



NEW MEXICO

OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION

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State launches first-ever \$100,000 Outdoor Equity Fund grants for high-impact youth programs

Letters of interest open June 1–12 for expanded funding tier

SANTA FE — New Mexico is expanding its Outdoor Equity Fund with a new grant tier offering grants up to \$100,000 to organizations delivering large-scale outdoor programs for youth statewide.

The new Tier 2 category, offered through the state’s Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD), under the Economic Development Department of New Mexico (EDNM), is designed for organizations with the capacity to deliver large-scale programming, expand outdoor access, and deepen community impact for New Mexico youth.

“This new funding tier reflects the growing demand for outdoor programs across New Mexico and the incredible work organizations are already doing in communities statewide,” said **EDNM Secretary Rob Black**. “By increasing available funding, we can support programs reaching more youth with meaningful outdoor experiences that improve health, build confidence, strengthen communities, and create lasting connections to the outdoors.”

The FY27 Outdoor Equity Fund application cycle officially opens July 1 and closes July 30 at 5:00 p.m. Organizations seeking Tier 2 funding (\$41,001–\$100,000) must first **submit a letter of interest between June 1–12**. Those accepted will receive an invitation to apply.

A mandatory informational webinar for prospective applicants will be held on **Wednesday, May 27 at 12:00 p.m.** Register at bit.ly/oeftier2info. A recording will be provided for registered participants unable to attend live.

Tier 2 funding is intended for organizations with demonstrated capacity to deliver high-impact outdoor programming for youth. Competitive projects may include expanded geographic reach, multi-site programming, strong partnerships, workforce development opportunities, and measurable outcomes.

Tier 2 applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Have an annual operating budget of at least \$500,000
- Provide matching funds: 50% for urban applicants and 25% for rural and Tribal applicants, reflecting the program’s commitment to equitable access
- Complete programming within 24 months
- Demonstrate robust program evaluation and outcome measurement practices

The New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division and the Outdoor Equity Fund were established in 2019 by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to ensure all New Mexico youth, regardless of income, background, or location, have access to meaningful outdoor experiences. Since launch, the Outdoor Equity Fund has awarded \$10.5 million, connecting more than 128,000 youth across 28 counties and Tribal communities to outdoor experiences throughout New Mexico.

Visit nmoutside.com/outdoor-equity-fund to review the grant guide, register for webinars, and apply.



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

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