



Rural Leaders for
Economic Mobility

Mobility Action Plan

Curry County, N.M.

RURAL LEADERS FOR ECONOMIC MOBILITY

CURRY COUNTY

NEW MEXICO

Mobility Action Plan



County	Curry County, New Mexico
County Seat	Clovis, N.M.
County Population	~46,500
RLEM Subgrant	\$50,000
Primary Contact	Kristian Price, Community Services Administrator
Contact Info	kprice@currycountynm.gov 575.763.6016 ext. 132
County Manager	Lance A. Pyle lpyle@currycountynm.gov 575.763.6016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Connecting residents to opportunity — through communication, youth investment and community wellness

Curry County, N.M., is home to roughly 46,500 residents, a growing university, an Air Force base that anchors the regional economy and some of the most productive agricultural land in eastern New Mexico. It also has a poverty rate of 20.5 percent, well above the national average, and a persistent pattern that the county has heard clearly from its own residents: people do not know what’s available to them.

That gap, between the resources that exist and the residents who need them, is the problem this plan is designed to close. Curry County’s Mobility Action Plan addresses three interconnected barriers: a fragmented communication system that leaves many residents uninformed about county services; a weak pipeline connecting youth to local career pathways, contributing to outmigration and a shrinking workforce; and limited access to behavioral health and wellness services, particularly in rural parts of the county. None of these problems is new. But the county now has a coordinated, funded plan to address all three.

The RLEM subgrant has already been put to work. Curry County used the \$50,000 to launch Savvy Citizen, a real-time community communication platform, and to contract a Public Information Officer Reservist through the NACo Tech Exchange. Those investments laid the foundation. This plan scales and connects them.

Strategy	Focus	Lead	Timeline	Est. Cost
1. Community Engagement & Communication	Unified communication strategy across departments; Savvy Citizen platform; quarterly ‘Commissioner Convos’ and community listening sessions	Community Services Administrator + Public Information Officer	Year 1 launch; ongoing	\$300,000–\$350,000
2. Youth Leadership & Workforce Exposure	Expanded Leadership Curry County program; Summer Enrichment Internship Program; career exploration and apprenticeship pathways	Human Resources + Community Services Administrator + Youth Services Coordinator	Year 1 design + launch; Year 2 expansion	\$700,000–\$900,000
3. Community Wellness & Access	Improved behavioral health access; mobile outreach; service navigation; telehealth expansion; Community Resource Navigator	Regional Behavioral Health Administrator + Community Services Administrator	Phased, 18–24 months	\$250,000–\$300,000

Total estimated implementation cost: \$1,250,000–\$1,550,000 over two years.

Support Requested from Capstone Partners

Curry County is asking capstone partners for support in three areas:

- Funding for full-time staffing — a Public Information Officer, Youth Services Coordinator and Community Resource Navigator are the three positions that unlock full implementation of all three strategies
- Employer commitments to host youth interns and job-shadow participants — particularly from healthcare, public safety, infrastructure and agriculture sectors
- Behavioral health workforce and technical assistance — provider recruitment support and data-sharing agreements to expand access in rural parts of the county

SECTION 1

Economic Mobility Vision — A county where every resident can find, access and use what's available to them

VISION STATEMENT

Curry County envisions a future where all residents have equitable access to the information, resources and opportunities needed to achieve upward economic mobility. Residents are informed, engaged and connected to local systems that support education, workforce development, health and overall well-being. Local government is transparent and responsive, and residents feel empowered to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

What Success Looks Like in 5–10 Years

A decade from now, Curry County’s vision of economic mobility will be visible in everyday life: residents who know how to access a county service without navigating three departments; young adults who stayed in Clovis because they found a career here; families who got behavioral health support before a crisis, not after. The systems will be less fragmented. The information will be easier to find. And the pathways from where residents are to where they want to be will be clearer.

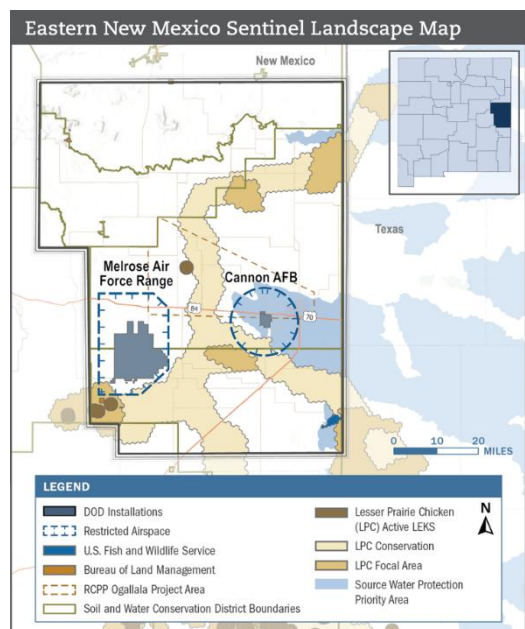
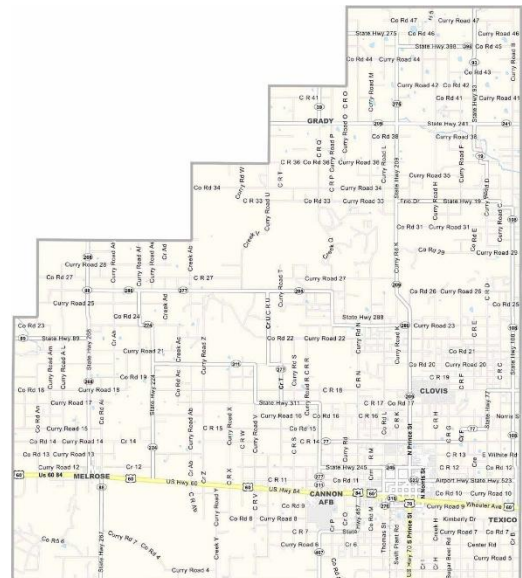
Specifically, success means:

- Residents are aware of and able to access available services — workforce, education and health — without unnecessary barriers
- Civic participation has increased, with more residents attending meetings, providing input and engaging with local government
- Youth have clear pathways to education and careers within the region, and the rate of outmigration has declined
- Community members can navigate services and receive support through a coordinated, well-resourced system
- Trust between residents and local government is stronger, resulting in more effective programs and responsive policies

Why This Plan Exists Now

Curry County has been hearing the same feedback for years: residents do not know what is available to them, do not feel their input matters and cannot easily navigate the services that do exist. That feedback is not a criticism of county staff, but a structural problem. Departments have communicated independently.

Outreach has been inconsistent. Youth programs have existed but have not been connected to real career pathways. Behavioral health services have been stretched thin.



The county’s participation in the Rural Leaders for Economic Mobility (RLEM) initiative created the structure and resources to address these conditions intentionally. The RLEM subgrant funded the first steps — the Savvy Citizen platform launch and a Public Information Officer Reservist through the NACo Tech Exchange. This plan builds on that foundation.

Assets & Strengths	Obstacles & Challenges
✓ Cannon Air Force Base providing economic anchor and regional workforce pipeline	✗ 20.5 percent poverty rate, above the national average of 12.5 percent
✓ Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) and Clovis Community College as higher education partners	✗ Fragmented communication across departments; no unified outreach strategy
✓ Savvy Citizen platform and NACo Tech Exchange partnership already launched	✗ Youth outmigration due to limited visible career pathways and wage levels
✓ Leadership Curry County and Summer Enrichment Internship Program as existing program foundations	✗ Transportation barriers and geographic distance in rural areas
✓ Eastern New Mexico Sentinel Landscape Dedication (2024) signaling regional investment	✗ Limited behavioral health providers and long waiting lists for services
✓ Active county leadership and cross-sector partner network	✗ Digital access gaps affecting how residents receive and interact with information
✓ Strong agricultural economy and growing renewable energy sector	✗ Water quality and scarcity concerns (aquifer depletion, PFAS contamination)

SECTION 2

Local Conditions — The data and community voice that shaped this plan

Who Lives in Curry County

Curry County is a mid-sized rural county in eastern New Mexico anchored by Clovis, the county seat, and shaped by three dominant economic forces: agriculture, a major Air Force installation and the higher education presence of Eastern New Mexico University and Clovis Community College. The county’s population of roughly 46,500 includes a significant military community, a large Hispanic population and rural residents spread across a high-plains landscape that can make service access difficult.

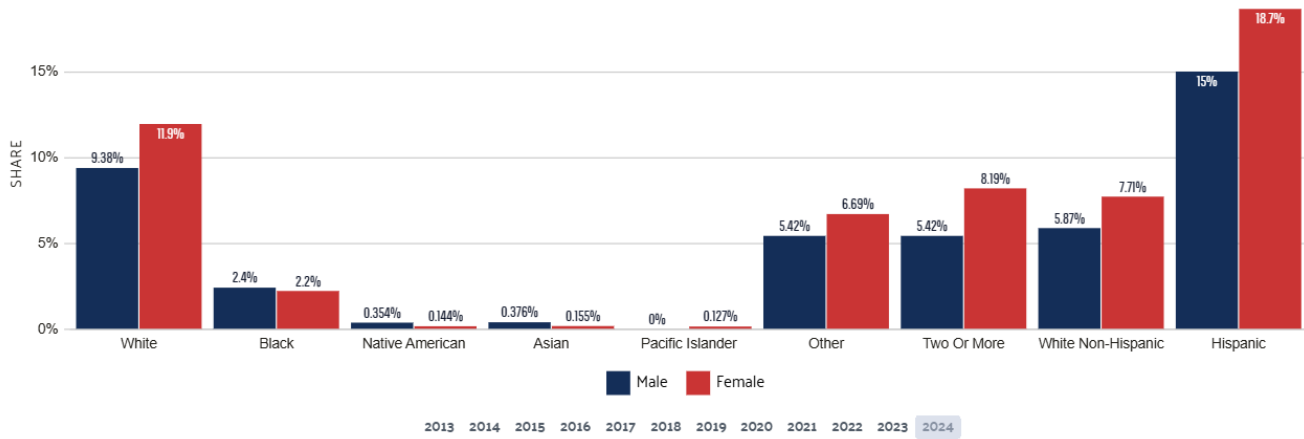
Indicator	Curry County	National Average	Source
Population	~46,500	—	U.S. Census ACS
Poverty rate	20.5 percent	12.5 percent	U.S. Census ACS / Data USA
Largest poverty demographics	Males 18–24; Females 25–34; Females 35–44	—	U.S. Census ACS
Median household income	\$57,309	\$83,730	U.S. Census ACS
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.3%	BLS
Hispanic / Latino population	45.9%	—	U.S. Census ACS
Population with military connection	Significant (Cannon AFB)	—	U.S. Census ACS

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Data USA.)

Economic and Workforce Conditions

The county’s poverty rate — 20.5 percent, compared to a national average of 12.5 percent — is concentrated most heavily among young adults. Males 18 to 24 represent the largest poverty demographic, followed by females 25 to 34 and females 35 to 44. These are precisely the populations that the Youth Leadership and Workforce Exposure strategy targets: young people without a visible local career pathway and young adults raising families while navigating limited income.

Employers across the county consistently report difficulty filling entry-level positions, not because there are no workers, but because the pipeline connecting education to employment has not been designed to function smoothly. Young people graduate from Clovis Municipal Schools and face a choice: pursue higher education at ENMU or Clovis Community College and hope a local job results, or leave. Many leave. The Summer Enrichment Internship Program, which enrolled over 100 students in 2024 before a budget cut reduced participation in 2025, is direct evidence that when structured exposure exists, youth engage.



What Residents and Partners Have Said

Feedback gathered through community conversations, staff observations and engagement activities has consistently surfaced the same themes:

- Residents report difficulty finding clear, reliable and timely information about county services and programs
- Many individuals feel disconnected from local government and uncertain how to participate in decision-making
- Employers and partners have identified a need for a stronger local workforce pipeline, particularly among younger residents
- Community organizations note that residents often struggle to navigate available services even when resources exist
- There is strong desire for more accessible, inclusive and consistent communication — digital and in-person

“There needs to be better communication on what services and events are available and taking place within the community. We need to know what is available to us.” — Curry County resident, E-SIM Workshop

“A desired resource is to offer people opportunities to develop skills for a future of employment, after we help them seek treatment.” — Curry County resident, Listening Session

Systems and Historical Context

Curry County’s current communication and service access challenges are not random; they are the accumulated result of departments operating independently, without a coordinated outreach strategy or shared communication infrastructure. The county has relied historically on a single primary communication channel, limiting reach and preventing the two-way engagement that builds trust. Formal structures for community input have been limited, resulting in certain populations being consistently underrepresented in planning and decision-making.

Geographic and transportation barriers compound these structural issues. Residents in rural parts of the county face real distances to services, and digital access gaps mean that a digital-first communication strategy alone will not reach everyone. The plan addresses this explicitly — not by choosing between digital and in-person, but by building both.

Area / Strategy	Current Condition	Opportunity
Communication	Fragmented and inconsistent across departments	Centralized, coordinated strategy with two-way capability
Civic engagement	Low participation; limited input opportunities	Expanded forums, listening sessions and commissioner convenings
Youth and workforce	Limited structured exposure to career pathways	Leadership Curry County and internship pipeline expansion
Service access	Hard to navigate; limited rural reach	Improved navigation via Community Resource Navigator and telehealth
Behavioral health	Provider shortages; long wait times; stigma	Mobile outreach, awareness campaigns and expanded partnerships

SECTION 3

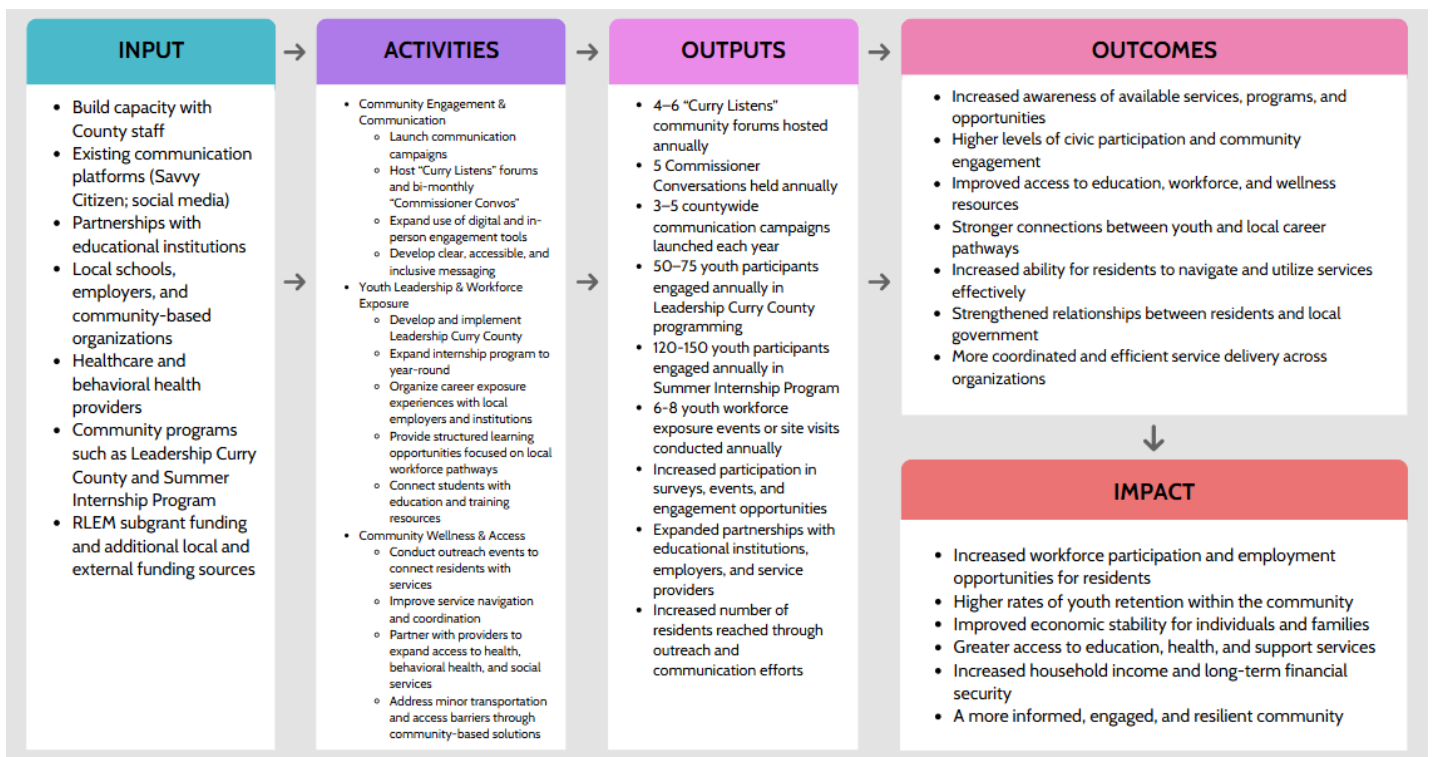
Mobility Pathway — How three connected strategies create a system residents can actually use

Curry County’s three strategies are not parallel programs running independently — they are a system. Communication and engagement is the foundation: residents cannot access services they do not know about, cannot participate in processes they cannot find and cannot make decisions about their futures without reliable information. Youth leadership and workforce exposure is what happens when that foundation works: young people who are informed and engaged see career possibilities locally and choose to pursue them. Community wellness and access is what makes participation sustainable: residents who are struggling with behavioral health challenges, transportation barriers or service navigation difficulties cannot fully engage in the workforce or civic life no matter how good the communication is.

Fix all three together, and the system functions. Fix only one, and the others underperform.

	Inputs	Activities	Outputs (Short-Term)	Outcomes (1–3 Yrs)	Long-Term Impact
Strategy 1 Communication & Engagement	RLEM subgrant (deployed); Savvy Citizen platform; NACo Tech Exchange PIO Reservist; county departments; community organizations	Unified communication strategy; Savvy Citizen expansion with two-way capability; quarterly ‘Commissioner Convos’; ‘Curry Listens’ forums; targeted outreach to underserved populations	4–6 community forums annually; 3–5 Commissioner Convos per year; 3+ countywide communication campaigns launched; expanded Savvy Citizen adoption	Increased awareness of county services; higher participation in civic processes; improved resident satisfaction and trust in local government	Curry County recognized for transparent, accessible governance; residents routinely informed and engaged; communication infrastructure sustaining all county programs
Strategy 2 Youth Leadership & Workforce	Leadership Curry County program; Summer Enrichment Internship Program; ENMU and Clovis Community College; Cannon AFB partners; local employers	Leadership Curry County design and expansion; paid internship and job-shadow programs; apprenticeship pathway development; school career exploration partnerships; annual youth summit	50–75 youth engaged annually in Leadership Curry County; 120–150 internship slots restored and expanded; employer partnerships formalized; annual youth summit launched	Higher post-secondary enrollment or workforce placement among participants; reduced youth outmigration; employer pipeline shortages decreasing	Curry County retaining a higher share of its graduates; youth choosing local careers; workforce pipeline serving county and regional employer needs
Strategy 3 Community Wellness & Access	Regional behavioral health system; Curry County	Mobile behavioral health and wellness outreach;	Community Resource Navigator operational;	Increased behavioral health service utilization;	Curry County residents able to access behavioral

	Health Council; healthcare providers; schools; senior services; nonprofits; Medicaid and state behavioral health funds	Community Resource Navigator hired; telehealth expansion; stigma reduction campaigns; service navigation improvements; wellness events	mobile outreach active; telehealth options expanded; service fairs held; navigation system launched	reduced crisis-related emergency room visits; improved self-reported health outcomes; more residents connected to services	health and wellness support without geographic or awareness barriers; health outcomes improving across vulnerable populations
--	--	--	---	--	---



SECTION 4

Strategic Actions & Implementation — Three strategies, one connected system

Curry County’s Mobility Action Plan is already in motion. The RLEM subgrant funded the launch of Savvy Citizen and a Public Information Officer Reservist in Year 1 — giving the county a communication infrastructure it previously lacked. The three strategies below build on that foundation, scaling what works and adding the youth and wellness components that complete the system.

STRATEGY 1

Community Engagement & Communication

The first barrier to economic mobility in Curry County is not a lack of programs, but rather a lack of awareness that the programs exist. Residents have told the county directly: they struggle to find clear, timely information; they are unsure how to participate in decisions that affect them; they do not feel heard. This strategy fixes the foundation.

The centerpiece is a unified county communication strategy that coordinates outreach across all departments through a shared approach, consistent branding and common platforms. Savvy Citizen, already launched with RLEM subgrant funding, serves as the primary real-time information hub, and is being upgraded to two-way capability, allowing residents to report issues and ask questions directly through the app. Quarterly ‘Commissioner Convos’ and countywide ‘Curry Listens’ forums create in-person touchpoints for populations who engage best face-to-face. Targeted campaigns reach populations (older adults, Spanish-speaking residents, rural households) who have historically been harder to reach through a single-channel approach.



Lead	Community Services Administrator + Public Information Officer
Key Partners	County departments, community-based organizations, schools, media outlets, elected officials
Timeline	Year 1: Savvy Citizen full rollout, branding strategy, first Commissioner Convos and Curry Listens forums → Year 2: Enhanced two-way communication, expanded campaigns → Year 3+: Data-driven refinement
Key Milestones	Unified communication strategy adopted; Savvy Citizen two-way capability launched; first four Curry Listens forums held; communications dashboard operational
Measurable Outcomes	Savvy Citizen adoption rate increasing year-over-year; 30–40 percent increase in community engagement participation; improved resident satisfaction scores; service utilization rates tracked
Budget	\$300,000–\$350,000 (includes full-time PIO hire, editing equipment, Savvy Citizen subscription and outreach/advertising costs)
RLEM Subgrant Use	PIO Reservist contract through NACo Tech Exchange; Savvy Citizen platform launch; community awareness and adoption campaign; staff training in communication strategy and economic development basics

STRATEGY 2 Youth Leadership & Workforce Exposure

Curry County is losing its young people. Not because they want to leave — but because many of them do not see a future here that connects to the careers they want. The Summer Enrichment Internship Program grew from roughly 40 students in 2021 to over 100 in 2024 before a budget shortfall forced cuts in 2025. That enrollment trajectory is not evidence of a failing program. It is evidence of suppressed demand. When structured career exposure exists, youth participate.

Strategy 2 restores and expands that momentum. Leadership Curry County will be formalized as a countywide program connecting youth to local employers, higher education institutions and career pathways across sectors including public safety, healthcare, infrastructure and agriculture. The Summer Enrichment Internship Program will be fully funded and expanded to include work-based learning internships and paid job-shadow experiences at county departments, private employers and Cannon Air Force Base partners. Apprenticeship pathways in public safety, infrastructure and behavioral health support will be developed to create multi-year career ladders, not just one-summer experiences.

Lead	Human Resources Department + Community Services Administrator + Youth Services Coordinator
Key Partners	Clovis Municipal Schools, ENMU, Clovis Community College, local employers, Cannon AFB, nonprofits, elected officials
Timeline	Year 1: Leadership Curry County design and launch, Summer Enrichment Internship Program fully funded and expanded, employer recruitment → Year 2: Apprenticeship pathways developed, annual youth summit launched → Year 3–5: Scale-up and institutionalization
Key Milestones	Leadership Curry County program launched; internship slots restored to 100+ and expanded toward 120–150; first employer cohort committed; apprenticeship frameworks developed with at least two sectors
Measurable Outcomes	Youth enrollment in leadership and internship programs; employer participation metrics; post-secondary enrollment or job placement rates for program completers; youth outmigration tracked annually
Budget	\$700,000–\$900,000 (includes part-time or full-time Youth Services Coordinator, program staffing, participant stipends, materials and annual youth summit; designed to be no-cost to participants)
Support Needed	Employer commitments to host placements; transportation support for youth participation; program mentors and facilitators; federal apprenticeship funding

When asked what do you hope to do after high school, a student intern stated “Go to college for physical therapy, radiology, or a dental hygienist and have a stable job to help support my family.” – Student participant in Summer Enrichment Internship Program

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurstead Mobile Crisis Team - serves youth in both counties • Multi-Systemic Therapy (12 yrs+) • Social workers in county schools • Numerous outpatient offices • Substance use prevention services in Curry County • Regional collaboration • Teen Court • Trust Mentor Network 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce (behavioral health, law enforcement, etc.) • Grant funding limitations do not allow youth treatment
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTC for youth • Peer supports in emergency room • Treatment foster care homes • Anger management/SUD treatment • Youth Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) • MOUD for youth • Youth treatment court • Reentry programs in JDC's • Expand educational programs for job skills, GED, higher ed, etc. • Build youth recreational centers 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth housing instability • Transportation barriers for youth to access services • Lack of juvenile detention facilities • No re-integration centers nearby • No teen pregnancy resources/services • No homeless shelter/community center • Parents of youth are also involved in the justice system • Lack of juvenile in-patient beds

Youth

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurstead Mobile Crisis Team & Drop In Centers • Both County Detention Centers offer re-entry and other programs to inmates • Horizon Behavioral Health Center - CTC (12 chairs) • Numerous outpatient offices • Limited but existing faith-based rehab programs • IOP • MAT treatment in ADC's • CCC/ENMU Social Work and RN Programs • Treatment Court • Pre-trial services 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce (behavioral health, law enforcement, etc.) • Funding • Service coordination/limited wraparound services
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer supports in emergency room • Opportunity to increase awareness of services • LE training opportunities • Diversion program to re-direct individuals with severe BH/SUD issues to treatment vs incarceration • Restorative Justice Programs • Employment incentives for employers who hire individuals with criminal record • Community Navigation Specialist • Economic mobility programs 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Transportation • No homeless shelter/community center • Long waiting lists for BH providers • Need more bilingual service providers • No re-integration centers nearby • No prenatal/perinatal SUD treatment options • Limited postpartum depression supports & screening • No Methadone clinic • No detox facility • No transitional housing

Adults

STRATEGY 3 Community Wellness & Access

Curry County’s behavioral health landscape has real strengths: the Nurstead Mobile Crisis Team, the Horizon Behavioral Health Center (under development), numerous outpatient offices, a Treatment Court and prevention programming through Clovis Community College and ENMU. But the community’s own SWOT analysis is honest about what is missing. Wait times for behavioral health providers are long. Transportation is a barrier. Stigma discourages service-seeking. Rural residents face geographic access challenges that a clinic-based model alone cannot solve. And the workforce shortage in behavioral health — providers, law enforcement professionals, support staff — limits the system’s overall capacity.

This strategy does not try to rebuild the behavioral health system. It addresses the gaps between what exists and who can reach it. A Community Resource Navigator will serve as the connective tissue — a dedicated role that helps residents understand what is available, navigate enrollment and follow through on referrals. Mobile outreach extends the system’s reach beyond clinic walls. Telehealth expansion addresses geographic access. Stigma reduction campaigns are designed to increase service-seeking before crises occur. And community wellness events create low-barrier entry points for residents who would not otherwise engage with formal services.

Lead	Regional Behavioral Health Administrator + Community Services Administrator + Health & Wellness Program Manager
Key Partners	Healthcare providers, Curry County Health Council, schools, senior services, faith-based organizations, nonprofits, elected officials
Timeline	Year 1: Community Resource Navigator hired; mobile outreach expansion and communication campaign launched → Year 2: Telehealth integration, service network expansion → Year 3+: Long-term evaluation and system strengthening
Key Milestones	Community Resource Navigator hired and operational; mobile outreach expanded; telehealth access increased; first wellness event series held; interagency coordination committee active
Measurable Outcomes	Behavioral health service utilization rates; reduction in crisis-related emergency room visits; improved self-reported mental and physical health outcomes; number of residents reached through outreach and navigation
Budget	\$250,000–\$300,000 (includes full-time Community Resource Navigator, resource tracking system, outreach materials, hotel/housing vouchers and staff training)
Support Needed	Provider recruitment and retention support; data-sharing agreements across health, education and workforce systems; continued communications and outreach capacity

Use of RLEM Subgrant Funds

The \$50,000 NACo Rural Leaders for Economic Mobility subgrant was used to build the communication infrastructure that this entire plan depends on. Specifically:

- Public Information Officer Reservist through the NACo Tech Exchange — contracted to provide specialized technical expertise to modernize county communication systems and support digital engagement strategy development
- Savvy Citizen platform launch — implemented as a centralized tool for distributing real-time updates, service information and alerts across multiple communication channels
- Community outreach and awareness campaign — funded promotion of Savvy Citizen to increase adoption, encourage downloads and ensure residents knew how to access county information in real time
- Staff training — covered effective communication strategies and economic development basics, building internal capacity for sustained implementation

SECTION 5

Governance & Partnerships — Who leads, how decisions are made and how partners are coordinated

Curry County’s Mobility Action Plan is governed through a tiered structure that balances strategic accountability with operational flexibility. The Board of Curry County Commissioners provides overall governance — monitoring progress, aligning implementation with county priorities, maintaining key partnerships and ensuring responsible use of funds. Day-to-day implementation is distributed across designated strategy leads, each responsible for their strategy’s execution, partner coordination and progress reporting.

Decisions are made at the appropriate level: strategic direction and major funding decisions through the Commission; operational and program design decisions by strategy leads in coordination with their partner networks; and community-informed direction through public engagement, stakeholder feedback and ongoing data review. This tiered approach ensures accountability while keeping implementation practical.

Role	Lead	Responsibilities
Overall Governance	Curry County Board of Commissioners	Strategic direction, funding oversight, public accountability, MAP progress monitoring
Day-to-Day Coordination	Kristian Price, Community Services Administrator	Cross-strategy coordination, partner alignment, implementation tracking, capstone reporting
Strategy 1 Lead	Community Services Administrator + Public Information Officer	Communication strategy, Savvy Citizen, Commissioner Convos, community listening sessions
Strategy 2 Lead	HR Director + Community Services Administrator + Youth Services Coordinator	Leadership Curry County, Summer Enrichment Internship Program, apprenticeship development
Strategy 3 Lead	Regional Behavioral Health Administrator + Community Services Administrator	Mobile outreach, Community Resource Navigator, telehealth, wellness events
Community Accountability	Interagency wellness committee + Commissioner feedback sessions	Community-informed course corrections; public progress reporting

Key Leader Profiles

Seth Martin has served as County Commissioner since 2017, when he was appointed by former New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez. He was subsequently re-elected in 2018 to complete the unexpired term, and again in 2020 and 2024. He is a fourth-generation farmer with deep family roots in Curry County dating back to 1906. He has served as the Subcommittee Vice Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee for the 2023-2024 term. In this leadership role, he helped advance legislation and policy priorities supporting agriculture and rural development.

Kristian Price has served Curry County since 2019 and held her current role as Community Services Administrator since 2023. During her time with Curry County, she has worked closely with various

departments and organizations to strengthen and expand services for residents. She led the county’s NACo Tech Exchange partnership and the initial launch of Savvy Citizen in 2026. Her experience coordinating cross-department initiatives and building community partnerships will continue to support innovative and effective service delivery for Curry County residents.

Key Partner Organizations

Organization	Role in the Plan
Clovis Municipal Schools + CTE Programs	Career exploration, school-to-work connections, youth pipeline for Strategy 2
Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU)	Higher education partner for workforce pathways, apprenticeship alignment and youth programming
Clovis Community College	Workforce training, credential programs and career services
Cannon Air Force Base	Employer partner for youth internships and workforce exposure programming
Curry County Health Council	Behavioral health coordination and community wellness planning
New Mexico Dept. of Workforce Solutions	Workforce funding, apprenticeship support and labor market alignment
New Mexico Health Care Authority	Behavioral health funding, Medicaid coordination and system support
Community-based organizations and nonprofits	Outreach, trusted messenger networks and service delivery

SECTION 6

Sustainability & Funding Strategy — How the work continues beyond the initial grant period

Curry County’s sustainability strategy is built around one core principle: programs that demonstrate community buy-in and measurable outcomes will earn continued county investment. That is not an aspirational statement — it is a policy. The county has made clear that continued local support depends on demonstrable results, which is why the plan’s emphasis on outcome tracking is not just a reporting requirement. It is the mechanism for sustainability.

Long-term sustainability depends on three things: diversified funding that does not rely on any single source; institutional embedding of MAP strategies into county operations so they survive leadership transitions; and formalizing the cross-sector partnerships that currently depend on individual relationships into documented agreements.

Funding Source	Target Use	Status
RLEM / NACo Foundation (\$50,000)	PIO Reservist, Savvy Citizen launch, outreach, staff training	Deployed
County general fund	Core staffing, communications infrastructure, program administration	Partially established; annual budget alignment ongoing
WIOA (federal workforce)	Youth workforce exposure, apprenticeship programs, training delivery	Active federal program
SAMHSA + HRSA (federal health)	Behavioral health outreach, Community Resource Navigator, wellness programs	To be pursued
AmeriCorps + federal service programs	Youth leadership and community engagement support	To be pursued
State behavioral health funds	Mobile outreach, provider partnerships, service delivery	Partially secured through existing allocations
State education and workforce grants	Leadership Curry County, CTE alignment, apprenticeship incentives	To be pursued
Employer sponsorships	Youth internship and apprenticeship co-investment	In development
Philanthropic partnerships	Pilot programs, barrier removal, gap funding for wellness initiatives	To be developed

Policy Foundations for Long-Term Success

- Institutionalization of MAP governance structures within county operations to ensure continuity across leadership changes
- Workforce development policies that formally support apprenticeships, internships and youth employment pipelines

- Data-sharing agreements across health, education and workforce systems to enable coordinated service delivery
- Communication and engagement standards that ensure ongoing use of unified platforms such as Savvy Citizen
- Cross-sector partnership agreements (MOUs) formalizing collaboration and accountability across key organizations

Requests to External Partners

Priority Area	Specific Request
Workforce and youth	Federal apprenticeship funding and WIOA alignment for Summer Enrichment Internship Program expansion and Leadership Curry County
Behavioral health workforce	Provider recruitment support and technical assistance for expanding behavioral health capacity in rural parts of the county
Data and evaluation	Data-sharing agreements across health, education and workforce systems; technical assistance for outcomes tracking
Communications infrastructure	Digital engagement tools, trusted messenger network support and marketing technical assistance for Savvy Citizen expansion
Employer engagement	Commitments from healthcare, public safety, infrastructure and agricultural employers to host interns and apprentices

SECTION 7

For More Information — Key contacts for funding, partnerships and implementation

Curry County welcomes continued collaboration with employers, educational institutions, philanthropic organizations, workforce agencies, state and federal partners and private-sector organizations interested in supporting long-term economic mobility. The following contacts and organizations support planning, implementation and sustainability of the Curry County Mobility Action Plan.

Organization / Contact	Role	Contact Info
Lance A. Pyle County Manager Curry County, N.M.	Overall governance, strategic oversight and MAP accountability	lpyle@currycountynm.gov 575.763.6016
Kristian Price Community Services Administrator Curry County, N.M.	Day-to-day MAP coordination, Strategy 1 and cross-strategy alignment	kprice@currycountynm.gov 575.763.6016 ext. 132
Clovis Municipal Schools CTE Programs	Youth career pathways and school-to-work connections	www.clovis-schools.org
Clovis Community College Workforce & Career Services	Workforce training, credentials and career development	www.clovis.edu
Eastern New Mexico University	Higher education workforce alignment and youth programming	www.enmu.edu
New Mexico Dept. of Workforce Solutions	Workforce funding, apprenticeship support, labor programs	www.dws.state.nm.us
New Mexico Health Care Authority	Behavioral health funding and Medicaid coordination	www.hca.nm.gov

Residents and stakeholders are encouraged to engage through the following ongoing channels:

- Community Listening Sessions ('Curry Listens' forums) — quarterly, rotating locations
- Commissioner Convos — bi-monthly open forums with county commissioners
- Savvy Citizen app — real-time county updates and (coming soon) two-way resident communication
- County public meetings and Commission sessions
- Youth Leadership Programs and partner organization community forums

For more information about specific partnership or funding opportunities, contact Kristian Price at kprice@currycountynm.gov.

ABOUT RURAL LEADERS FOR ECONOMIC MOBILITY (RLEM)

Rural Leaders for Economic Mobility (RLEM) was a 22-month peer-learning initiative that supported rural county leaders in advancing equitable economic mobility. The initiative brought together leaders from 10 rural counties to strengthen local systems that expand opportunity for residents, particularly in communities facing persistent workforce, education and infrastructure challenges. NACo continues to share RLEM experiences with rural counties across the United States.

Mobility Action Plans

The central outcome of the RLEM initiative is the development of a Mobility Action Plan (MAP) in each participating county. These locally informed roadmaps help counties move from learning to action by identifying priority economic mobility challenges, target populations and practical short- and long-term implementation strategies.