

Affordable Housing Report: December, 2025

Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative (MRGHC)

The MRGHC met at 2:00 pm, Thursday, November, 2025 for a regular meeting at the MRCOG Board Room. All five MRGHC Commissioners attended: Talia Friedman (Chair), Dan Majewski, Ian Robertson, Lawrence Rael, and Steve Anaya. Other attendees included: Yasine Armstrong, Executive Director of the MRGHC; Cindy Chavez, Bernalillo County Manager; Marcos Gonzales, Economic Development Director; Ellen Braden, City of Albuquerque; and Abigail Stiles, Senior Policy Analyst, City of Albuquerque.

As a recap, the September 25 meeting highlights included: 1) Yasine Armstrong reported that she is undertaking strategic outreach to key NM Legislative officials in preparation for the 2026 Legislative session; 2) Chavez reported that both the City and County had received their 2025 legislative allocations and had signed intergovernmental agreements with State of New Mexico Workforce Solutions; 3) a proposal was approved by the Commissioners to extend the fiscal agent agreement between the MRCOG and the MRGHC until September 30, 2026; and, 4) Y. Armstrong proposed and the Commissioners agreed to move to a bi-monthly meeting schedule to allow more time for work to be completed between meetings and that the meeting start time be changed to 2:00 pm.

At the November 20, 2025 MRGHC meeting, the Commissioners approved the September 25 meeting Minutes as recapped above. The County housing update for November was provided by Cindy Chavez. Chavez reported that gap financing would be offered to the following housing projects: Tierra Linda, Lomas Tower and West Mesa A & B. Additional County funding will be used to support Transitional housing programs as well as Homeowner rehabilitation, and Rapid Rehousing for persons who are homeless. The County has instituted a 'Good Neighbor Agreement' to ensure that tenants and property managers alike uphold applicable housing codes, maintain the property, and prevent nuisance issues such as criminal activities, loitering and urban camping. The City housing funds update for November reported that the vast majority of funds are targeted to the City's Gateway System including: 1) support for the Young adult housing and treatment center, 2) Mens and Women's behavioral health treatment, 3) Gateway West facility improvements and operations support, and, 4) remodeling of the First Responders Receiving Area, and the Medical Respite Facility. City Staff also reported that Albuquerque City Councilors Baca, Fiebelkorn and Rogers are developing a list of housing related capital outlay requests to seek from the 2026 State Legislature. It was noted that these 2025 NM Legislative funds allocated to the City and County are one-time non-recurring funds and that Workforce Solutions Secretary Nair has asked for a succession plan to support the Gateway System's ongoing operations.

Other discussions by the Commissioners included concerns about the significant increase in the Albuquerque Point in Time Count of homeless persons; the increase and impact of 'out of state' persons migrating to the City; and, that the lack of housing for all income levels

is so critical that it has become an economic development issue and is inhibiting the recruitment of new corporations to New Mexico.

Y. Armstrong also reported that she is finalizing the MRGHC Bylaws for review and approval at the January 22 meeting and will be continuing conversations with Secretary Nair to request an additional \$110M state allocation for the MRGHC during the 2026 New Mexico Legislative Session. Armstrong will be developing a brochure that explains the purpose and accomplishments of the MRGHC to educate legislators.

The next MRGHC meeting date will be Thursday, January 22, 2026 @ 2pm at MRCOG Board Room.
