NM Youth Conservation Corps
FY28 Budget Request

Summary of Operations

The New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps (NMYCC) annually receives a governmental gross receipts tax (GGRT) distribution. The Agency funds local government units, tribes and non-profits who provide job and career development programming for youth ages 14 to 25 in public service projects. Funding primarily pays corps member wages (70% of award); and secondarily covers other project-related expenses. Returning Corps members qualify for a $1500 educational voucher or $500 cash.

YCC is supported by a nine-member Commission. There are three full-time employees.

YCC Requests $7.859 for FY28

Justification:

The FY28 budget request reflects a $1.5 million increase, drawn from the program's $12 million fund balance to expand contract funding. Recent years saw nearly $2 million more in annual funding requests than in prior years, driven by decreased national funding opportunities and stronger stakeholder engagement. To meet this demand, YCC proposes using additional fund balance resources. Because roughly 20% of awarded funds are typically returned each year, the increase is expected to reduce the fund balance by only about $500,000 after reconciliations. With expanded staffing, including a new full-time employee, this is an opportune time for YCC to grow its project portfolio and serve more youth and communities across New Mexico.

FY27-28 Proposals received September 22, 2026
Number of youth corps members proposed to be hired: 848
Total funding requested: $9.1 Mil
***FY28 9.1 Mil is a 15% increase from 7.9 Mil for FY27**

YCC BUDGET SUMMARY

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	FY26 ACTUALS	FY26 OPBUD	FY27 OPBUD	FY28 REQUEST
200 Personnel Employee Benefits	$280,508	$321,700	$376,000	$382,100
300 Contractual Services	$4,756,751	$5,545,000	$5,710,000	$7,200,000
400 Operating Costs	$84,893	$159,700	$148,000	$152,400
500 Other Financing Uses (Admin for EMNRD)	$125,000	$125,000	$125,000	$125,000
TOTAL	$5,247,152	$6,151,400	$6,359,000	$7,859,500

FY 26 Performance Measures and Highlights

Percent of eligible corps members receiving education voucher or cash benefit:

Target: 85% Actual: 77% (Highest rate recorded to date)

This benefit is for returning corps members and is in addition to wages. Seventy-one youth qualified; Fifty-six responded and received benefits. YCC used a multi-pronged approach to reach corps members.

Percentage of all award funds used for corps member wages:

Target: 77% Actual: 77%

Each project must allocate at least 70% of funds to wages.

Number of youth employed: **Target: 840 Actual: 701**

Projects in **FY26** pledged to hire **600** youth, but due to the number of applicants and interest, **701** young people were hired, a significant improvement.



Albuquerque Sign Language Academy



Jemez Mountain Public Schools



Forest Stewards Guild – Central and Northern NM



EcoServants – Otero & Lincoln Counties

What Corps Members say…

"YCC gives students their first work opportunity and sense of responsibility when it comes to having a job."

"I am proud of my physical growth and how this job has improved my self value."

"I would like to go into wildland firefighting and the YCC provides applicable experience for that job pathway."

"YCC taught me many soft skills such as time management and responsibility that will help with my future goals, as well as hard skills, such as basic plumbing knowledge."