



To: Distribution List

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

Subject: Limited Competition: USDA, Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge (RPIC2022)

Date: July 20, 2022

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making available up to \$4 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. The goal is to create greater social and cultural vitality in rural communities.

For the purpose of RPIC, rural placemaking is: (1) rooted in emphasizing partnerships and collaboration among multiple public, private, Tribal, philanthropic and community partners; (2) focused on combining federal, Tribal, state, and local resources to make wide-ranging quality-of-life impacts as opposed to separate, piecemeal, incremental improvements; and (3) based on placemaking processes to create quality places where people want to live, work, play and learn. Key elements of quality places may include a mix of uses; effective public spaces; broadband capability; transportation options; multiple housing options; disposition and rehabilitation of vacant structures; preservation of historic properties; and respect of community heritage, arts, culture, creativity, recreation, and green space.

The maximum grant award is \$250,000 for up to two years. The application deadline is **August 15, 2022**. Details can be found at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/initiatives/rural-placemaking-innovation-challenge>

**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 virtual office hours to learn more about this program on Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at Noon Mountain Time:**  
[https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_r\\_5mVX3gSf6mi-CaVKUnrw](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_r_5mVX3gSf6mi-CaVKUnrw).

**This is a limited competition; each institution is limited to ONE (1) proposal.** However, applicants may identify more than one community that will receive placemaking assistance in the application. We will be conducting a two-step internal competition to ensure we have a review committee in place by the preproposal deadline. **You must complete both steps if you are interested in participating.**

**STEP ONE:** Please submit your 200-word **statement of interest** by **NOON on Monday, July 25, 2022** via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). This is a required step and no late submissions will be considered.

**STEP TWO:** Please submit your 3-page preproposal (plus abbreviated budget and 2-page CV for all personnel; 11-point font) by **NOON on Wednesday, July 27, 2022** via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). The preproposal should clearly describe the proposed project, including a workplan and timeline, key personnel, expected partnerships, the targeted impact of the proposal, and performance measures. No late submissions will be considered.

You will receive an email when the InfoReady competition has been converted from the SOI application to the preproposal application, but you can work on your documents outside the system before that.

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 HSC Limited Competition at [HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu) for more information.*