, designee of Behavioral Health Services Division

Angela "Spence" Pacheco, appointed by the Speaker of the House

Mariana Padilla, Secretary of Public Education

Hon. R. David Pederson, appointed by the District and Metropolitan Court Judges' Association

Karl Reifsteck, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, appointed by the New Mexico Supreme Court

Alisha Tafoya Lucero, Secretary of Corrections

Raul Torrez, Attorney General

Clint Wellborn, appointed by the New Mexico District Attorneys' Association

Sydney West, appointed by the Senate President Pro Tem

Vacant Slots: a county sheriff to be appointed by New Mexico Counties

Douglas Carver, New Mexico Sentencing Commission Executive Director

Keri Thiel, New Mexico Sentencing Commission Deputy Director