
NEW MEXICO OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION

A child in a blue jacket is climbing a large, dark rock formation. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright starburst effect between two rock pillars. The scene is set outdoors during sunset or sunrise.

**OUTDOOR EQUITY
FUND**

2021 Program Guide

INTRODUCTION

The Outdoor Recreation Division works to ensure that all New Mexicans gain from the public health, environmental, and economic benefits of sustainable outdoor recreation.

Access to the outdoors is a basic human right – yet it’s one that has often been denied to many of our youth. As a result, our underrepresented kids haven’t had the chance to experience some of the best of New Mexico: Its outside world.

The Outdoor Equity Fund was created to allow all youth equitable access to the outdoors. The grant supports transformative outdoor experiences that foster stewardship and respect for New Mexico’s lands, waters, and cultural heritage.

In 2020, the Outdoor Equity Fund opened to applications for the first time, awarding over \$270,000 to 25 applicants across New Mexico. This year, it will continue to invest in transformative outdoor experiences that get low-income kids, 18 and younger, outside.

This program guide is intended as a tool for applicants to the 2021 Outdoor Equity Fund grant. It breaks down specific requirements and provides examples for success, as well as contact info for ORD.



GRANT OVERVIEW

General Eligibility Requirements

- **Eligible Applicants:** Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations; Municipalities; Counties; Nonprofits; K-12 schools/districts; **Colleges/Universities**
- **Recreation Access:** Applicant must have a well-developed, written plan to engage low-income youth in nature-based outdoor recreation activities.
- **Participants:** Serve a population where at least 40% are low-income youth up to age 18.
- **Education:** Applicant must include some type of education plan on the climate and environment.

FY22 Grant Cycle

May 3 - June 30, 2021

Deadline

Wednesday, June 30, 2021 by 5 PM MST

Award Range

\$1,500 - \$20,000

Match Requirement

1:1 match required; in-kind and/or cash accepted.

Contract and Reporting Requirements

- Program must be completed within 18 months of the signed contract date.
- Grant money will be awarded at the time of the contract signing.
- Applicant must submit (1) progress report halfway through the grant period and (1) final report after the completion of the program.
- Applicant must submit photos and be willing to participate in marketing and promotional efforts.
- Grants will be split between tribal, rural, acequia/land grant, and urban communities.

ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

What type of programming can you apply for?

ELIGIBLE

- Services (recreational and educational);
- Materials (equipment and supplies);
- Transportation;
- Administrative costs;
- Miscellaneous (insurance, food, etc).

Examples

- Insurance fees to cover program liability;
- Meals for participants;
- Bus fare;
- Equipment rentals or gear purchases;
- Ski or other access tickets.

INELIGIBLE

- Programs without significant exposure to outdoor, nature-based environments;
- Traditional organized youth sports played on developed fields (i.e soccer, football, etc);
- Out-of-state travel.

Examples

- Summer camps providing only organized sports opportunities;
- Equipment-only projects (i.e. applications with no programming element).



ELIGIBLE OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

How we define outdoor recreation: Any activity that takes place outside, in a natural environment.

Examples of activities include, but are not limited to:



Adaptive outdoor recreation of all types



Trail activities: hiking, backpacking, trail running, horseback riding, hunting etc.



Camping: tent, RV, yurts, etc.



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



Nature enjoyment: wildlife viewing, wildlife photography, birdwatching, nature walks, plant identification, etc.



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



Bicycling: road, mountain, gravel, bikepacking, etc.



Snow activities: snowboarding, all skiing types, snowshoeing, etc.

Past Outdoor Equity Fund Awardees



National Indian Youth Leadership Project (NIYLP)



Mountain Kids!



Global Opportunities Unlimited

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS

Meet three past Outdoor Equity Fund awardees

Applicant: Mil Abrazos Community Land Trust

Award: \$6,000

Description: The Enduring Acequia program will educate and train a new generation of parciantes, commissioners, and Mayordomos on the importance of maintaining, upgrading, efficiently managing and cherishing the Vado de Juan Paiz acequia. The program aims to reacquaint modern children with the Acequia, which is essential to maintaining fertility for food production in the area.



Applicant: Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance

Award: \$14,543

Description: The Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance (HPWA) works to lay the groundwork for a sustained, long-lasting revitalization effort of the Gallinas river and the land that constitutes the Gallinas Watershed and the cultural heritage of Las Vegas and surrounding areas. The youth outdoor recreation program provides transformative outdoor experiences that will foster querencia.



Applicant: The Albuquerque Sign Language Academy (ASLA)

Award: \$10,000

Description: ASLA promotes inclusiveness by providing outdoor ed to students, from kindergarten through age 22, many of whom are Deaf, hard of hearing, and/or special needs. Through outdoor classrooms and its Honey Badger Conservation Crew, ASLA teaches math, science, and English through a foundation of conservation and public service.



Are privately owned businesses or state agencies eligible to apply?

No. Neither privately owned businesses / organizations nor state agencies are eligible to apply. Only the following entities are eligible: Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations; Municipalities; Counties; Nonprofits; K-12 schools/districts; Colleges/Universities.

Can my organization submit more than one application?

No. Only one submission per entity is allowed. We encourage you not to submit multiple applications from different partners for the same program (in an attempt to increase the odds of it being funded). In this case, submit one application for the program, and include letters of support from your partners.

Does the match requirement have to be cash?

No. The match component can be any combination of cash or in-kind (i.e. volunteer hours or donated equipment, services, or materials). Other grants (state and federal) can also be used as a match.

When can I expect to hear back about my application?

You will receive an email from the ORD team by mid-August informing you whether your program was awarded funding. BOTH those awarded and denied funding will receive an email.

How are OEF awardees selected?

1. A diverse external review committee will individually score applications. Applications with potential conflicts of interest to a reviewer will be reassigned to a different reviewer to be scored.
2. ORD staff will average scores from the external review committee.
3. An internal scoring meeting will be held to discuss each top scoring application and make final decisions on awardees.
4. Applicants will receive informal notification of award or formal notification of rejection.
5. Awardees will receive an official letter of the grant award. The public will be informed of final selection.

What are the requirements if I receive a grant?

Program must be completed within 18 months of the signed contract date. The applicant - adhering to a template created by ORD - must submit (1) progress report halfway through the grant period and (1) final report after the completion of the program. The applicant must submit photos and be willing to participate in marketing and promotional efforts.

APPLICATION TIPS

- For more information and to access the application, visit the [New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division website](#).
- Get a head start on the application by drafting answers in a Word doc. This will allow you to easily edit and review all answers before copying them into the application. **Watch the character limit**, noted under each question, in the application portal.
- Double-check the award amount and budget. **Once the application is submitted, it is final and cannot be revised.** The amounts entered will be final and if entered incorrectly, could render the program ineligible.
- Save your work in the online application frequently. Connection errors can lead to a loss of data that is not recoverable. **Do not rely on autosave.**
- Take advantage of the "Collaboration" option in the online application, which allows **organizations to select multiple users to work on a submission** together.
- Stay up to date on grant updates, webinars, and deadlines by [signing up for our newsletter](#).



APPLY NOW

Deadline: June 30, 2021 at 5PM (MST)

CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS

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The Outdoor Equity Fund is supported by a mix of state and private dollars. If you're interested in making a contribution to the future of New Mexico, please contact Axie Navas at alexandra.navas@state.nm.us