



Quick Guide: Navigating Federal Funding in 2025

June 2025

Current Landscape:

Federal funding opportunities remain active; however, applicants may encounter delays, unprompted program updates, and evolving compliance requirements across agencies.

Organizations in New Mexico, especially those serving rural, tribal, and historically underserved communities, may wish to consider the following practices to remain informed, competitive, and prepared:

1. Stay Informed

- Monitor federal agency websites weekly, including Grants.gov
- Subscribe to grant agency specific federal and state newsletters, including New Mexico-specific alerts such as those from the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and the New Mexico Congressional Delegation's grant advisories
- Track grant agency-specific updates and new guidance alerts

2. Stay Nimble for Short-Notice Opportunities

- Watch for Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) with short deadlines, especially for reallocated or disaster-related funds that frequently target wildfire, drought, and rural development in New Mexico
- Keep organizational narratives and approval processes updated and ready to deploy quickly

3. Invest in Pre-Development Work

- Feasibility studies relevant to New Mexico's unique geographic and demographic needs
- Architectural/site plans, especially for projects on tribal lands or rural areas
- Service delivery models that address local health, housing, education, or infrastructure gaps
- Internal policies and partnership agreements (MOUs) with neighboring entities or tribal governments

4. Prioritize Regional Partnerships

- Pursue joint applications with other New Mexico cities, counties, tribal governments, and nonprofits

- Agencies strongly favor collaborative, multi-jurisdictional, and regional projects that demonstrate broad community benefit

5. Diversify Funding Sources

- Consider private foundation, state, and local funding available in New Mexico to support operational or capital needs

6. Prepare for Match and Long-Term Project Viability Requirements

- Strengthen the sections of your project proposal that address how the project will be sustained over time, emphasizing local support, partnerships, and organizational capacity
- Identify potential sources of in-kind or cash match early, as many federal grant programs in New Mexico—especially those focused on infrastructure and health—are placing greater emphasis on these commitments

Additional Federal Grant Resources:

- *Grants.gov Learning Center* - Official training and guidance on how to find and apply for federal grants
 - <https://www.grants.gov/learn-grants/grants-101.html>
- *SAM.gov Entity Registration Guide* - Step-by-step instructions for registering your organization to apply for federal grants and contracts
 - <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>
- *Congressional Research Service (CRS)* – Resources for Grantseekers
 - <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/RL34012>
- *USA.gov Govt Benefits and Grants* - General overview of federal assistance programs, including grants, loans, and small business resources
 - <https://www.usa.gov/grants>

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For any additional questions, please contact Jesus Murillo, Grant Coordinator for the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, at:  
[Jesus\\_Murillo@heinrich.senate.gov](mailto:Jesus_Murillo@heinrich.senate.gov).