

Current United States-Mexico Border Programs*



United States Department of Agriculture

U.S.-Mexico Cooperative Agreement – The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration and Mexico's Secretaria de Agricultura, Ganaderia, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentacion (SAGARPA) and Secretaria de Salud signed a cooperative agreement in September 2001 to enhance existing food safety measures through expanding programs, sharing information and coordinating specific activities. The agreement will operate to share information on the sources of fresh produce and to investigate the causes of any contamination of these products. The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service and Foreign Agriculture Service and SAGARPA will take steps to ensure the safety of meat, poultry and egg products in both countries. These efforts are expected to ensure that borders remain open and that safe products continue to flow freely between the countries.

For more information see:

Fact Sheet: HHS in 2001: A Year of Achievements,
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2001pres/20011231.html>

U.S.-Mexico Consultative Committee – The purview of the Consultative Committee, which is co-chaired by USDA and USTR and the Mexico ministers of agriculture and economic development, encompasses such critical trade issues as market access, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and information exchange in areas such as biotechnology and animal and plant health. The Consultative Committee includes a “rapid response” team, intended to help the two countries deal with trade issues as they first emerge. It establishes a comprehensive early warning and consultation process to enable addressing problems quickly, before they become trade disruptions.

For more information see:

News Release: Secretary Veneman and Ambassador Zoellick Announce Formation of US-Mexico Consultative Committee on Agriculture,
<http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2002/04/0131.htm>

United States Department of Commerce

Climate Research – Climate Diagnostics Center – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – NOAA's Climate Diagnostics Center (CDC) is conducting research on the monitoring and prediction of climate variability in Arizona associated with El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and long-term changes in Pacific Ocean sea surface temperatures. Droughts associated with La Niña, in particular the great Southwest drought of the mid-1940s to mid-1950s, and increased flood risks associated with El Niño are among a range of climate/weather issues facing Arizona. In 2002, activities will focus on understanding the impact of climatic variability in the U.S./Mexico Border Region. Collaborating institutions include the Desert Laboratory of the University of Arizona and the U.S. Geological Survey in Tucson.

For more information see:

NOAA Research in Arizona, http://www.oarhq.noaa.gov/congress/state_funding/arizona.htm

United States Department of Education

Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education – Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) – The Program is a grant competition run cooperatively by the governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. It fosters student exchange within the context of multilateral curricular development. Students benefit from having an added "North American" curriculum and cultural dimension to their studies through combination of trilateral curricular innovation and study abroad. The Program is administrated collectively by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), U.S. Department of Education; Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC); and in Mexico by the Dirección de Desarrollo Universitario, Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP). Conceived in the spirit of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the first grant competition for this Program was held in 1995 followed by competitions in 1996, 1997, 2000, and 2001.

For more information see:

FIPSE Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education website,
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/FIPSE/northam/index.html>

FIPSE Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education: Information and Application Materials, <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/FIPSE/northam/applicationpackage.doc>

United States Environmental Protection Agency

U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Program (2002) – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Mexico's Secretariat for Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), and other federal, state, and U.S. tribal agencies are discussing a proposed organizational structure and set of environmental and human health priorities for a regionally-focused border program. The program would create a small number of regional workgroups and an overall coordinating mechanism for the entire border.

In each regional workgroup, local, state, tribal, and federal governmental officials would join with community members, businesses, environmental organizations, academic experts, and other stakeholders to develop a plan for solving the most significant environmental and environmental health problems in that region.

EPA expects that a draft border plan will be provided to border communities and other stakeholders for review during the summer of 2002.

For more information see:

New U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Program (2002)
<http://www.epa.gov/r6border/2002/index.htm>

United States Department of Energy

The Bi-National Sustainability Laboratory – The goal of the Bi-National Sustainability Laboratory initiative is to foster long-term, sustainable economic development on both sides of the US-Mexico border. The Laboratory will achieve this goal by helping to create new small and medium-sized enterprises, and to strengthen existing ones, resulting in increased numbers of higher paying jobs. The Laboratory will form product-oriented teams that incorporate the technical, business, marketing and financial expertise necessary to increase the success rate of new product implementation-helping industry cross the developmental "valley of death". This is a long-term economic development objective that will require years to fully achieve. The resulting increased household income will allow border communities to have the wealth necessary for infrastructure development leading to improved quality of life.

For more information see:

The Bi-National Sustainability Laboratory, <http://www.sandia.gov/ACG/BNSL/>

United States Department of Health and Human Services

Border Health Program - Health Resources and Services Administration - HRSA's Border Health Program was created in 1996 to coordinate agency activities in the U.S.-Mexico border region and enlist the help of other public and private sector partners. HRSA directed an estimated \$83 million in funds to the immediate border area in FY 2001, providing residents greater access to core HRSA-funded services: primary health care at Community and Migrant Health Centers, maternal and child health care services, HIV/AIDS care, and programs to train and place health professionals.

HRSA funds support 27 health centers in the border area: 12 in Texas, eight in Arizona, four in California and three in New Mexico. Health centers not only tend to the health of residents, they often are an economic base in small, rural communities; along the border, health centers sustain thousands of jobs for local residents. Staff is overwhelmingly Hispanic, reflecting health centers' commitment to community-based, culturally competent health care. Special emphasis is placed on cultural sensitivity to ensure that health care services reflect the language, values, traditions and customs of the patients.

For more information see:

Fact Sheet: HRSA's Border Health Program,
<http://newsroom.hrsa.gov/factsheets/borderhealth2001.htm>

Fact Sheet: HHS in 2001: A Year of Achievements,
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2001pres/20011231.html>

U.S.-Mexico Border Diabetes Prevention and Control Project – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – In response to the growing numbers of people on both sides of the U.S. and Mexico border who have diabetes, the CDC, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), and other U.S. and Mexican health agencies have created the

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Collaborative U.S.-Mexico Border Diabetes Prevention and Control Project. The Project involves four United States and six Mexican states along the border. State-based diabetes control programs are collaborating with the Mexican states and the Mexico Department of Health Ministry to devise and implement strategies to reduce the burden of diabetes among people who live along the border.

For more information see:

Diabetes Projects: US/Mexico Border Diabetes Prevention and Control Project,
<http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/projects/border.htm>

Press Release: CDC, PAHO create cross-border initiative to address U.S./Mexico diabetes epidemic, <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r010221a.htm>

Community Disparities Program – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – The purpose of this program is to reduce disparities by increasing access and delivery of culturally appropriate substance abuse prevention, treatment and mental health services to racial and ethnic minority populations. Right now, this program includes five grants targeting: Latina women in the U.S. Mexico Border region; Native American female adolescents; Asian American women; Vietnamese survivors of "re-education" camps; and Latina female adolescents. All of these programs have been designed to provide culturally relevant, gender-specific, and age appropriate mental health and substance abuse services.

For more information see:

Statement by Elaine Parry, Acting Deputy Director, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration on SAMHSA's Role in Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health before the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, April 12, 2002, <http://www.hhs.gov/asl/testify/t020412e.html>

National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) – As part of a joint effort by the CDC, the FDA, and the USDA, NARMS scientists monitor both human and animal bacterial resistance to a panel of antimicrobials selected for their importance in human and animal medicine. Data provided through NARMS can help support new treatment guidelines, determine the effects of drug usage practices and intervention strategies, and shape national policy regarding the use of antimicrobials in animals. The high volume of international travel and food imports has intensified the risk of infectious agents and resistant pathogens crossing national borders. In a cooperative agreement with scientists in Mexico, the FDA is sharing its experience with NARMS to help establish a similar monitoring system in Mexico. This system will yield information that may one day be part of an international database, allowing comparison of trends among countries, enhanced food safety activities, improved detection of epidemics, and earlier responses to emerging pathogens on an international scale.

For more information see:

The Battle of the Bugs: Fighting Antibiotic Resistance,
http://www.fda.gov/fdac/features/2002/402_bugs.html

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Colonias Gateway Initiative – The Initiative is designed to enhance the capacity of organizations working in the U.S.-Mexico border region to develop affordable housing and infrastructure and to foster economic opportunity in the colonias. The Initiative’s role would be as a catalyst, helping businesses, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments to make sustainable, long-term investments in the quality of life for colonias residents, investments that would continue after the Initiative’s funding ends. Under the bill, the Secretary of HUD would make grants to regional organizations that have the ability to enhance the availability of affordable housing, economic opportunity, and infrastructure in the colonias. Colonias are rural communities and neighborhoods located within 150 miles of the U.S.-Mexican border that lack adequate infrastructure and frequently also lack other basic services.

For more information see:

Memorandum – HUD’s Draft Bill Establishing a Colonias Gateway Initiative

United States Department of the Interior

Monitoring Plan To Support The Assessment Of Water-Quality Status And Trends, Rio Grande, Big Bend National Park, Texas - Water quality in the Rio Grande is an international issue. Many different federal agencies in both the U.S. and Mexico are working on this issue, as well as many non-governmental agencies. Seven species of native fish have been extirpated, and one is currently endangered. It is likely that several freshwater mussel species have also become locally extinct.

For more information see:

Program of the USGS in Texas, <http://tx.usgs.gov/project.asp?cc=4648&ac=19300>

U.S.-Mexico Border Aerial Photography Initiative – DOI is working to develop coordinated responses to numerous environmental and resource issues in the border region. Federal, state, and local organizations require up-to date geospatial data on both sides of the border to develop effective and appropriate strategies for addressing these issues.

The U.S.-Mexico Border Aerial Photography Initiative introduces increased opportunities for cooperative activities between Federal, state, and local organizations to support digital mapping and geographic information systems (GIS) applications along the international border brought about by the ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

For more information see:

An Invitation to Participate in the U.S.-Mexico Border Aerial Photography Initiative, <http://www.cerc.usgs.gov/fcc/issue%20teams/aphotoini.html>

United States Department of Justice

Border Coordination Initiative – The Border Coordination Initiative is a comprehensive, coordinated border management strategy between the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) , the US Customs Service, the US. Coast Guard and the Department of Agriculture to increase cooperation among federal agencies on the Southwest border to more efficiently interdict drugs, illegal aliens and other contraband.

For more information see:

The Border Coordination Initiative,
<http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/lawenfor/bmgmt/inspect/bciint.htm>

Border Safety Initiative – The Border Safety Initiative is an aggressive effort to reduce injuries and deaths along the southwest border. The initiative is designed to increase public awareness of the dangers of crossing the border illegally, particularly in the hands of unscrupulous smugglers. Extremes in temperature can result in dehydration and heat exhaustion or hypothermia. In the summer, the heat is so intense that it can leave a person dehydrated and disoriented in a matter of hours. Winter in the mountains brings driving rain, crippling snow and brutal cold. The canals and rivers along the border appear deceptively calm, but the currents are very strong. Smugglers often lead migrants into dangerous terrain and abandon them without the essentials needed to survive the elements. In addition to raising public awareness of dangers along the border, the U.S. Border Patrol is increasing rescue efforts and training its agents in life saving techniques. 1-800 numbers established along the southwest border provide family members a way to report or inquire about missing persons suspected of crossing in dangerous areas.

What is the Border Safety Initiative,
<http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/howdoi/misperson.htm#bsi>

Southwest Border Initiative – The Southwest Border Initiative is intended to counter drug activity by identifying, penetrating, disrupting, and dismantling the major Mexican and Colombian based drug trafficking organizations using the border to smuggle illegal drugs into the United States. The strategy is to attack major Mexican based trafficking organizations on both sides of the border simultaneously, employing enhanced intelligence and enforcement initiatives, and cooperative efforts with the Government of Mexico.

For more information see:
Southwest Border Initiative,
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/programs/sbi.htm>

DEA Congressional Testimony, Statement by Donnie R. Marshall, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration – Before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime – March 29, 2001
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/cngrtest/ct032901.htm>

United States Department of State

Partnership for Prosperity – On March 22, the White House released the text of the Action Plan for the U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity, which outlines a number of steps that the two countries can pursue in order to increase economic and labor opportunities in less developed areas of Mexico. The action plan was issued at the conclusion of the March 18-22 United Nations Conference on Financing for Development, which took place in Monterrey, Mexico.

The action plan includes projects to facilitate investment in small business, housing, agriculture, roads, ports, airports, and information technology. The action plan calls on the Partnership for Prosperity to hold itself accountable for producing results. Accordingly, the Partnership will continue and oversee the implementation of the action plan. In six months, the Partnership will report its progress. Drawing on President Bush's Management Reform Agenda, the Partnership will rate itself using a traffic light system of red, yellow, and green lights.

For more information see:

Action Plan on U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity,
<http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/global/develop/02032204.htm>

Fact Sheet: U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity,
<http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/fs/8919.htm>

Development of Smart Border – Plan to modernize border, bolster security, and facilitate legal trade and human transit.

In the 2003 Budget, the President has proposed approximately \$11 billion for increased border security, including \$380 million for the Immigration and Naturalization Service to construct a state of the art Entry-Exit system. This represents an increase of \$2.2 billion from the 2002 Budget for border security. This additional funding will allow border agencies to begin implementing a seamless air, land, and sea border that protects the United States against foreign threats while moving legitimate goods and people into and out of the country.

For more information see:

Smart Border: 22 Point Agreement – U.S.-Mexico Border Partnership Action Plan,
<http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/fs/8909.htm>

Specific Measures that comprise Joint Action Plan with Mexico
<http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/fs/8910.htm>

Border Security in the 2003 Budget, <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/fs/8911.htm>

North American Development Bank (NADBank) – Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) Reform – Due to the urgent environmental infrastructure needs in the U.S.-Mexico border region, Presidents Bush and Fox directed a binational working group to hold a series of discussions with states, communities, and other stakeholders in the border region to

develop recommendations designed to strengthen the performance of the NADBank and the BECC. The key recommendations for improvement are as follows:

The geographic scope for BECC/NADBank operations in Mexico should be expanded from 100 km to 300 km from the border. The geographic limit in the United States would remain at 100-km from the border. NADBank should expand its ability to extend concessional financing by doubling its Low Interest Rate Lending Facility and increasing its capacity to provide grants out of its own resources. To improve functional coordination and operational efficiency between BECC and NADBank, the two boards of directors should be replaced by a single board to oversee both institutions. A more concerted effort should be made to certify and finance private sector environmental projects.

The United States and Mexico established the BECC and the NADBank in 1993 to help develop and finance environmental infrastructure projects within 100 km of either side of the U.S.-Mexico border. The BECC works with the border states and local communities to develop and certify projects, and the NADBank arranges financing for these projects.

For more information see:

North American Development Bank (NADBank) – Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) Reform, <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/fs/8920.htm>

"Statement by John B. Taylor, Under Secretary of Treasury for International Affairs Before the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, Narcotics and Terrorism of the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate," <http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/po2095.htm?IMAGE.X=0&IMAGE.Y=0>

North American Development Bank (NADB) FY2001 Appropriation & FY 2002 Request, http://www.treas.gov/offices/international-affairs/intl/fy2002/tab10_nadb.pdf?IMAGE.x=0&IMAGE.y=0

United States Department of Transportation

National Corridor Planning & Development Program Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program (CORBOR Program) – The National Corridor Planning and Development Program (NCPD program) and the Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program (CBI program) are discretionary grant programs funded by a single funding source. These programs provide funding for planning, project development, construction and operation of projects that serve border regions near Mexico and Canada and high priority corridors throughout the United States. States and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) are, under the NCPD program, eligible for discretionary grants for: Corridor feasibility; corridor planning; multistate coordination; environmental review; and construction. Border States and MPOs are, under the CBI program, eligible for discretionary grants for: Transportation and safety infrastructure improvements, operation and regulatory improvements, and coordination and safety inspection improvements in a border region.

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For more information see:

National Corridor Planning & Development Program Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program (CORBOR Program), <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/HEP10/corbor/index.html>

Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program,
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/HEP10/corbor/t1119.html>

Border Infrastructure Program, <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/borders.htm>

FACT SHEET: Requirements and Procedures for Border Infrastructure Program,
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/bordmemo.htm#fact%20sheet>

Disclaimer: This information was gathered from federal agency websites as of July 2002 and may not reflect current agency activities.