



New Mexico Farmer Innovation Program Rural/Tribal Micro-Grant Summer 2026 FAQ

How long is the grant application period?

The Grant is open to submit applications from June 22, 2026 through July 27, 2026

Who or what organizations can apply?

Agricultural producers, political subdivisions of the state or local government, Tribal entities and agencies, and non-profit organizations for projects which increase or improve healthy food access and are working to provide solutions for our changing climate in projects that advance regenerative agriculture, in Rural and Tribal communities.

Applicant(s) must be producing healthy and/or preparing to produce healthy food in Rural/Tribal areas within the state of New Mexico

Producers with gross cash farm income under \$250,000 are eligible (commercial and noncommercial farms).

Must not be a previous grant recipient, producers will be eligible to receive a microgrant only once.

What are examples of eligible uses?

Projects could include (but are not limited to):

- Implementation of management intensive rotational grazing schemes
- Increasing the energy efficiency of greenhouse, storage, processing, or other infrastructure
- Installing new processing or storage infrastructure to better serve New Mexico communities
- Improving the ecological health of a farm through improving biodiversity, increasing on-farm cycling of nutrients, and/or improving on-farm water conservation
- Improving access to culturally relevant foods
- Incorporating climate-adaptive living infrastructure (e.g., windbreaks, or native perennial grasses)

What can these funds NOT be used for?

These funds cannot be used for Personnel Costs, repayment of loans or costs not directly related to the project or farm.

What is the definition of Nutritious Food?

We will be using the definition provided by **America's Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)**, for "staple food". Staple food refers to fresh, healthy foods that are essential for daily consumption and are considered core components of a balanced diet. These are typically nutrient-dense, affordable, and widely consumed items such as fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, dairy, and other staple foods that form the foundation of a healthy eating pattern [Rural Development+1](#).

Key characteristics of staple foods in HFFI

- Nutrient-rich: Provide essential vitamins, minerals, and macronutrients needed for health.
- Daily consumption: Regularly eaten by households, often as part of main meals.
- Affordable and accessible: Suitable for low- and moderate-income populations in underserved areas.
- Healthy food category: Include items like fresh produce, whole grains, lean meats, poultry, fish, eggs, dairy, and plant-based proteins [Rural Development](#).

Are farmers/producers whose farms are outside of New Mexico and sell in New Mexico eligible?

No, applicant(s) must be producing healthy and/or preparing to produce healthy food in Rural/Tribal areas within the state of New Mexico.

Can the grant go towards used equipment?

Yes, as long as the useful life of the equipment is of more than one year and/or the period of performance of the grant.

For producers that operate on multiple leases, does the on farm infrastructure have to be permanent or can it be mobile like, stock trailers or temporary corrals?

The equipment can be permanent or mobile.

Does "farm" include orchards?

Yes, orchards are included.

Can the funds be used for farm rent?

No, funds cannot be used for farm rent, and must be used for a project directly related to agricultural production.

How about contract labor expenses to build farm infrastructure?

Contract labor for farm improvements directly related to an agricultural production project is allowed.

Can applications include items for several ongoing projects?

No, the application must be for a specific farm project that has a beginning and end date and that is directly related to agricultural production. The project must be complete by November 30, 2026.

Are we allowed to receive funds through a fiscal sponsor?

If the fiscal sponsor is completing the application. The applicant is the person responsible for the taxes and the grant agreement.

Since these are reimbursements, how do they address the needs of individuals, new programs, or startups in Rural/Tribal and underserved communities that are historically undercapitalized?

In certain circumstances a request for an advance for funding can be submitted to NMFIP.

Would there need to be visible food production in the project of the grant or can it be only future fruit trees or improved canning and processing entities?

The project must have a beginning and an end date within the allowed term.

If I am an individual in the process of forming an LLC, could I include my prospective LLC name as the applying entity as well?

Yes, but the application and grant agreement will need to be the same for the tax documents submitted.

Can seeds and starts qualify under the supplies category?

Yes.

