NEW MEXICO
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Regional Water Commons

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Slides will be made available following the presentation.

***Disclaimer**: This presentation offers general best practices for pursuing federal grants, based on common patterns across federal funding opportunities. Following these suggestions does not guarantee that your organization will be awarded a grant. This presentation is for general informational purposes only and is not legal advice. If you have questions about the legality of a specific action, requirement, or compliance matter, please consult a qualified legal professional.*

What the New Mexico Congressional Delegation Can Do For Your Organization

Federal agencies decide independently who is awarded funding. The New Mexico Congressional Delegation *cannot* compel an agency to award funding nor can it give your organization funding directly.

1. Newsletter — weekly newsletter featuring federal grants relevant to New Mexico organizations. Comes out every Wednesday afternoon.

2. Grant Searches — Looking to fund a specific project? We can help identify federal grants that may align with your project and goals.

3. Letters of support — Request a letter of support to strengthen your application for ***competitive federal grants***. We draft the letter, collect signatures, and send it directly to the federal agency administering the grant.

Examples of Competitive Grants

For smaller water systems, these are a few agencies are worth watching. USDA Rural Development accepts applications year round October 1 – September 30, while the Bureau of Reclamation and FEMA typically run annual competitions. Here are a few examples of federal programs:

Agency	Program	What It Funds	Good to Know
USDA Rural Development	SEARCH Grants	Feasibility studies, pre-design, and technical assistance for water and wastewater projects	Rural areas of 2,500 or fewer; rolling applications
	Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG)	Line repairs and new water sources after a drop in water quantity or quality	Up to $150K for lines and $1M for new sources; rolling
	Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant	Construction of drinking water, wastewater, and storm water systems	Towns of 10,000 or fewer, tribal lands, and colonias
Bureau of Reclamation	WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects	Metering, canal lining or piping, and other efficiency upgrades	Up to $125K; 50% match
FEMA	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	Hazard mitigation, including protecting water systems from flood and fire	Up to $20M; 25% match; hazard mitigation plan required; apply through NM DHSEM

Additional Resources to Get You Started

- **Guides from the Congressional Research Service**
  - Resources for Grantseekers
  - Searching for Federal Grants: An Overview of Resources
  - How to Develop and Write a Grant Proposal

- **National Council for Nonprofits**
  - Managing Federal Grants – A Start Up Guide

- **Candid**
  - Introduction to Proposal Writing

- **New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration – Federal Grants Bureau** (serves local public bodies only, but their resources are useful for nonprofits)
  - Grants Management readiness assessment
  - De Minimis Cost Presentation
  - New Mexico Match Fund
  - Infrastructure, Planning and Development Division (IPDD) Request for Technical Assistance