

NEW MEXICO OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION



OUTDOOR RECREATION TRAILS+ GRANT

FY27 PROGRAM GUIDE

July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027



OVERVIEW

MISSION: To increase equitable access to the outdoors for all New Mexicans, ensuring healthy outcomes, environmental stewardship, and economic prosperity.

Established in 2019 by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, the **Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD)** of Economic Development New Mexico was created to increase equitable access to the outdoors for all New Mexicans.

The **Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant**, launched in 2020, supports nature-based outdoor recreation infrastructure that expands access, strengthens local economies, improves community health, and helps preserve New Mexico's natural and cultural resources.

Since its launch, the Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant has awarded \$39.8 million to 282 projects across 29 counties and 11 Tribal communities.

This guide covers everything you need to apply for FY27 funding including eligibility, funding priorities, and how to connect with the ORD team.

What makes a strong project?

Strong projects support nature-based outdoor recreation infrastructure, demonstrate clear community benefit, and show readiness to move forward.

Past project highlights include:

- Multi-mobility trails and ADA-accessible visitor infrastructure
- Partnerships connecting local youth to paid trail restoration work
- A Tribal-led destination recreation center with guided cultural experiences
- Construction of a surfable wave through adaptive river infrastructure
- Restoration of more than 600 miles of wildfire-damaged trails
- Active transportation paths that connect communities to schools



NEW MEXICO
OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
NEW MEXICO

WHAT'S NEW FOR FY27?



\$12 million available for Trails+ Grant



**One funding round this fiscal year:
July 1 – September 30, 2026**



**All awarded organizations must host an ORD site visit
upon project completion**



**New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division must be
acknowledged on project signage when applicable**



NEW MEXICO
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GRANT OVERVIEW

Projects must support nature-based outdoor recreation infrastructure

TIMELINE

- **July 1:** Applications open
- **July 15 at 5:30 PM MT** Info and Q&A webinar: bit.ly/3PnER5E
- **August 27 at 12:00 PM MT** Info and Q&A webinar: bit.ly/4datOWF
- **September 30 at 5:00 PM MT:** Applications close
- Applicants will be notified within two months of the deadline
- Funds will be disbursed in full upon execution of grant agreement and submission of all required documents and invoice.
- **Incomplete or incorrect W-9 forms will delay payment**

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations
- Municipalities and Counties
- Nonprofit organizations (Tier 1 & Tier 2 only)
- Public schools and school districts
- Public colleges and universities
- Soil and water conservation districts
- Acequia and land grant associations

FUNDING TIERS

Tier 1 (Local Projects): \$25,000 – \$99,999

Tier 2 (Regional Projects): \$100,000 – \$499,999

Tier 3 (Regional Projects): \$500,000 – \$1,000,000

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

- Urban applicants: 1:1 match (100%)
- Rural and Tribal applicants: 1:2 match (50% e.g., \$30,000 request = \$15,000 match)



GRANT REQUIREMENTS

ALL AWARDED PROJECTS MUST

- Begin within 3 months of award notification
- Be completed within 24 months
- Include a written quote for subcontracts over \$20,000 with the application
- Submit one progress report and one final report
- Provide expenditure reporting with each report
- Host an in-person site visit during the grant cycle
- Acknowledge ORD logo on signage when applicable

TIER 2 PROJECTS

- Includes a presentation to the review committee
- Must demonstrate regional collaboration
- Strong multi-partner involvement expected

TIER 3 PROJECTS

- Same as Tier 2
- Nonprofits are not eligible
- Applicants should demonstrate significant capacity and regional impact



WHAT CAN BE FUNDED

ELIGIBLE

- Design, engineering, and planning
- Maintenance and upgrades to existing infrastructure
- Trails, trailheads, access points, active transportation routes (paved and unpaved)
- River and water access infrastructure
- Snow sport infrastructure
- Signage and wayfinding
- Outdoor classrooms and learning spaces
- Adaptive outdoor recreation
- Conservation and restoration
- Pump tracks, skate parks, bike parks
- Visitor facilities (trailhead bathrooms, parking infrastructure, shelters and picnic areas, outdoor amphitheaters, campgrounds, yurts)
- Outdoor fitness parks
- Wildlife viewing areas
- Rock climbing
- Off-road motorized trails and infrastructure

Additional allowances:

- Equipment (up to 30% of request, project-specific)
- Administrative costs (up to 10%)
- Billed labor

INELIGIBLE

- Land acquisition
- Indoor or traditional sports facilities (e.g., soccer fields, baseball fields, pickle ball courts)
- Golf courses, pools, playgrounds, or water parks
- Landscaping-only or beautification-only projects
- Infrastructure owned by for-profit entities (excluding Tribal entities)
- Infrastructure not accessible to the public (excluding Tribal entities)



APPLICATION EVALUATION

Applications are scored across five areas:

- Recreational value
- Contribution to equitable outdoor access
- Environmental and cultural impact
- Economic benefit
- Community support (letters of support, resolutions, MOUs, partnerships)

Projects with multiple, strong partnerships and clearly defined roles are prioritized.

How are awardees selected?

- A review committee will individually score applications
- Tier 2 and 3 applicants present projects to the review committee
- Review committee submits final funding recommendations

Definitions:

Nonprofit: An organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization.

Outdoor Recreation: Activities that take place outdoors in natural or nature-based settings and have a meaningful connection to the natural world, exclusive of organized team or stick and ball sports.

Rural Applicant: Located in any area of New Mexico 10-miles or more outside of Albuquerque, Farmington, Las Cruces, Los Alamos, Rio Rancho, Roswell, Santa Fe

Tribal Applicant: Tribes, Pueblos, Nations, Tribal schools, and Native-led nonprofit organizations that specifically serve Indigenous youth.

Urban Applicant: Located within a 10-mile radius around Albuquerque, Farmington, Las Cruces, Los Alamos, Rio Rancho, Roswell, Santa Fe.

Application Tips:

- Be concise, responses have word limits
- Double-check budget, match, and totals for accuracy
- Follow all application instructions carefully
- Submit early to avoid technical issues
- Save your work frequently (autosave is not guaranteed)
- Use the collaboration feature to work across teams
- Ensure the submitting account is the primary contact
- Schedule a one-on-one meeting with the Program Manager at <https://bit.ly/trailsplus1on1>

OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

This grant invests in infrastructure projects that enhance access to outdoor recreation opportunities

Examples include, but are not limited to:



Adaptive outdoor recreation of all types



Hunting, fishing, archery



Water activities: canoeing, kayaking, rafting, stand-up paddle boarding



Snow activities: snowboarding, skiing, snowshoeing



Nature enjoyment: birdwatching, nature walks, plant identification, nature journaling



Hiking, backpacking, trail running



Camping: tent, RV, yurts, etc.



Off-road motorized activities: UTV, ATV, off-road motorcycles, etc.



Bicycling: road, mountain, gravel, bikepacking



Other: Skateboarding, ballooning, rock climbing, disc golf, equestrian recreation, conservation

For examples of past projects visit www.nmoutside.com/grant-recipients



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many applications can I submit?

One application per entity per fiscal year (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027).

Can I apply for another Trails+ Grant before completing my current project?

Yes, but you must have completed significant progress, submitted a progress report, and demonstrate capacity.

Can I apply for both a Trails+ Grant and the Outdoor Equity Fund?

Yes, we encourage applicants to consider both infrastructure projects and youth programming as long as they can demonstrate capacity.

When will I hear back on a decision?

Within two months of the application deadline.

When are funds distributed?

Funds are awarded in full upfront after contract execution, invoice submission, and required documentation. **Incomplete or incorrect W-9 forms will delay payment.**

Can projects be phased?

Yes. Applicants may apply for different phases over time.

What makes a Tier 2 or Tier 3 project competitive?

Demonstrated regional impact, strong partnerships, and organizational capacity.

What qualifies for matching funds?

The match component can be any combination of cash or in-kind contributions, including volunteer hours (billed at the current federal rate), prior site work, land purchase, permitting costs, professional staff services, staff training and certifications, annual maintenance, donated equipment, services, or materials. Other state and federal funds may also count toward the match.



APPLY AT: NMOUTSIDE.SUBMITTABLE.COM

APPLICATIONS OPEN
JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS



NEW MEXICO
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Schedule a one-on-one meeting:
<https://bit.ly/trailsplus1on1>