This report presents estimates of the job creation that would result in New Mexico if the U.S. Congress passes economic recovery legislation that implements a national THRIVE investment agenda, as described in a September 2020 Congressional resolution.¹ The overall finding we report here is that implementing the 10-year THRIVE investment agenda in New Mexico would generate about 55,000 jobs in the first full year of the program. This higher level of employment in New Mexico would be sustained throughout the 10 years of the investment program (assuming no other major changes in New Mexico’s economy were to occur).² Thus, if the THRIVE program were implemented in full in 2021, employment in New Mexico would increase by 55,000 jobs and that higher level of employment would continue in the state as the 10-year program continues until 2030.

The Congressional resolution’s commitment is to “Transform, Heal and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy”—i.e. “THRIVE”—through a range of investments to rebuild the U.S. economy. To date, the THRIVE Agenda has been endorsed by more than 100 members of Congress, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and hundreds of major union, racial justice, and climate organizations.³ The aims of the THRIVE Agenda are similar to those proposed in the Build Back Better program advanced by President Biden during his 2020 presidential campaign.

² Of course, other changes in New Mexico’s economy will occur over the 10-year period 2021 – 2030, often in ways that cannot be predicted in advance. Still, our estimate of a 55,000 increase in employment under an “all else equal” assumption provides a benchmark for measuring the extent to which the THRIVE Agenda will expand job opportunities in the state, even after we allow that, in reality, economic conditions will undergo changes between 2021–2030.
³ https://www.thriveagenda.com
The THRIVE Agenda consists of four major investment areas:

1. **Clean renewable energy and energy efficiency**: To expand access to renewable energy and improve the energy efficiency of vehicles, buildings, and industries so as to achieve the climate stabilization goals set out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 45 percent by 2030 and to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

2. **Infrastructure**: To expand access to affordable transportation, high-speed broadband, clean water, upgrade parks and other public amenities, reduce pollution, and strengthen the public resources needed to undergird a manufacturing revival.

3. **Agriculture and land restoration**: To expand opportunities for family farmers, including younger farmers and people of color, and to support regenerative agriculture, local and regional food systems, and climate resilience.

4. **Care economy, public health, and the postal system**: To significantly expand and enhance the level of service provision in these crucial areas of the economy and to raise job quality standards—including wages, benefits, and workplace conditions—for workers employed in these activities.

For the U.S. as a whole, the THRIVE Agenda is designed as a 10-year investment program, with an average annual budget of $954 billion.\(^4\) This would amount to about 4.0 percent of average U.S. Gross Domestic Product over 2021 – 2030, assuming that the U.S. economy grows at about 2.2 percent per year.

Our job creation estimates for New Mexico result from the state receiving its share of the overall THRIVE budget based on its share of the U.S. population. Because New Mexico accounts for 0.64 percent of the U.S. population, its share of the $954.2 billion annual U.S. THRIVE budget would be $6.1 billion per year. The proportions of total THRIVE spending in New Mexico will also be equal to their respective shares for the overall U.S. economy. In Table 1, we show New Mexico’s annual budget allocations by investment area under THRIVE between 2021 – 2030. They amount to: $2.3 billion for clean renewable energy and energy efficiency; $2.1 billion for infrastructure; $1.2 billion for agriculture and land restoration; and $540 million for the care economy, public health and postal service.

As we noted above and present in detail in the following tables, this level of investment spending in New Mexico will generate an average of about 55,000 jobs within the state. This is equal to 5.7 percent of New Mexico’s labor force as of February 2020. To illustrate the potential impact of this level of job creation in New Mexico, let us assume that these investments are undertaken in the state, and all else about the state’s economy were to

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\(^4\) In our March 2021 report *Employment Impacts of Proposed U.S. Economic Stimulus Programs: Job Creation, Job Quality, and Demographic Distribution Measures*, we describe the components of the overall U.S. THRIVE Agenda and the sources for the budget figures in the program’s various investment areas. We also present details on our methodology for estimating job creation figures and related data presented for the national THRIVE program: [https://www.peri.umass.edu/publication/item/1397-employment-impacts-of-proposed-u-s-economic-stimulus-programs](https://www.peri.umass.edu/publication/item/1397-employment-impacts-of-proposed-u-s-economic-stimulus-programs).
### TABLE 1: U.S. THRIVE Agenda Budget and New Mexico Budget Allocations through THRIVE

*New Mexico population = 0.64% of U.S. population*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clean renewable energy and energy efficiency</th>
<th>Overall U.S. THRIVE Agenda Budget</th>
<th>New Mexico THRIVE Agenda Budget Allocations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. THRIVE Agenda Budget Allocations</td>
<td>$358.8 billion</td>
<td>$2.3 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shares of U.S. THRIVE Agenda Budget Allocations</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>$324.3 billion</td>
<td>$2.1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and land restoration</td>
<td>$186.6 billion</td>
<td>$1.2 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care economy, public health, and postal service</td>
<td>$84.5 billion</td>
<td>$540.2 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Totals                                      | $954.2 billion                   | $6.1 billion                             |
| Shares of U.S. THRIVE Agenda Budget Allocations | 100%                            |                                         |


remains equal. Under such an “all else equal” assumption, this level of job creation would result, for example, in the state’s unemployment rate falling to 3.9 percent from its average level of 9.6 percent between July – December 2020. A reduction in New Mexico’s unemployment rate at something approximate to this scale would represent a major expansion in job opportunities throughout the state. Indeed, implementing the THRIVE Agenda in New Mexico would likely encourage a large number of people to enter New Mexico’s labor force, or to reenter after having dropped out because their prospects for getting hired had been discouraging. Overall, the rise in the state’s employment opportunities will provide a foundation for a broader improvement in living conditions for the people of New Mexico.5

Of course, this expansion in job opportunities would be in addition to the benefits to the people of New Mexico through implementing the THRIVE investment program—i.e. the benefits resulting from building a clean energy system throughout the state; deepening the state’s commitment to protecting its environment; enhancing productivity and business opportunities through upgrading the state’s infrastructure; widening opportunities in agriculture and land restoration; and raising quality standards in the provision of care economy, health care and postal delivery services.

---

5 In *Employment Impacts of Proposed U.S. Economic Stimulus Programs*, as cited above, we provide evidence on job creation at the national level within five major sectors of the U.S. economy: manufacturing; services; construction; wholesale and retail trade; and agriculture. For example, we report that manufacturing employment through the national THRIVE program will amount to 1.6 million jobs, equal to 10.3 percent of the 15.5 million overall level of job creation. This study of the U.S. economy-wide impact of the THRIVE Agenda also includes data on 1) wages, benefits and unionization rates for workers currently employed in the range of activities associated with the THRIVE Agenda; 2) educational attainment levels of these workers; and 3) shares of women and people of color employed in these activities at present.
## NEW MEXICO Energy Efficiency and Clean Renewable Energy Investments through THRIVE Agenda

### TABLE 2A: Energy Efficiency and Clean Renewable Energy Investments:
**Job Creation—Direct, Indirect, and Induced Jobs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Energy efficiency</th>
<th>Job Creation per $1 Million in Spending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) Direct Jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building retrofits</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial efficiency</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-efficiency autos</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Renewable energy</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind energy</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar energy</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geothermal energy</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE 2B: Energy Efficiency and Clean Renewable Energy Investments:
**Total Jobs Created with Budgetary Figures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Energy efficiency</th>
<th>1) Total Jobs/ $1 Million</th>
<th>Annual Job Creation</th>
<th>Job-Years Created, All Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Budget</td>
<td>Job Creation per Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building retrofits</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>$361.2 million</td>
<td>2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial efficiency</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>$40.3 million</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-efficiency autos</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>$358.0 million</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Renewable energy</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind energy</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>$690.4 million</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar energy</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>$690.4 million</td>
<td>2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geothermal energy</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>$153.4 million</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$2.3 billion</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### NEW MEXICO Infrastructure Investments through THRIVE Agenda

**TABLE 3A: Infrastructure Investments: Job Creation—Direct, Indirect, and Induced Jobs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Creation per $1 Million in Spending</th>
<th>1) Direct Jobs</th>
<th>2) Indirect Jobs</th>
<th>3) Induced Jobs</th>
<th>4) Total Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surface transportation</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water/wastewater</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airports</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland waterways/marine ports</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dams</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous and solid waste</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levees</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public parks and recreation</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rail</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas distribution pipelines–leak repairs only</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadband</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 3B: Infrastructure Investments: Total Jobs Created with Budgetary Figures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
<th>Job Creation per Year</th>
<th># of Years</th>
<th>Total Budget</th>
<th>Total Job Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surface transportation</td>
<td>$703.8 million</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$7.0 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water/wastewater</td>
<td>$205.8 million</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$2.1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>$273.0 million</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$2.7 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airports</td>
<td>$26.8 million</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$268.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland waterways/marine ports</td>
<td>$9.6 million</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$96.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dams</td>
<td>$24.9 million</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$249.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous and solid waste</td>
<td>$1.9 million</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$19.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levees</td>
<td>$44.7 million</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$447.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public parks and recreation</td>
<td>$65.2 million</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$652.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rail</td>
<td>$133.6 million</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$1.3 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>$242.9 million</td>
<td>3,700</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$2.4 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas distribution pipelines–leak repairs only</td>
<td>$117.0 million</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$1.2 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadband</td>
<td>$223.7 million</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$2.2 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2.1 billion</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,360</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21.0 billion</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEW MEXICO Agriculture and Land Restoration Investments through THRIVE Agenda

TABLE 4A: Agriculture and Land Restoration Investments: Job Creation—Direct, Indirect, and Induced Jobs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Job Creation per $1 Million in Spending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) Direct Jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regenerative agriculture</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmland conservation</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic farming</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources for marginalized farmers</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural R&amp;D</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land restoration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution cleanup</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing orphaned wells</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecosystem restoration</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 4B: Agriculture and Land Restoration Investments: Total Jobs Created with Budgetary Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1) Total Jobs/ $1 Million</th>
<th>2) Annual Job Creation</th>
<th>3) Job-Years Created, All Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Budget</td>
<td>Job Creation per Year</td>
<td># of Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regenerative agriculture</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>$262.1 million</td>
<td>4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmland conservation</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>$159.8 million</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic farming</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>$9.6 million</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources for marginalized farmers</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>$581.7 million</td>
<td>7,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural R&amp;D</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>$16.0 million</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land restoration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution cleanup</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>$80.5 million</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing orphaned wells</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>$76.7 million</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecosystem restoration</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>$6.4 million</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1.2 billion</td>
<td>15,700</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEW MEXICO Care Economy, Public Health, and Postal Service Investments through THRIVE Agenda

**TABLE 5A: Care Economy, Public Health, and Postal Service Job Creation—Direct, Indirect, and Induced Jobs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1) Direct Jobs</th>
<th>2) Indirect Jobs</th>
<th>3) Induced Jobs</th>
<th>4) Total Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Care economy</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>24.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public health</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal service</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 5B: Care Economy, Public Health, and Postal Service Investments: Total Jobs Created with Budgetary Figures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1) Total Jobs/ $1 Million</th>
<th>Annual Job Creation</th>
<th>Job-Years Created, All Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) Total Jobs/ $1 Million</td>
<td>Annual Budget</td>
<td>Job Creation per Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care economy</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>$495.4 million</td>
<td>12,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public health</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>$28.8 million</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal service</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>$16.0 million</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>$540.2 million</td>
<td>12,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 6: NEW MEXICO Job Creation Estimates through all THRIVE Agenda Investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Annual Budget and Job Creation Figures</th>
<th>Total Budget and Job-Years Figures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Budget</td>
<td>Annual Job Creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure investments</td>
<td>$2.1 billion</td>
<td>17,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean energy investments</td>
<td>$2.3 billion</td>
<td>9,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and land restoration investments</td>
<td>$1.2 billion</td>
<td>15,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care economy, public health, and postal service investments</td>
<td>$540.2 million</td>
<td>12,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6.1 billion</strong></td>
<td><strong>54,760</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgments

This project was supported financially by the U.S. Green New Deal Network. We gratefully acknowledge their support, as well as the fact that they respected our terms of engagement. Those terms included full autonomy in developing the statistical findings presented here. The study benefited substantially from discussions with Matt Ryan of the Working Families Party, Ben Beachy and Isabel Estevez of the Sierra Club, and Nick Berning of the Green New Deal Network. We also benefited from the excellent research assistance of Ray Caraher, Emily Diaz-Loar, and Bilen Gurara. Kim Weinstein somehow produced a clearly readable document from our cyber-piles of tables.

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The Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) promotes human and ecological well-being through our original research. Our approach is to translate what we learn into workable policy proposals that are capable of improving life on our planet today and in the future. In the words of the late Professor Robert Heilbroner, we at PERI “strive to make a workable science out of morality.”

Established in 1998, PERI is an independent unit of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with close ties to the Department of Economics. PERI staff frequently work collaboratively with faculty members and graduate students from the University of Massachusetts, and other economists from around the world. Since its founding, PERI has become a leading source of research and policy initiatives on issues of globalization, unemployment, financial market instability, central bank policy, living wages and decent work, and the economics of peace, development, and environmental sustainability.