



NM FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE:
EDUCATE 2 ELEVATE (e2e) GRANT

Application Opens: May 8th, 2024

Application Deadline: June 12, 2024, 5pm MT

Proposals may only be submitted online through the Albuquerque Community Foundation's [online grant portal](#).

The Educate 2 Elevate (e2e) Grant is a collaborative funding opportunity that brings together funds from across New Mexico to pool resources and engage in high impact grantmaking. This grant is a collaborative investment from funders in various sectors and we encourage organizations to demonstrate similar collaborative thinking when submitting applications. In 2018, after the passing of one of our founding members, Jennifer Riordan, e2e was temporarily named in her honor in celebration of her passion for education. Today, the fund continues to celebrate the legacy of Jennifer and others who have dedicated their lives to community service.

We're excited to announce that the Funder's Collaborative is venturing into food security funding for this Request for Proposals (RFP) cycle. This year's RFP will still focus on education and school based partners, remaining tied to the original intent of the e2e funding area. However, over the last year, our participating funders have heard repeatedly from different partners, the pressing challenge and importance of supporting food security. Because this has surfaced across many conversations and communities, we see this as an emerging need and are eager to address it through this collaborative funding effort.

That said - please share openly any feedback or thoughts you may have as we navigate this new territory. While we are not experts in this field, we've diligently researched and are committed to doing our best and learning as we go. Moreover, with this shift we hope to demonstrate our dedication to supporting diverse community needs, beyond funding solely education programs, and hope you'll agree this shows a broader and more responsive scope.

What You Need to Know:

- Organizations that have received funding from the NM Funders Collaborative are not eligible to apply for three (3) years following the award.
- The 2024 e2e grant is focused on providing funding that supports issues of food security within educational settings/institutions.
- Awards will focus on holistic, innovative approaches to ensuring students and their families have sustainable access to healthy foods and meal preparation.
- While funding amounts vary based on contributions throughout the year, past grants have ranged from \$25,000 - \$45,000.
- Applicants must be serving students and their families in Central New Mexico: Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia and/or Tarrant counties.
- Applicants may only submit one proposal.
- Applicants from nonprofit organizations and public education institutions are preferred.
- A complete list of FAQs can be found at the end of this RFP.

Eligible organizations must be:

- exempt from U.S. federal income tax pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") and classified as a public charity under section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2) of the Code; and/or
- an educational institution or governmental entity;
- located anywhere in the United States, however a local partner supporting Central New Mexico is required.

Requirements:

- Proposal Narrative/Questions
- A detailed project budget relating to this request
- Most recent financial statements
 - Audited financial statements are required if your organization has an operating budget of \$500,000 or more
- Current year operating budget
- Description of recent grants, pending proposals and/or plans for additional funding relevant to this proposal.

Funding Areas:

This grant opportunity is intended to support nonprofit organizations, schools or other programs with an innovative approach to ensuring that students have consistent access to healthy food options regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. This can include pilot projects, programs in their infancy or investments to bring projects to scale.

Interest areas for this opportunity include programs that provide:

1. **Enhancement of School Meal Programs:** Projects aimed at expanding equitable access to nutritious meals for students. This can include out-of-school time meal

programs, nutrition programs, and school-based gardens. (We will not consider funding to support free and reduced lunch programs).

2. **Community Partnerships:** Collaborative efforts between local organizations, businesses, and community stakeholders to expand food access, provide food resources, and support initiatives aimed at reducing food insecurity among students in Central New Mexico.
3. **Early Childhood Education:** Initiatives targeting early childhood education settings, such as preschools and daycare centers, to address food insecurity among young children and their families, ensuring that all children have access to nutritious meals and snacks during crucial developmental years.

Narrative:

While the e2e grant application will be online via [Albuquerque Community Foundation's online grant portal](#) starting Wednesday, May 8, 2024, the following bullets indicate information which will be required in various questions in the online application.

- Your organization and/or program's mission and goals.
- Description of program for which you are applying for funds (this should include the description/explanation of the population served and how this population has been impacted by issue of food security as well as the approximate number of people the program will serve).
- How your program fits into one (or more) of the above-described funding areas.
- Description of how your program includes a holistic approach to ensuring students and their families have sustainable access to healthy foods and meal preparation.
- Description of how you measure and evaluate the success of the program.
- How your program is ensuring social, racial, economic, and cultural equity to support underserved populations.
- If you are collaborating, please describe how you are sharing talent and resources with other organizations in our community.

Applicants that do not meet the requirements or that submit an application that fails to address every one of these bullets will not be considered.

Proposals must be received by 5pm MT on Wednesday, June 12th, 2024

No exceptions can be made for late proposals.

Timeline:

May 8	RFP opens
June 12	RFP closes at 5 pm MT
June 26	Grant review panel convenes; Select nonprofits invited to present
July 24	Presentations from selected nonprofits
July 31	Awards announced/Grantees notified

Review and Awarding:

A review panel will be composed of representatives from all funders who have contributed to this funding opportunity.

Applicants may not contact reviewers and reviewers may not contact applicants during the open application and/or review period.

Grant announcement will be made on July 31, 2024.



educate2elevate

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

501c3 nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and/or governmental entities serving Central New Mexico (Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia and/or Tarrant counties). Nonprofit organizations must also have current filings with the NM Attorney General's Office, Secretary of State's office and have a positive Charity Check Report via Guidestar. (Public education institutions and religious institutions are exempt from Attorney General filings).

My organization uses a fiscal agent. Can we still apply?

Yes. As long as your work aligns with the grant focus and the fiscal agent meets all requirements listed above, you are eligible to apply.

An organization serving as a fiscal agent for various programs, may submit multiple proposals under the fiscal sponsorship umbrella. However, if the fiscal agent also has its own programming, it may only submit one application for such programming.

- For example: the APS Education Foundation may only submit one application for an APS Education Foundation-run and operated program. However, should various APS schools wish to apply using the APS Education Foundation as their fiscal agent, multiple applications from the APS Education Foundation can be submitted in this capacity.

What is the focus of this grant?

This grant opportunity is intended to support nonprofit organizations and schools in Central New Mexico (Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia and/or Tarrant counties) that are addressing issues of food security within educational settings/institutions.

Can this be for a new program?

You can apply for an ongoing or new program. However, please note that this is not a multi-year grant. Therefore, if the program is new, you will be expected to provide information on how the program will be sustained beyond the grant period.

Is this a multi-year grant?

No, this is not a multi-year grant. However, understanding some organizations operate on a calendar year, while others operate on a school year or fiscal year, we will work with the benefitting organization to determine the most appropriate grant period in which to spend the funds.

Regardless of the determined grant period, the NM Funders Collaborative will invite grant recipients to join the group the year following funding to share relevant activities and needs in the community.

Are you seeking benefits or recognition?

Please recognize this funding as a grant from: The NM Funders Collaborative.

How will funds be dispersed? One time or over the year in installments?

The grant will be paid in one installment at the start of the grant period.

My organization is not specifically classified as an education organization. Can I still apply?

Yes, as long as your program is supporting learners and you meet all other criteria, you are welcome and encouraged to apply for this grant.

Can we apply in partnership with other organizations?

Absolutely. Collaboration and partnership are very much encouraged! Please note that one grant will be awarded to the primary operating organization in the collaboration, though we would expect the grant funds to be utilized to benefit all collaborating organizations as you may explain in the narrative of your grant application.

- Please note: if you are part of a collaborative program, be sure to discuss your application with all partners to ensure two applications are not submitted for the same program.

Can we submit more than one application?

No. There is a limit of one application per organization. However, if your organization is a participant in a larger collaborative program, you may choose to also submit your own grant application for another program.

An exception to this will be made for fiscal agents who have one or more organizations under their fiscal agency umbrella who wish to apply for this grant opportunity (see previous question on fiscal agency for additional information).

If my organization applies for this grant, can we still apply for funding from any of the participating funders?

Yes. This grant opportunity is totally separate from any other grant programs the participating funders run throughout the year. Your application for this opportunity will not influence any other funding you may or may not be soliciting from any funders involved in this project.

Where can I apply for this grant?

All applications must be submitted online via Albuquerque Community Foundation's [online grant portal](#) starting May 8, 2024. The deadline is June 12, 2024 at 5pm MT.

When will the grant recipient(s) be announced and awarded?

The NM Funders Collaborative will meet in June to determine finalists. Those organizations moving forward will be notified of their status on June 26. Finalists will then be required to give a ten-minute presentation of your program with five minutes of Q&A. The presentations will take place either at the PNM offices in downtown ABQ, or virtually, on July 24th (the exact time of your presentation will be communicated to organizations after applications have been reviewed after June 26th). The 2024 e2e recipient will be notified of their grant by July 31.

What funders are participating in this initiative?

Albuquerque Community Foundation
Albuquerque Publishing Co.
Bank of America
ExxonMobil
Fidelity Investments
McCune Charitable Foundation
NM Gas Company
Nusenda Credit Union Foundation
PNM Resources Foundation
PNM
Sandia National Labs Foundation
United Way of North Central New Mexico
US Eagle
Wells Fargo

What is the grant period? And will there be a grant report?

Understanding some organizations operate on a calendar year, while others operate on a school year or fiscal year, we will work with the benefitting organization to determine the most appropriate grant period in which to spend the funds.

Organizations that receive funding will be invited to join the NM Funders Collaborative in the year following the award, to provide the group with a relevant update on the work to date, as well as observed needs in the community.

Participating funders may also be scheduling a site visit throughout the year to observe your organization's program(s).

I'm a teacher at a school and I'm not sure what to write for the operating budget and Board of Directors on the grant application. Where do I get this information?

Information such as operating budget amount, number of people on a Board of Directors and fiscal year should correlate to the organization receiving the grant funds. For example, a school that applies using the APS Education Foundation as its fiscal agent, would use the APS Education Foundation's operating budget and Board listing (not that of the school). A similar example would hold true for schools in other districts.

My organization doesn't serve education needs, but I love this idea. Will there be another collaborative funding opportunity in the future?

Our desire is for funders to continue working together to create higher impact grantmaking. We hope to announce similar collaborative grant opportunities in the future, but no details are available for future funding at this time.

I have questions. Is there someone I can call to get more information?

General questions may be directed to grants@abqcf.org; however, because of the nature of this grant opportunity, in-depth responses will be limited. We have done our best to describe our intentions and motivation for this grant opportunity and we apologize if any information remains unclear at this time. To be fair to all applicants, information available for this grant opportunity will be communicated through these FAQs.

**Thank you for your interest in the e2e grant and for
all you do to support the Central New Mexico community!**