



## **Creative Support Organization Grant – Webinar Q&A Summary (Public Clarity Edition)**

### **1. What is the purpose of the Creative Support Organization Grant?**

The grant supports organizations with a demonstrated history of advancing New Mexico's creative economy. It funds groups that serve creative entrepreneurs, businesses, and workers through technical assistance, business incubation, workforce development, and creative ecosystem and network building. Awards are up to \$62,500 per organization, with 8–10 awards anticipated (subject to funding availability). At least 50% of awards will go to rural and underserved communities.

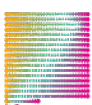
### **2. Who is eligible to apply?**

Eligible applicants include local governments, Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos; nonprofit and for-profit organizations; and entities operating within New Mexico that have at least three years of continuous operations or documented programming experience (from 2022 or earlier). Applicants must show a track record advancing one or more of the creative industry clusters listed in the 2024 Creative Industries Study (page 206).

### **3. What are the allowable uses of grant funds?**

Funds may be used for providing technical assistance to creative professionals, business incubation, creative workforce development, and ecosystem development. It can also cover venue and logistics costs, personnel costs for facilitators or instructors, technology, materials, photography, video, and marketing tied directly to program delivery.

*\*Technology expenses must be directly tied to program delivery and not used for capital equipment purchases.\**



**NEW MEXICO**

**CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DIVISION**

#### **4. What expenses are not allowed?**

The grant cannot be used for construction, infrastructure improvements, debt reduction, lobbying, scholarships, prizes, personal stipends, entertainment, or artistic creation not linked to creative industry or economic development.

*\*Entertainment refers to performance or event payments; venue costs for training or workshops are allowed.\**

Film-related activities, event sponsorships, or purely artistic projects are also ineligible.

#### **5. What are the reporting and compliance requirements?**

Awardees must complete a six-month progress check-in, submit a final report within 12 months of payment, and complete a post-grant survey. Reports must include quantitative data (number of businesses served, revenues, etc.) and qualitative outcomes (success stories, challenges, impacts).

#### **6. What is the grant timeline?**

The application opens September 29, 2025, and closes October 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM MT. Review occurs through November, with awards processed December–January. Funds are expected to be disbursed by February 2026, and all projects must conclude by February 2027.

#### **7. What are the application requirements?**

Applicants must include a completed and signed W-9 (no digital signatures), organization and contact details, a PNG logo, mission statement, description of programming, evidence of three years of creative industry work, and a detailed budget (4-page max). Timelines, milestones, accessibility, and inclusion plans are also required.

#### **8. What are the evaluation criteria?**

Applications are scored out of 200 points. The heaviest weights are on: (1) organizational track record and alignment with creative industries; (2) proposed use of funds; and (3) economic impact and evaluation metrics.



**NEW MEXICO**

**CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DIVISION**

## **9. What are examples of disqualified or misunderstood uses?**

Housing or startup funding for nonprofits, artist stipends for participation, film-related projects, event sponsorships, or equipment upgrades like theater Wi-Fi do not qualify.

*\*Artist stipends for participation are not allowed unless tied to a professional service such as teaching or leading a workshop.\**

Such requests should go to other programs like the Creative Industries Business Development & Expansion Grant, or other programs offered in State Government such as the New Mexico Housing Authority, New Mexico Arts, New Mexico Tourism Department, other New Mexico Economic Development Programs, etc.

## **10. Can new organizations apply if they have a longer project history but a newer entity date?**

Applicants must demonstrate at least three years of consistent programming, whether under their current entity or verifiable partnerships.

*\*CID may review such cases, but organizations under three years old are generally ineligible.\**

## **11. What about taxes and payments?**

For-profit and non-tax-exempt entities are responsible for applicable gross receipts taxes (GRT) and income reporting. A 1099 will be issued.

*\*Payment schedules may vary depending on project scope; all disbursements are advance payments, not reimbursements.\**

## **12. Where can I find the application and related materials?**

Applications and resources are available at [edd.newmexico.gov/creative](http://edd.newmexico.gov/creative). The Creative Industries Division also shares updates on Instagram (@NMCreativeDiv) and Facebook (NMCreativeIndustriesDivision). Flyers and recordings are linked through both social media and the CID newsletter.

## **13. Who can I contact for more questions?**



**NEW MEXICO**

**CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DIVISION**

For project-specific eligibility or application assistance, reach out through the contact form on the Creative Industries Division webpage. Staff can provide clarifications but will not pre-review or approve individual project ideas for fairness across applicants.



**NEW MEXICO**

**CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DIVISION**