

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2022

Contact:

Baylee Rawson, DFA Public Information Officer
baylee.rawson1@dfa.nm.gov
505-216-8659

**DFA Local Government Division to provide \$10K grants to local governments for
Surrender Safety Devices**

\$330K is available statewide

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division (LGD) is pleased to announce the surrender safety device grant opportunity. Funds are available through capital funds appropriated by the Legislature and approved by Governor Lujan Grisham.

Under Senate Bill 212, \$330K was appropriated to provide local governments with funds to plan, design, construct, equip and install surrender safety devices statewide. The maximum grant award for each applicant is \$10K.

Under the New Mexico Safe Haven for Infants Act, a surrender safety device, or “Baby Box,” is a device that legally permits a mother in crisis to safely, securely, and anonymously surrender their newborn if they are unable to care for them. A Baby Box is installed on an exterior wall of a designated fire station or hospital. It has an exterior door that automatically locks upon placement of a newborn inside the Baby Box and an interior door that allows a medical staff member to secure the surrendered newborn from inside the designated building.

“Baby boxes have saved 21 babies around the United States so far,” said DFA Secretary Debbie Romero. “We are pleased to provide the funding necessary to install these devices around our state in hopes of providing a safe, legal, and anonymous option for mothers in crisis and their newborns.”

To request funding, local governments should send a letter requesting the \$10K grant to Donnie Quintana, LGD Division Director, via email at Donnie.Quintana@dfa.nm.gov or by mail to 407 Galisteo St., Santa Fe, NM 87501. ***Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.**

##

About Department of Finance & Administration: The New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) serves New Mexico through fiscal management support for state agencies, local governments, and community-based programs to achieve responsible and quality fiscal services for all New Mexicans. DFA received a clean audit for FY21 and remains committed to the continued improvement of the state's financial reporting. DFA was also an

instrumental part in the accurate count of the 2020 Census, ensuring the promise of additional federal funding for the state.