



# NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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November 5, 2019

### **NMCD converts private prison facility**

CLAYTON– The New Mexico Corrections Department on Monday announced the conversion of the North East New Mexico Correctional Facility from privately to publicly operated as of November 3.

The conversion became official Sunday, Nov. 3, ending 12 years of operation by The GEO Group. Over the last several months, NMCD has worked to ensure a smooth transition in collaboration with the town of Clayton, the Department of Finance and Administration, the General Services Department and Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's office.

“I want to thank our NMCD staff for their teamwork and dedication in making this transition successful,” said Corrections Secretary Alisha Tafoya Lucero. “We are excited to begin working in and directly with the community of Clayton and to begin providing the inmates in our care the best possible resources to enable them to be active members of their communities upon their release.”

The conversion is a boost for the community of Clayton, providing long-term stability with close to 200 job opportunities for area residents.

Over the last few months, the Corrections Department hosted three job fairs and one rapid hire event, both with significant participation. Along with local job fairs, NMCD is currently conducting the first-ever Clayton satellite training academy, anticipating 10 cadets graduating at the end of this month.

One of the additional benefits of the state takeover of the facility, constructed in 2007, is an increase in programming opportunities for inmates at the NENMCF. NMCD's primary goal is always public safety, and expanded programming and vocational training is a major contributing factor to sustaining that goal. NMCD will offer various vocational and educational opportunities to inmates, providing them with the tools they need to be successful upon release.

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