

Targeted Federal Match Solicitation

Track 1: A rolling opportunity to bring federal funding into New Mexico projects

At a Glance

What this is	An always-open (rolling) solicitation that uses Research, Development and Deployment (RD&D) Fund grants to match or otherwise leverage funding from priority federal programs into New Mexico projects.
Instrument	Grants only.
Who can apply	A New Mexico public entity, or a business registered to do business in New Mexico (or that commits to register before any funds are disbursed).
Minimum RD&D Fund grant	\$1,000,000 per award.
Minimum non-State funding	\$1,000,000 per project.
How it works	Apply or otherwise pursue non-State funding; TIO runs a light eligibility and RD&D-fit screen; TIO issues a commitment letter you attach to your application or other proposal; TIO reserves the funds and disburses them only if you win the outside award or funding.
Deadlines	None. Applications are accepted and decided on a rolling, first-come, first-served basis for as long as funding remains available.
Target turnaround	Within 20 working days of a complete application. TIO offers an expedited option in the case of documented exigent circumstances.

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1. Purpose and Background

New Mexico's Research, Development and Deployment (RD&D) Fund exists to catalyze innovation, economic growth, and job creation by providing capital and financial support to emerging technologies, start-up businesses, and research initiatives that align with the state's economic development goals.¹ The Technology and Innovation Office (TIO) of the Economic Development Department administers the Fund.²

This Match & Leverage Solicitation (Track 1) is the Fund's first solicitation. It is deliberately scoped to move quickly. Rather than running a full state-level merit competition, it uses RD&D Fund grants as a match or other leverage to bring federal funding from priority programs into New Mexico projects. The State applies a light eligibility and fit screen and relies on the funder's own review to carry out the merit determination. This lets TIO commit resources at the speed of business while advancing the statutory purposes of the Fund.

2. What This Solicitation Funds

Under this solicitation, TIO awards a grant from the RD&D Fund that serves as the matching or leveraging contribution an applicant needs to compete for and win an award from an outside funder. The RD&D Fund grant is reserved when TIO issues a commitment letter and is disbursed only when the applicant wins the underlying award.

Eligible projects span the four statutory target sectors³ and include the State's existing science and technology (S&T) growth opportunity areas (quantum systems and applications, advanced energy technologies, and space, aerospace, and defense systems), its emerging S&T growth opportunity areas (biosciences innovation and the nexus of agricultural, water, and ecosystem technologies), and other sectors TIO determines are strategic and important for statewide economic development. Projects at any point along the research, development, and deployment continuum are eligible; this solicitation does not restrict funding to research activities alone.⁴

3. Track 1 and Future Solicitations

This is the Track 1 solicitation, focused on priority federal programs. TIO plans to publish a separate Track 2 solicitation that broadens eligibility to projects seeking other relevant non-State public, philanthropic, or private funding, and expects to publish future solicitations that make funding available through other financial instruments and/or are focused on specific sectors. Those will be announced separately.

4. Who Can Apply (Eligibility)

To be eligible for a grant under this solicitation, all the following must be true.

a. Eligible applicant

The applicant is either a New Mexico public entity (a political subdivision of the state, a state agency, or a national laboratory or public post-secondary institution in New Mexico), or a business registered to do business in New Mexico.⁵ A business that is not yet registered may apply if it commits to register before any RD&D Fund money is disbursed.

¹ NMSA 1978 § 6-31A-3(A) (2025).

² § 6-31A-4(A).

³ The statutory target sectors are "aerospace and space[;] biosciences[;] clean energy and water[;] advanced computing, which includes artificial intelligence, quantum computing and cybersecurity[;] and other sectors that are strategic and important for statewide economic development." § 6-31A-2(J).

⁴ § 6-31A-4(C)(2).

⁵ § 6-31A-5(A)(1).

National laboratories and public post-secondary institutions are eligible applicants and may lead a project. Because the Fund's purpose is commercialization and economic growth that benefit New Mexico, TIO encourages industry-led applications and will weigh the commercialization and in-state economic impact of every project (see § 8). Lab- and university-led applications are evaluated on the same eligibility and fit basis as any other; an application from a public research institution, or from a coalition led by a public research institution, is not alone a basis for denial.⁶

b. Eligible project: the two-of-six test

The project must be reasonably expected to do **two or more** of the following in New Mexico:

- ☐ advance innovation in at least one target sector;
- ☐ foster collaboration between at least two of: private industry, a national laboratory, a federal agency, or a public entity;
- ☐ leverage federal or private investment;
- ☐ create new economic opportunities;
- ☐ create new jobs and workforce-training opportunities; or
- ☐ advance the commercialization of a technology in at least one target sector.⁷

c. A qualifying outside opportunity

The applicant must be applying to one of the priority federal programs published on TIO's website, and that program must either require match or cost-share, or reward match or other committed capital in its evaluation of a proposed project.

Where the program requires a match or cost-share, the applicant shall submit the funder's solicitation language stating that requirement. Where the program rewards (but does not require) match or other leverage, the applicant instead provides a short justification explaining how RD&D Fund support improves the project's likelihood of winning the award.⁸

5. Eligible Federal Programs

Track 1 is anchored to a defined list of priority federal programs in New Mexico's target lanes, published and maintained on TIO's website at <https://www.edd.newmexico.gov/divisions-and-offices/tio/targeted-federal-match/>, which is incorporated into this solicitation by reference. The list favors competitive RD&D programs with near-term deadlines and a strong New Mexico fit. TIO maintains it as a living document; programs may be added at TIO's discretion, including but not limited to those at an applicant's or other external party's suggestion.

6. How Match and Leverage Work

This solicitation does not impose a State matching formula. Instead, TIO mirrors the outside funder's own cost-share or match rules and sets no separate State caps or minimums on the match beyond the minimums stated below.

a. Programs that require a match or cost-share

TIO matches according to the funder's rules. The RD&D Fund grant supplies the matching or cost-share contribution (or the portion the applicant requests), subject to the minimums below.

⁶ § 6-31A-4(C)(1).

⁷ § 6-31A-5(A)(2).

⁸ This reflects the documented-need pathway and the justification-in-lieu provision, § 6-31A-5(A)(5) and § 6-31A-5(B); this solicitation imposes no separate State applicant-match requirement, so § 6-31A-5(A)(4) does not apply.

b. Programs that reward a match (whether or not a match is required)

For opportunities where additional match or committed capital improves an applicant's competitiveness, TIO sizes any grant by judging the extent to which State support increases the project's likelihood of winning the award. The amount is finalized in negotiation with the applicant after the applicant states the amount requested (see § c).

c. RD&D Fund and non-State funding minimums

Every RD&D Fund grant under this solicitation is at least \$1,000,000, and the minimum non-State funding for any eligible project is also \$1,000,000 (i.e., the minimum total project cost is \$2,000,000, and at least \$1,000,000 must be provided by each of the RD&D Fund and the outside funder).

d. Disclosure of other matching funds

Applicants must disclose all other matching or leveraging funds they have applied for or received for the project, including but not limited to New Mexico's separate Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) federal-match fund.

7. How to Apply

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with no deadline. Submit the items below through TIO's online application portal at <https://nmedd-tio.submittable.com/submit/360889/targeted-federal-match>. The required contents track the statute's eligibility and application requirements⁹ and are kept deliberately lean:

1. Applicant and project identification: legal name, New Mexico registration status (or commitment to register), primary contact, target sector(s), and a brief project description.
2. Project impacts: a description, based in evidence, of how the project is reasonably expected to accomplish two or more of the RD&D Fund's statutory goals.¹⁰
3. The outside opportunity: the priority federal program you are applying for, the application or award deadline, and the amount of RD&D Fund support you are requesting.
4. Match or leverage basis: either the funder's solicitation language showing that a match or cost-share is required or rewarded, or, where none exists, your short justification under § c.
5. A project budget showing proposed and anticipated funding from State and non-State sources.
6. One or more letters of support or commitment of resources to the project.
7. If the applicant is a public entity, at least one partnership agreement with a partner not under the applicant's control.
8. A timeline for when and how RD&D funds would be expended, and a timeline for the availability of non-State funds and any applicant match.
9. If any in-kind contribution is counted, the methodology used to value it.
10. The disclosure of other matching funds required by § d.

a. Expedited review

If a funder's deadline or another time-sensitive circumstance requires a faster decision, an applicant may request expedited review by submitting documentation justifying the exigent

⁹ NMSA 1978 § 6-31A-5 (2025).

¹⁰ The statutory goals are set forth in § 6-31A-5(A)(2) and include "(a) advanc[ing] innovation in at least one of the target sectors; (b) foster[ing] collaboration between at least two of the following: private industry, a national laboratory, a federal agency or a public entity; (c) leverage[ing] federal or private investment; (d) creat[ing] new economic opportunities; (e) creat[ing] new jobs and workforce training opportunities; and (f) advance[ing] the commercialization of a technology in at least one of the target sectors[.]"

circumstances. TIO will set the expedited timeline case by case based on the submitted documentation and at its sole discretion.¹¹

8. How TIO Reviews and Decides

a. Light eligibility and fit screen

TIO confirms only what is necessary: the applicant is eligible (§ a), the project meets the two-of-six test and sits in a target sector (§§ b and 2), the named program requires or rewards a match (§ c), and the request clears the \$1,000,000 RD&D Fund and \$1,000,000 non-State funding minimums. There is no comparative scoring in this solicitation.

b. Rolling, first-come, first-served

TIO reviews complete applications in the order received and does not run a competition to choose a single “best” New Mexico applicant for a given federal program. New Mexico applicants competing for the same federal opportunity may each receive a commitment, subject to available funds and to TIO’s discretion to negotiate amounts (§ 1.c). TIO targets a decision within 20 working days of a complete application, except where an opportunity or an expedited review requires faster action.¹²

c. TIO’s discretion to negotiate the amount

TIO reserves the right to negotiate the amount of RD&D Fund support committed to any application. The amount an applicant requests is a starting point; TIO may commit less based on the project’s needs, the funder’s rules, the likelihood that State support changes the outcome, and overall demand for the Fund. This discretion allows TIO to manage the pipeline and avoid over-committing the Fund.

9. The Commitment Letter

When TIO approves an application, it issues a commitment letter that the applicant may submit with its application to the outside funder. The commitment letter reserves the RD&D Fund grant pending the funder’s decision and is governed by the following terms.

a. What the commitment letter is and is not

- ❑ **Conditional reservation, not a guarantee.** The letter reserves funds for the project; it is not a grant award, an obligation to disburse, or a guarantee that funds will be paid.
- ❑ **Conditions for disbursement.** Disbursement is conditioned on the applicant winning the underlying outside award; the applicant remaining eligible and registered to do business in New Mexico; execution of a grant agreement with TIO; the availability of money in the Fund; and the applicant’s continued compliance with this solicitation and the grant agreement.
- ❑ **Subject to appropriation and availability.** All commitments are subject to the availability of funds appropriated to the RD&D Fund and to applicable law.
- ❑ **Amount may be negotiated.** The committed amount may be adjusted as provided in § 1.c before a grant agreement is executed.
- ❑ **Disbursement timing.** Funds are disbursed only after the outside award is made, on milestones tied to the funder’s award and the grant agreement.

b. Duration

Commitment letters do not by default carry a fixed expiration date; a reservation remains in place while the applicant’s underlying funding application is pending, in recognition of long federal review timelines. TIO reserves the right, however, to (a) set expiration dates, including

¹¹ § 6-31A-4(A)(1)(b).

¹² See § 1.a of this solicitation.

expiration dates extendable by mutual agreement, on a case-by-case basis, and (b) release a reserved commitment (i.e., return the funds to the available pool) when the underlying opportunity closes without an award to the applicant, when the applicant withdraws or becomes ineligible, or on other reasonable grounds stated in the commitment letter.

10. Award Terms

An award may run over multiyear project periods aligned with the outside funding timeline; pre-award project spending is permitted where necessary to meet an outside application deadline, provided that the applicant uses non-State or other institutional funds for that pre-award spending; and a portion of an award may be used for the applicant's administrative costs to implement the project.¹³

11. Guardrails and Exclusions

a. Additive New Mexico activity required

RD&D Fund money must be the marginal dollar that helps close a deal and catalyzes new in-state activity, e.g., new jobs, new capital investment on the ground in New Mexico. It is not a subsidy that merely improves a return or extends existing runway for activity that would happen anyway.

b. Registration in New Mexico

Applicants must be registered to do business in New Mexico or commit to register before any award is disbursed.

c. SBIR/STTR Phase I and II excluded

Because the State already runs a separate SBIR/STTR matching program, federal SBIR/STTR Phase I and Phase II awards are not eligible under this solicitation, except Strategic Breakthrough Awards¹⁴ with an RD&D Fund request that meets the \$1,000,000 minimum.

d. Disclosure of the DFA match fund

Applicants must disclose whether they are also using New Mexico's separate DFA federal-match fund for the same project, as part of the disclosure required by § 1.d.

e. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Applicants agree to disclose any actual conflict of interest that arises or is identified at any time.

12. Reporting and Compliance

Recipients must comply with the match and reporting conditions of their grant agreement. TIO monitors the progress and outcomes of funded projects and verifies compliance with any applicable match requirement. TIO and the Department report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the administration, performance, and efficacy of the Fund, including jobs created, non-State funds leveraged, and return on investment.¹⁵

13. Confidential and Proprietary Information

Information an applicant submits that TIO's director deems proprietary technical or business information is held in confidence and is not treated as a public record subject to inspection. Applicants are responsible for clearly marking proprietary material.¹⁶

¹³ § 6-31A-6(B).

¹⁴ Strategic Breakthrough Awards are SBIR/STTR awards made pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 638(ff)(3) (2026).

¹⁵ NMSA 1978 §§ 6-31A-4(A)(7), 6-31A-7.

¹⁶ NMSA 1978 § 9-15-18.

14.Key Definitions

Terms used in this solicitation carry the meanings given in the Research, Development and Deployment Fund Act, NMSA 1978 § 6-31A-2, including *applicant*, *applicant match*, *business*, *documented need*, *public entity*, and *target sector*. Where this solicitation uses a term more narrowly for operational clarity, the statutory definition controls in case of conflict.

Appendix A: Track 1 Application Structure

The application collects the following. Fields will be adapted for TIO's online intake, including file uploads for the budget, letters, and funder solicitation language.

Part 1: Applicant

1. Legal name of applicant
2. Entity type (NM public entity / NM-registered business / business committing to register)
3. New Mexico registration status (if registered, provide ID; or certify it will register before disbursement)
4. Primary contact (name, title, email, phone)
5. Target sector(s)

Part 2: Project

1. Project title and brief description (250 words)
2. How the project meets the two-of-six test (§ 1.b): check all that apply and explain briefly
3. Expected New Mexico impact: jobs, capital investment, commercialization

Part 3: The Outside Opportunity

1. Priority federal program you are applying to
2. Funder application or award deadline
3. Amount of RD&D Fund support requested (minimum \$1,000,000)
4. Match basis: funder language requiring or rewarding match (attach), or justification under § c

Part 4: Budget and Evidence (attachments)

1. Project budget (State and non-State sources)
2. Letter(s) of support or commitment of resources
3. Partnership agreement (public-entity applicants only)
4. RD&D expenditure timeline and non-State funding availability timeline
5. In-kind valuation methodology (if any in-kind is counted)

Part 5: Disclosures and Certification

1. Other matching or leveraging funds applied for or received, including the DFA match fund
2. Request for expedited review and exigent-circumstances documentation (if applicable)
3. Certification that the information is accurate and the applicant will register in New Mexico before disbursement (if not yet registered)