

UNM JOINT HSC+Main Limited Competition Announcement

Dear UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research and the Office of Community Engagement are requesting project descriptions for the **APLU Public Impact Research (PIR) Award**. This award is intended to recognize a university that has implemented one or more impactful Public Impact Research (PIR) efforts that have produced exceptional outcomes. The program must have been active within the last five years to be considered. Eligible PIR initiatives may be coordinated, multi-year, multi-project efforts or they may be individual projects, so long as they are focused on community/public impact. (Note: If an individual project is nominated, it will be important to communicate the potential replicability and scalability of the project in other contexts.) As [APLU defined it in 2019](#), PIR is any research that benefits the public. For example, this may include developing new medications, addressing environmental challenges impacting a local community, or examining disparities in education access and economic development to inform policy. PIR is a broad and inclusive term that encompasses multi-disciplinary research, community-engaged research, research grand challenges, research-practice partnerships, participatory research, translational and use-inspired research, coproduction, and other approaches.

As this is an institutional-level award, the UNM Office of Community Engagement (OCE) will be drafting the nomination on UNM's behalf with input from the Office of the Vice President for Research. OCE Director Tim Castillo, along with Vice Presidents for Research Drs. Ellen Fisher and Hengameh Raissy, will select which projects to highlight. The nomination may end up focusing on a single, exemplary project or a constellation of projects that contribute to a shared public impact. If you would like your project or program to be considered for the nomination, please submit a 1-page description.

Sponsor: Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU)

Opportunity Title: Public Impact Research (PIR) Award

Sponsor Due Date: 6/26/2026

Award Range: There is no funding associated with this award

Number of Submissions Allowed from UNM: One (1) nomination

Solicitation: [APLU Public Impact Research Award](#)

Project Description Due Date: **NOON on April 21, 2026**

Instructions: Submit your 1-page project description in UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). No late submissions will be considered. *The same submission process will be used for Main Campus and HSC.*

The 1-page project description must address the program objectives, the coalition of stakeholders involved, methodology, and impact of the initiative with sufficient information to assess the award criteria: Connection to public need; leveraged resources; evidence of impact; and sustainability.

In addition, the Office of Community Engagement is interested in expanding their [impact map](#). If you would like your community-engaged work represented on the map, please fill out their brief survey [HERE](#).

Should you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact limited@unm.edu or HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu. If you have questions about the impact map or other community engagement initiatives, please email engagement@unm.edu.