



New Mexico

Rural Housing Service • 504 Rehabilitation Program

“Mi Chante” —Lenora’s Story

“I inherited this land from my father and I’ve always wanted to live here,” said Lenora Romero as she showed off her garden. She’s talking about the small homestead that she inherited from her father many years ago.

Located in the mountains about 12 miles north of Mountainair, New Mexico, Ms. Romero named her home “Mi Chante” which is slang Spanish for “my small house”.

And, the name fits this home very well because the house is small, --in fact it only covers 780 square feet. It has a loft bedroom and the main room on the ground floor is a combination kitchen, --dining room –and living room. Off of the main room you find two other small rooms which are a closet and an unfinished bathroom. The house needed a septic tank so the bathroom can be completed, it also needed other work done on it. This is where USDA Rural Development’s housing program stepped in.

Ms. Romero qualified for a \$7,500 grant and another \$7,499 loan to fix up the house. The first thing the money bought was the installation of a septic tank.

Ms. Romero says, “Now that the bathroom will be completed, I won’t have to take a bath outside in an old tub or use the outhouse. This is especially comforting because winter is upon us.”

Also, the funding will pay for some cabinetry and other improvements to the kitchen area such as installing a new sink and water lines.

Click here to listen to a voice message Lenora Romero made thanking Eric Vigil (Assistant to the State Director) for directing her on how to get the funds she needed to fix her home.



Lenora Romero stands in front of her newly remodeled home located in the Manzano Mountains north of Mountainair, NM.

Obligation Amount: \$7,499 Loan and \$7,500 Grant

Date of Obligation: August 29, 2017

Congressional District: Lujan-Grisham, District 1; Senators Udall and Heinrich

Partners: None

Demographics: 33.8% of the residents in this community live below the poverty level in 2015

Impact: This project allows Ms. Romero to have indoor plumbing so she won’t have to take a bath outside in a metal tub and won’t have to use an outhouse.