



---

# PRESS RELEASE

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Albuquerque, NM, April 2026**

## **NM EDGE AND NEW MEXICO COUNTIES ANNOUNCE EXPANDED PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT JAIL SPECIALIST TRAINING**

NM EDGE (Education Designed to Generate Excellence in the public sector), a program of the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service, is proud to announce an expanded partnership with New Mexico Counties (NMC) to strengthen professional development pathways for detention professionals across the state. This collaboration enhances the long-standing educational relationship between NM EDGE and NMC, which began with the early development of County College to support county officials and employees. **The new initiative formally recognizes Local Gov U online courses as approved equivalencies for the NM EDGE Jail Specialist Certification**, making it easier than ever for detention staff statewide to access high-quality, flexible training.

### **A Streamlined Pathway to Jail Specialist Certification**

Through this partnership, Local Gov U coursework can now be applied toward completion of several NM EDGE Jail Specialist classes. This allows counties—large and small—to provide consistent, accessible training to detention officers, supervisors, and facility administrators, regardless of geographic or resource limitations.

Local Gov U classes accepted as NM EDGE equivalencies cover critical topics such as:

- Daily facility operations
- Basic investigations
- Use of force
- Crisis intervention
- Institutional safety management
- Special populations
- Inmate classification
- Emergency planning
- Inmate rights
- Sexual misconduct prevention
- Technical writing for detention professionals
- Juvenile and youthful offenders
- Effective supervision

This alignment strengthens New Mexico's commitment to professional excellence and safer, more effective detention environments.

### **Advancing Better Government Through Education**

“NM EDGE has always focused on creating *Better Government Through Education*, and this partnership represents a major step forward in supporting New Mexico's detention professionals,” said Christy Green, Program Director of NM EDGE. “By working closely with New Mexico Counties, we are increasing access to high-quality training and helping counties meet their growing workforce development needs.”

### **About the Partnership**

Through the expanded partnership:

- Counties can offer more flexible online learning options.
- Staff can complete required training faster and more cost-effectively.
- Local Gov U coursework is now aligned with NM EDGE certification standards.
- The pathway to earning the NM Certified Jail Specialist (NMCJS) designation is clearer and more accessible than ever.

### **For More Information**

For questions about how to apply Local Gov U courses toward NM EDGE certifications, please contact: Christy Green at [cgreen18@nmsu.edu](mailto:cgreen18@nmsu.edu) or 505-224-4058.

### **About NM EDGE**

NM EDGE is a nationally recognized professional development program housed within New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service. The program's mission is to strengthen the knowledge and skills of public servants through education, ultimately supporting better government throughout the state.

To learn more about NM EDGE certification opportunities, visit <https://nmedge.nmsu.edu>