

Affordable Housing Report: June, 2026

Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative (MRGHC)

The MRGHC met on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at the MRCOG Offices Board Room for a regularly scheduled meeting. Four of the five current MRGHC Commissioners attended: Lawrence Rael, Chair, Ian Robertson, Steve Anaya and Connie Chavez. Other attendees were: Tommy Cummins, and Marcos Gonzales, County staff; Lisa Huval, Office of Housing, NM Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS); Mike Loftin, Homewise; and Kenneth Rudhardt, Executive Director of Isleta Pueblo Housing. The meeting was called to order by Lawrence Rael, Chair. The Agenda was approved and there was no public comment offered.

Lisa Huval, Office of Housing, DWS provided an update on the housing programs, housing developments and expenditures for the FY25-26 funding [\$154,397,249] that were allocated to DWS via HB2, HB2-GRO and Capital Outlay funds. Huval stated that the Office of Housing secured 3 years of operational funding for the department which will provide stable funding moving forward. She stated that the Office had released an RFI in May for Housing projects in partnership with governmental entities for affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and transitional housing; and, a 2nd RFI for Cooling Centers and Street Outreach. She stated that 50% or \$58,130,517 of the FY25-26 funds (referenced above) are allocated to Bernalillo County and the City of Albuquerque. Bernalillo County will build a total of 11 affordable housing projects containing 945 housing units; 76 supportive housing units at Bernalillo County's Ponderosa Place project and \$5,460,955 for a Young adult housing and treatment navigation center and services. The remainder [\$16.2M] has been allocated to the City of Albuquerque for Gateway Emergency shelter and services; and, Home Repair and Homeless prevention services.

Mike Loftin, Executive Director of Homewise, provided a presentation to the MRGHC titled 'Housing as Economic Infrastructure: A Public-Private Strategy for Housing in Albuquerque'. Loftin stated there is a real need in the community for smaller, entry level homes that allow homeowners to afford their own home and build wealth. In this way homeowners will have a fixed housing cost overtime vs. rental payments which increase over time as they are tied to the housing market. He discussed the importance of a strong Housing Mobility Ladder that offers a pathway from Homeless > Transitional Housing > Subsidized Rental > Market rate rental > Starter Home. Loftin said Homewise offers these support services to homebuyers: downpayment assistance, homeownership counseling and education, and money management skills and budgeting.

Kenneth Rudhardt, Executive Director of Isleta Pueblo Housing provided a brief presentation on the housing shortage for urban Native American housing in New Mexico cities, particularly Albuquerque. His organization is wanting to collaborate with other housing finance organizations to address this urgent situation.

After these informational presentations the MRGHC adjourned to closed session to interview the final candidates for the MRGHC Executive Director. Returning from closed session, an announcement was made that Marcos Gonzales from Bernalillo County staff was selected and offered the MRGHC Executive Director position.

LWVNM Housing Position: *The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports current and future efforts to increase the availability of safe, decent affordable housing for moderate and low income households.*

The next regular meeting of the MRGHC will be June 25, 2026 at 1:30 pm at the MRCOG Board Room and virtually via Zoom.
