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***The Eastern Plains Council of Governments Receives
National Association of Development Organizations 2023 Impact Award***

Washington, DC, November 20, 2023 – The Eastern Plains Council of Governments based Clovis, NM has received a 2023 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Eastern Plains Mental Health Program project.

This project is a collaborative project with the United Way of Eastern New Mexico (UWENM) and the Eastern New Mexico Consortium to target the mental health needs and opioid or drug use mitigation. The consortium is a public-private partnership with local school districts, institutes of higher learning, local governments, detention centers, mental health providers, and rural/regional hospitals. With this program, we gather data concerning substance use disorders (SUDs), create a pipeline project for students to enter the mental health profession, create internships for mental health student placement in rural schools, provide funding to local hospitals and detention centers for discharge coordinators, and provide technical support for existing and emerging mental health related assets.

NADO is a Washington, DC-based membership association of regional development organizations that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The Impact Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and their partners for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation’s regions and local communities.

Award-winning projects were recognized during NADO’s 2023 Annual Training Conference held in Cleveland, Ohio on November 7-10. The 2023 class of award recipients consists of 107 projects from 71 organizations spanning 28 states. These projects are presented in an interactive story map developed by NADO that includes project summaries, partners, and images. The map is available online at nado.org/2023-impact-award-recipients.

“NADO’s Impact Awards program provides a yearly opportunity for us to publicly commend the indispensable services delivered by our members to their local communities,” said 2022-2023 NADO President Chris Fetzer, executive director of the Northern Arizona Council of Governments, located in Flagstaff, AZ. “These projects not only made positive impacts in their respective regions, but also underscore the incredible diversity of programs and resources offered by regional development organizations that promote vibrant, resilient, and thriving communities.”

The NADO Impact Awards are presented in honor of the late Aliceann Wohlbruck who served as NADO’s first executive director for 24 years as a tireless champion for regional approaches to economic development in rural communities.

For more information about this award-winning project, contact Deputy Director Vincent M. Soule at (575) 762-7714 or vsoule@epcog.org.

About NADO

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) promotes public policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through the regional strategies, coordination efforts, and program expertise of the nation's regional development organizations. Learn more about NADO at www.nado.org.

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