



**NEW MEXICO**  
OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION

**Contact:** Michelle Simon  
[Michelle.Simon@edd.nm.gov](mailto:Michelle.Simon@edd.nm.gov)  
(505) 439-2320

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Cabinet Secretary Rob Black  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary Isaac Romero  
ORD Director Karina Armijo

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
October 1, 2025

**State awards \$2.2M to connect 22,000 youth with outdoor programs**  
*Outdoor Equity Fund grants 61 programs in 17 counties*

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Economic Development Department awarded \$2,178,029 through its Outdoor Equity Fund to 61 programs that will provide outdoor education and career training to more than 22,000 youth across the state, with a special emphasis on low-income families and Tribal communities.

The Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD) is funding programs that provide hands-on outdoor education for young people from low-income families, with 14 serving Tribal communities. Recipients will provide over \$1.7 million in matching funds, multiplying the impact. Forty of the awarded programs offer workforce development that connects youth directly to meaningful careers in New Mexico’s outdoors.

“It’s no surprise that the outdoor recreation industry is a significant economic driver in New Mexico,” said **EDD Cabinet Secretary Rob Black**. “Our state is exceptionally beautiful, and we want to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefits of outdoor activities and become our future environmental stewards, no matter their abilities or income level.”

A record-breaking 140 applications and \$4.9 million in funding requests were received in the first round of the FY26 Outdoor Equity Fund grant program.

Since 2020, ORD has awarded over \$8.6 million in Outdoor Equity Fund grants, connecting more than 106,000 youth from 23 counties to high-quality, educational outdoor programming.

“Thanks to the support of our legislators and the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, this year’s Outdoor Equity Fund awards will give more than 22,000 young people across New Mexico the chance to experience the outdoors in meaningful ways,” **ORD Director Karina Armijo** explained. “These programs strengthen communities and foster connections to the landscapes and cultures that make our state unique.”

From bike tech classes in rural school districts that will equip students with workforce skills, outdoor career training, and cultural reconnection programs for disabled Native youth, and outdoor access programs in urban communities that offer free gear rental and bilingual instruction for activities like fishing, gardening, and skateboarding, this round of awarded programs reflects the breadth of New Mexico’s diverse communities.

These programs remove barriers, giving all New Mexico youth the opportunity to experience the health benefits of outdoor activities and explore career pathways in recreation, conservation, and leadership. View the full list of recipients and project descriptions at [www.nmoutside.com/news](http://www.nmoutside.com/news).

## **FY26 Round 1 Outdoor Equity Fund Grant recipients include:**

### **Bernalillo County**

- Big Brothers Big Sisters, \$40,000
- CYCLE Kids, \$40,000
- Explora Science Center and Children's Museum of Albuquerque, \$40,000
- Hero's Path Palliative Care, \$40,000
- Nature Niños, \$40,000
- Revitalize San Pedro Partnership, \$40,000
- Robert F. Kennedy Charter School, \$30,000
- Siembra Leadership High School, \$40,000
- Stem is Childs Play Foundation, \$30,000
- Talking Talons Youth Leadership, \$40,000
- The Global Warming Express, \$40,000
- The Semilla Project, \$40,000

### **Colfax County**

- City of Raton Recreation Department, \$39,700

### **Doña Ana County**

- Doña Ana Village Association, \$40,000
- Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, \$40,000
- La Casa, Inc., \$12,073
- Nature Friends, \$7,342
- Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project, \$40,000
- Southern New Mexico Mountain Biking (SNMTB), \$40,000

### **Grant County**

- Earth Ways Inc, \$38,880
- Gila Resource Information Project, \$20,000
- Youth Mural Program (Gila Community Foundation), \$40,000

### **Guadalupe County**

- Anton Chico Schools, \$40,000

### **Hidalgo County**

- Bootheel Youth Association, \$40,000

### **Lea County**

- Future Innovators Academy, \$20,000

### **McKinley County**

- Hozho Academy, \$40,000
- Zuni Youth Enrichment Project, \$40,000

### **Otero County**

- Sugar Hill Pathways, Inc., \$40,000

### **Rio Arriba County**

- El Rito Public Library, \$27,000
- Future Focused Education, \$40,000
- Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, \$40,000
- Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project, \$40,000
- Tewa Women United, \$40,000
- Trout Unlimited, Inc., \$37,245

**San Juan County**

- Aztec Municipal School District, \$26,000
- Farmington Area Single Track, \$40,000
- Indigenous Futures 4EVER, \$40,000
- International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), \$25,000
- Tribal Adaptive Organization, \$40,000

**San Miguel County**

- River Source (Partners in Education Foundation), \$30,000
- Village of Pecos, \$40,000

**Sandoval County**

- Adaptive Sports Program New Mexico, \$32,153
- Earth's Birthday Project (DBA Celebrate Planet Earth), \$40,000
- Jemez Community Development Corporation, \$40,000
- NACA Inspired Schools Network (NISN), \$40,000
- Pueblo of Jemez, \$40,000

**Santa Fe County**

- Institute for Applied Ecology, \$28,500
- Monte Del Sol Charter School, \$40,000
- Mountain Kids NM, Inc., \$40,000
- National Audubon Society, \$39,821
- Partners in Education Foundation for the Santa Fe Public Schools, \$35,000
- Santa Fe Children's Museum, \$40,000
- Santa Fe Conservation Trust, \$18,000

**Sierra County**

- The Club, \$40,000

**Taos County**

- Field Institute of Taos, \$40,000
- Friends of Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, \$39,589
- Picuris Pueblo Diabetes Program, \$24,726
- Taos Land Trust, \$40,000
- Taos Pueblo Working on Wellness, \$25,000

**Valencia County**

- Kiksuyapi Collective, \$35,000
- Village of Los Lunas Open Space, \$37,000



The Club will build confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills in Sierra County youth through outdoor adventures.



*The City of Raton will use their OEF grant to revitalize their youth recreation program and build a gear library.*



SNMTB will continue afterschool mountain bike programs, community bike events, and bikepacking for Doña Ana youth.



*Trout Unlimited will continue its Indigenous and Hispanic Youth Fly Fishing Camp and guide mentorship program in Northern New Mexico.*

###

---

*EDD's mission is to improve the lives of New Mexico families by increasing economic opportunities and providing a place for businesses to thrive. EDD's programs contribute directly to this mission by funding workforce training and infrastructure that supports business growth, helping every community create a thriving economy.*

---

New Mexico Economic Development Department  
[EDD.NewMexico.gov](http://EDD.NewMexico.gov)



New Mexico Economic Development Department | 1100 South St. Francis Dr Joseph M. Montoya Building | Santa Fe, NM 87505-4147 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)