Dear Honorable Tribal Leaders,

The New Mexico Departments of Workforce Solutions (DWS) and Indian Affairs (IAD) are partnering to assist members of the state’s Nations, Pueblos and Tribes in applying for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program (PUA). The PUA will help workers in the self-employed and contractor categories receive funds helping them to socially distance themselves during the COVID 19 pandemic.

PUA recipients are eligible for $168-$461 per week of assistance for up to 30 weeks. Additionally, $600 will be added to every payment from March 29th through the end of July. Applicants may backdate their claims to when they lost their income and are required to certify them weekly.

DWS will be offering a “Train the Trainer” program to community members volunteering to help artisans and other self-employed, “1099” workers in our Native Communities access the aid available in PUA. They can help with direct instructions and answers to applicants, as well as help assist DWS with answering common questions.

Interested parties are asked to contact IAD Policy Analyst Eldred Lesansee at elred.lesansee@state.nm.us by 5pm Thursday April 30th.

Thank you,

Lynn Trujillo
Secretary, New Mexico Indian Affairs Department

Bill McCamley
Secretary, New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions