
NEW MEXICO OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION

A photograph of a young boy sitting on a rock in a small waterfall. The boy is shirtless and wearing green shorts. The waterfall is surrounded by lush greenery and a large fallen log. The water is clear and blue.

OUTDOOR EQUITY FUND

2022 Program Guide

INTRODUCTION

The Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD) 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 (OEF) was created to ensure equitable access to the outdoors for all youth. The grant supports transformative outdoor experiences that foster stewardship and respect for New Mexico’s lands, waters, and cultural heritage.

Grant History:

- In 2020, OEF opened to applications for the first time, awarding over \$270,000 to 25 applicants across New Mexico.
- In 2021, ORD awarded almost \$900,000 to 57 applicants, who together are getting more than 22,000 young New Mexicans outside through 2022.

This program guide is intended as a tool for applicants to the 2022 Outdoor Equity Fund grant. It breaks down specific requirements and provides examples for success, as well as contact info for ORD staff.



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 2 - June 30, 2022

Deadline

Thursday, June 30, 2022 by 5 PM MT

Award Range

\$1,500 - \$20,000

Match Requirement

1:1 match for urban applicants required; 2:1 match for rural applicants required. In-kind and/or cash accepted. See the FAQ page of this guide for more information on match requirement (page 7).

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;
- Billed labor;
- 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)
- Infrastructure development;
- 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.

For examples of eligible programs, read about past grant recipients or watch the videos below of two OEF awardees.



Albuquerque Sign Language Academy (ASLA)



Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS

Meet a few 2022 Outdoor Equity Fund awardees

Awardee: Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks

Award: \$20,000

Location: Las Cruces

Description: The Moving Montañas initiative connects youth to the outdoors through guided hikes, summer camps, camping trips, and other educational enrichment activities. It aims to educate users about the impacts of a changing climate on the Chihuahuan desert and the actions they can take to help solve our climate crisis.



Awardee: Zuni Youth Enrichment Project (ZYEP)

Award: \$20,000

Location: Zuni Pueblo

Description: ZYEP recognizes the importance and impact of connecting Indigenous youth to culturally significant ancestral sites and how that can contribute promoting resilience in Zuni youth so that they grow into strong and healthy adults who are connected to their culture. The project will facilitate outdoor retreats that allow youth to visit ancestral sites from their migration story, while participating in outdoor recreational activities that are available at those sites.



Applicant: Global Opportunities Unlimited Inc.

Award: \$7,700

Location: Albuquerque

Description: Provides inclusive educational fishing and watershed education for disabled, disadvantaged, and low-income children, using adaptive technology to expand the availability of outdoor opportunities to people with disabilities. Participants will learn about aquatic ecosystems and the effects of climate change.



FAQS

How is "rural" defined for the match?

"Rural" is defined as any part of the state other than Los Alamos County, Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Farmington, Las Cruces, Roswell, Santa Fe, and a 10-mile radius around those cities.

Is the match requirement the same for urban and rural applicants?

No. There is a 1:1 match required from all urban applicants (see state definition above). For rural applicants, the match is 2:1. For example, if an applicant applies for \$20,000 in Outdoor Equity Fund funding, a \$10,000 match (in-kind and/or cash) would be required. If an urban applicant applies for \$20,000 in funding, a \$20,000 match would be required.

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 state grants (not federal) can also be used as a match. OEF is funded this year with federal dollars and therefore other federal dollars cannot be used as match.

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. Please do not 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.

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.

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](#).
- Be mindful of the listed word limit for each question. You will be prevented from submitting if any question is over this limit.
- Double-check the award amount, budget, and match to ensure they are accurate.
- Confirm the account the application is submitted from is the primary contact. ORD will send all grant updates to the account that submitted the application.
- 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. This allows organizations to select multiple users to work on a submission. This will appear in the top right-hand corner of the page after you log in to your account.
- To avoid technical difficulties, submit early. If you do run into technical issues with login, application, or submission, contact Submittable [here](#).
- Stay up to date on grant updates, webinars, and deadlines by [signing up for our newsletter](#).



APPLY NOW

Deadline: June 30, 2022 at 5PM MT

CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS

Axie Navas, Director

Outdoor Recreation Division

alexandra.navas@state.nm.us

www.NMOutside.com

Alyssa Renwick, Program Coordinator

Outdoor Recreation Division

alyssa.renwick2@state.nm.us

www.NMOutside.com

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



OUTDOOR EQUITY FUND