

FRAUD ALERT

THE OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR CALLS FOR INCREASED AWARENESS IN EFFORTS FOR COVID-19 RELATED FRAUD PREVENTION



OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR | BRIAN S. COLÓN, Esq., STATE AUDITOR

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The Office of the State Auditor Issues Warning for Vulnerable New Mexicans Seeking Unemployment Insurance During COVID-19 State of Emergency

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, State Auditor Colón is calling for vigilance as fraudsters take advantage vulnerable communities finding new ways to scam New Mexicans during this global pandemic.

The Office of the State Auditor (OSA) is warning New Mexicans to be cautious and aware of scams during the novel coronavirus pandemic. Particularly, fraudsters targeting vulnerable New Mexicans, in non-English speaking communities, with scams that take their money and steal their personal information.

The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions ("Department") is actively working on methods to increase accessibility of information to non-English speaking communities throughout New Mexico and has provided a list of community partners throughout the state who are assisting the Department in providing necessary translation services. The OSA recommends targeted communities seek and receive assistance from the trusted resources detailed below.

For the most accurate and up-to-date information on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in New Mexico visit: www.newmexico.gov

Additional information for employers and workers affected by COVID-19, including frequently asked questions, can be found at www.dws.state.nm.us/COVID-19-Info.

Reports of scams or other waste, fraud, or abuse may be made anonymously through our website at www.saonm.org or by calling **1-866-OSA-FRAUD**. You may also speak to an investigator by calling **505-476-3800**.

Trusted Resources Recommended by NM Dept. of Workforce Solutions

- ◆ Lutheran Family Services
(505) 933-7032
<https://www.lfsm.org/>
- ◆ The Asian Family Center
(505) 717-2877
<https://nmafc.org/>
- ◆ APS Refugee Program
(505) 803-7781
<https://www.aps.edu/office-of-equity-and-engagement/refugee-and-newcomer-supports>

"Scammers are preying on New Mexico's most vulnerable communities," said Auditor Colón. "These predators are targeting non-English communities, taking their money and stealing their personal information. It cannot be stressed enough, do not provide your personal information and do not pay services fees to untrusted sources."