

**BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF MANUEL GONZALES III**



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***Sheriff Gonzales Secures Over \$200K in COVID-19
Community Outreach Grant for BCSO***

Albuquerque, NM – This morning, Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III announced he secured \$208,000 in COVID-19 Community Outreach Grant funds from the federal government for BCSO. These funds are critical to BCSO's law enforcement operations given the record number of unemployment claims filed, tens of thousands of New Mexicans out of work, children out of school, the Governor's directive to close all non-essential businesses and for citizens to stay at home, the sharp decline in economic activity, and corresponding decline in Bernalillo County's revenue. In addition, per the Agreement for Incident Command and Coordinated Response to COVID-19, Bernalillo County is incurring significant up-front costs for emergency response to meet the health and safety needs of our community during this crisis. These costs were not previously budgeted, and resources must be made immediately available from the current Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. The long-term economic and financial impacts to the Fiscal Year 2021 budget must also be considered.

“As the chief law enforcement agency for New Mexico's largest county, it's critical that BCSO has the funds to continue to protect our children, families, and businesses during this pandemic,” said Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III. “BCSO continues to be prepared to address the needs of our community during this ever-changing pandemic, and we are also prepared for the long-term budget impacts of COVID-19.”

Several weeks ago, at the direction of Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III, the department applied for grants related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Within the past 48 hours the Sheriff's Department was awarded \$208,000 to alleviate some of costs associated with the community outreach program. This grant was made available to those departments who deployed an active community assistance program to mitigate the impact on the families of our community.

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