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From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)  
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: USDA: Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge, RPIC2021

Date: June 4, 2021

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making available up to \$3 million in cooperative agreements under the Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge (RPIC) for eligible entities to help them provide planning support, technical assistance and training to foster placemaking activities in rural communities. Qualified entities can use the funds to help rural communities create plans to enhance capacity for broadband access; preserve cultural and historic structures; and support the development of transportation, housing, and recreational spaces.

The maximum grant award is \$250,000 for up to two years. The application deadline is July 26, 2021. Details can be found at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/initiatives/rural-placemaking-innovation-challenge#faq>.

**Cost Share is required.** A minimum 15% match of the federal grant amount requested for the cooperative agreement award is required for all applications. Matching commitments may be made in cash by the applying organization, or a combination of cash and confirmed funding commitments with third-party in-kind contributions. This minimum match of at least 15% of the federal amount requested must be committed for a period of not less than the cooperative agreement performance period. Cost sharing/matching must be committed at the time of application submission.

Interested parties are encouraged to **attend a virtual workshop to learn more about this program on Thursday, June 24, 2021** <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6167023696195529742>.

**This is a limited competition; each institution is limited to one proposal.** Applicants may not submit more than one application. However, applicants may identify more than one community that will receive placemaking assistance in the application.

**Please submit a 3-page pre-proposal by NOON on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 to [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu) with the subject line indicating: RDPIC2021- your name.** The 3-page pre-proposal should briefly describe the proposed project, including a workplan and timeline, key personnel, expected partnerships, the targeted impact of the proposal and performance measures. The narrative must be accompanied by a **draft budget overview, including how the cost share requirement will be met, and an abbreviated CV for the PI (all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font or larger).**

No late submissions will be considered. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu).

*If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford ([CFord@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CFord@salud.unm.edu)) or Cassandra Misenar ([CMisenar@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CMisenar@salud.unm.edu)) for more information.*