



NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NMCD launches new CDL license program

Initiative allows inmates to receive CDL license prior to release, for immediate employment

HAGERMAN – The New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) is proud to announce the launch of its comprehensive Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program at the Roswell Correctional Center (RCC), located in Hagerman.

The initiative aims to equip incarcerated individuals with the necessary skills and credentials to immediately secure jobs in the trucking industry, upon their release back into society. This unique CDL program is made possible through key partnerships with the Eastern Area Local Workforce Development Board (EAWDB), assisted by the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS), and the Mountain View Vocational Institute.

“This program ensures individuals not only receive the necessary training for a CDL, but also that they leave prison with a Class A CDL license,” **said NMCD Cabinet Secretary Alisha Tafoya Lucero.** “Participants will have the means to immediately improve themselves, their families, and their communities.”

Nationwide, demand remains strong for CDL drivers. According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), employment of heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers is projected to grow 4% by 2032. The latest data shows heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers in New Mexico earn an annual median hourly wage of [\\$22.51](#).

“With Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding and strong collaboration, we are excited to launch a program that will give people leaving prison skills, hope, and a roadmap for successful re-entry,” **said NMDWS Cabinet Secretary Sarita Nair.** “By providing this training, we are not only helping to reduce recidivism, but also addressing the growing demand for skilled drivers across the state.”

“The Eastern Area Workforce Development Board is very excited about the partnership and collaboration taking place in the region,” **said EAWDB Executive Director Beth Elias.** “It is the culmination of a multi-year effort to provide returning citizens options for credentials that allow for immediate employment earning a self-sufficient wage upon release while meeting growing demand from employers for qualified candidates. We look forward to continuing to grow and expand these opportunities.”

Currently, 10 students are enrolled in the CDL program at RCC. The program spans a duration of five weeks, consisting of one week of theory and four weeks of practical driving training. Career consultants at New Mexico Workforce Connection Centers in the region, and the Mountain View Vocational Institute, will support the participants in finding post-incarceration employment. Additionally, they will track and share their progress with NMCD to monitor the program's effectiveness.

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The New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) oversees eight state-operated prison facilities, two privately-operated facilities, as well as five probation and parole regions, and interstate compact. It is one of the largest state departments in New Mexico. It is through rehabilitative programs and services that NMCD aims to improve outcomes for offenders and enhance public safety in New Mexico communities. For more information, visit cd.nm.gov or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [X](#) at @NMCDPIO.

The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) oversees the New Mexico public workforce system. The department is committed to supporting the business community and assisting New Mexicans seeking employment opportunities by bridging the link between employer needs and the skilled workforce. The department administers programs to include business services; workforce training; Unemployment Insurance; labor law enforcement; veterans' services; and labor market information. The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions is 85% Federally funded with (\$106,960,200), and 15% (\$18,543,600) financed by non-federal sources in state fiscal year 2024.

The Eastern Area Workforce Development Board (EAWDB) was formed in 2000 under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 (now the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)). The EAWDB currently serves twelve counties in the Eastern Area of New Mexico. Those counties include Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Guadalupe, Harding, Lea, Lincoln, Otero, Quay, Roosevelt, and Union. The EADWB service area has 45 incorporated communities and dozens of unincorporated villages and encompasses 44,000 square miles with a wide diversity of local business and infrastructure conditions.