



New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Legislative Finance Committee Hearing FY23

Our Mission

Promote the education, success and well-being of the youth in our communities and provide community benefits of lasting value through the conservation and enhancement of New Mexico's natural, cultural and recreational resources.



Taos Land Trust crew, 2021



What we do



The New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps was established in 1992 to provide a process to employ youth between the ages of 14-25 in public projects of lasting value that improve the state's natural, cultural, historical, recreational, and agricultural resources. It is funded by a GGRT distribution.

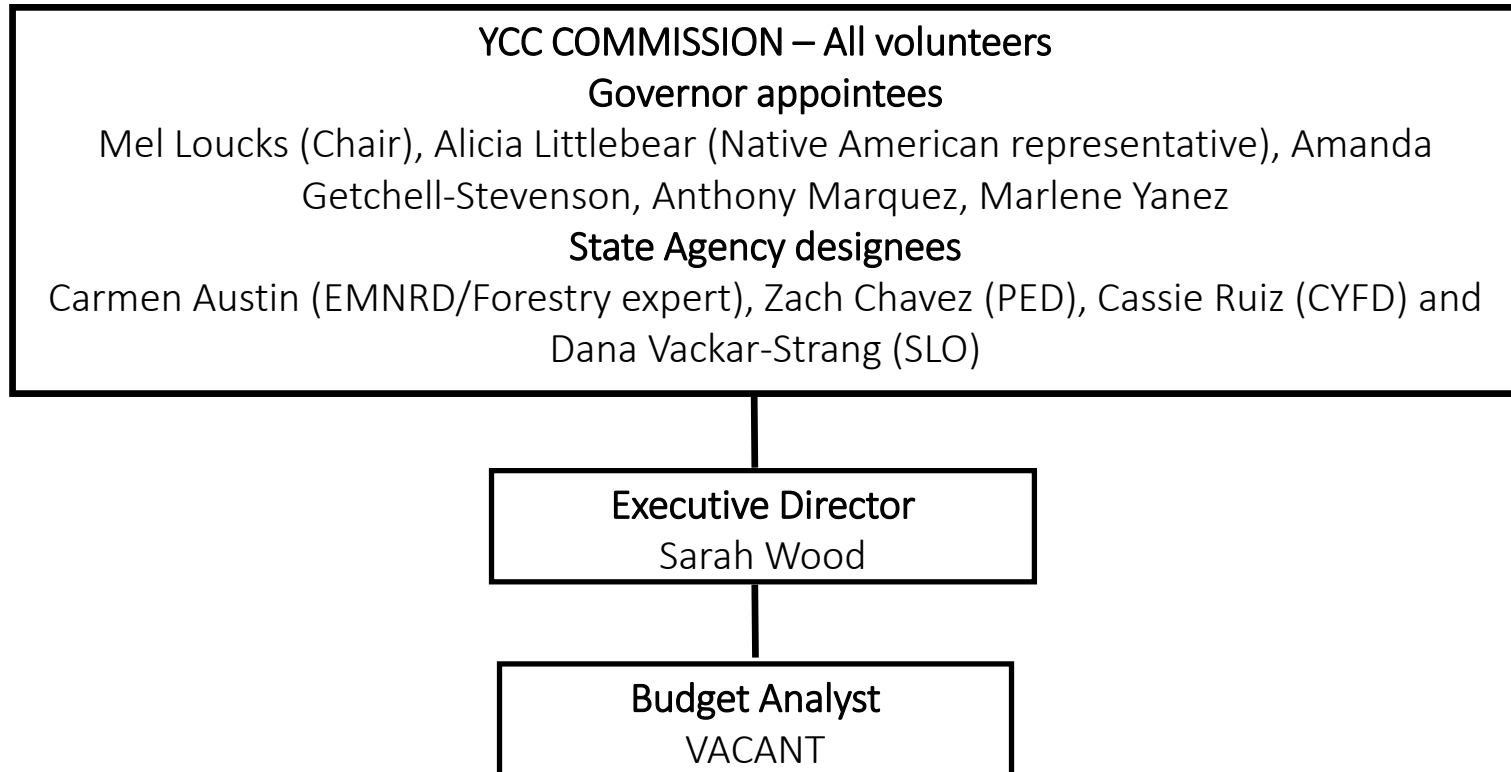
Projects enhance work skills and career preparation through training. Seventy percent of each contract must go to youth corps wages, and 10% of project time must be spent in training. Returning Corps members are eligible for a \$1,500 educational voucher or a \$500 cash compensation.

The YCC is governed by a nine-person commission with five governor appointees and four state agency members. The Commission awards funds through a competitive RFP process and the next RFP will be released in a few weeks. The award cap is \$150,000

Website: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/about-ycc/>



Organizational Chart





Performance FY21 / 22

In FY22, the YCC received 35 proposals. Five proposals were found to be non-responsive, and five entities declined funding due to anticipated difficulties with hiring corps members.

Twenty-five project with awards totaling \$2.3 million hired approximately 400 youth hired across 17 counties in New Mexico.

Projects include: constructing a new tent campground in Sugarite Canyon State Park; improving municipal parks in Columbus and the Village of Santa Clara; improving ancestral sites in Santa Clara Pueblo; streamshed restoration; thinning projects in all five national forests; improving a public children's museum & senior center; building and maintaining trails in the Sacramento Mountains; two oral history projects connected to two public art projects and more.





Performance Based Budget Measures FY21 / 22

Percent of eligible corps members receiving tuition or cash benefit (new measure this year):

Target: 85%

Actual: 71%

Percentage of all grant award monies used for corps member wages:

Target: 77%

Actual: 76.41%

Number of youth employed annually:

Target: 840

Actual: 400



EcoServants YCC crew performing trail work



Forest Guild corps member helping to thin a forest stand



Corps Member Benefits

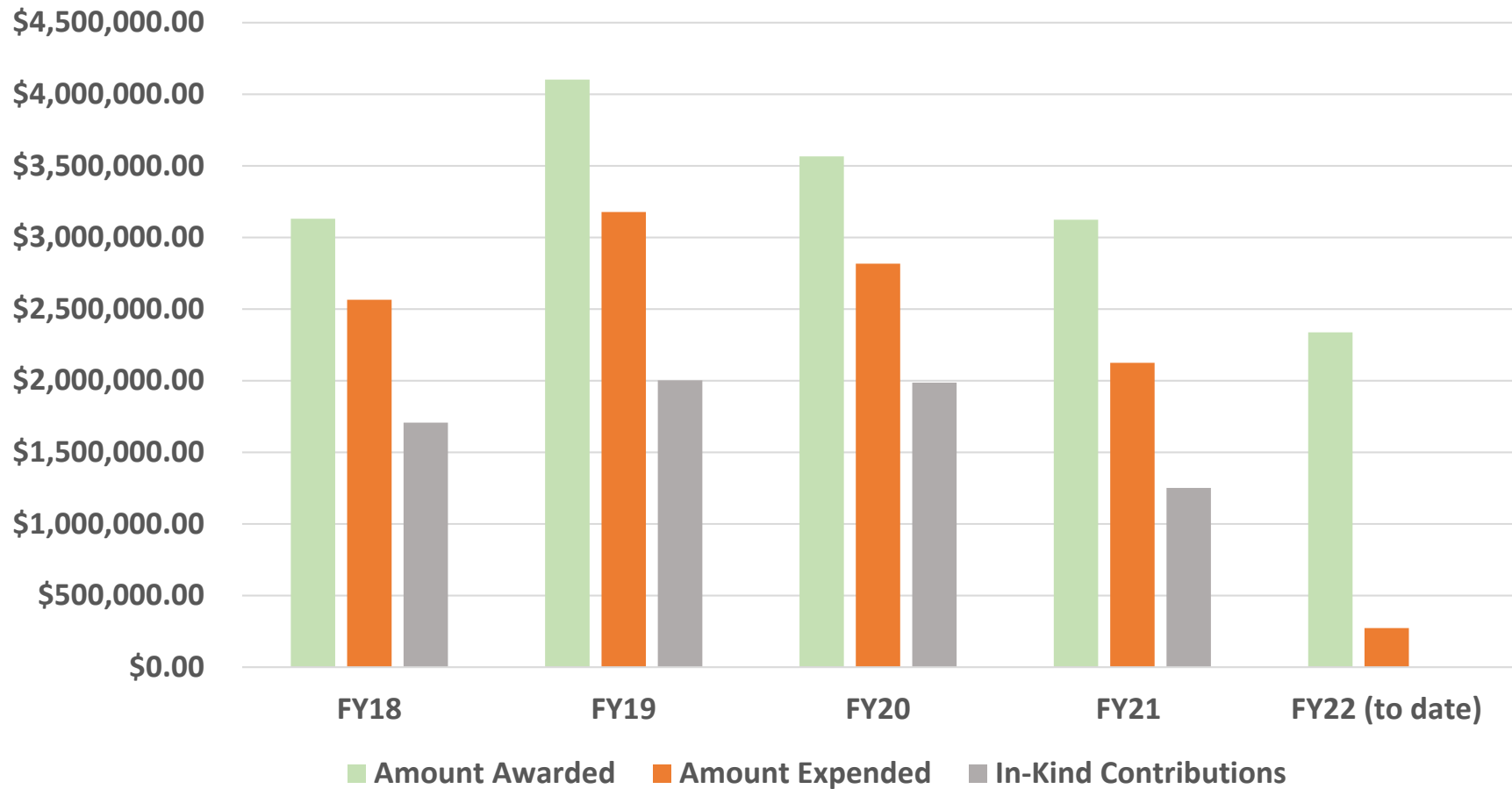


By statute, the YCC offers a \$1,500 educational tuition voucher OR a \$500 cash compensation to corps members who have worked on a YCC project for 12 months (48 weeks) within a 48 month period (4 years).

In 2020, the YCC initiated a process to ensure more corps members receive their benefits, and set a target of 85% of eligible corps members to receive their benefits. Out of 72 eligible corps members contacted, 51 responded and received their benefits = **71%**.

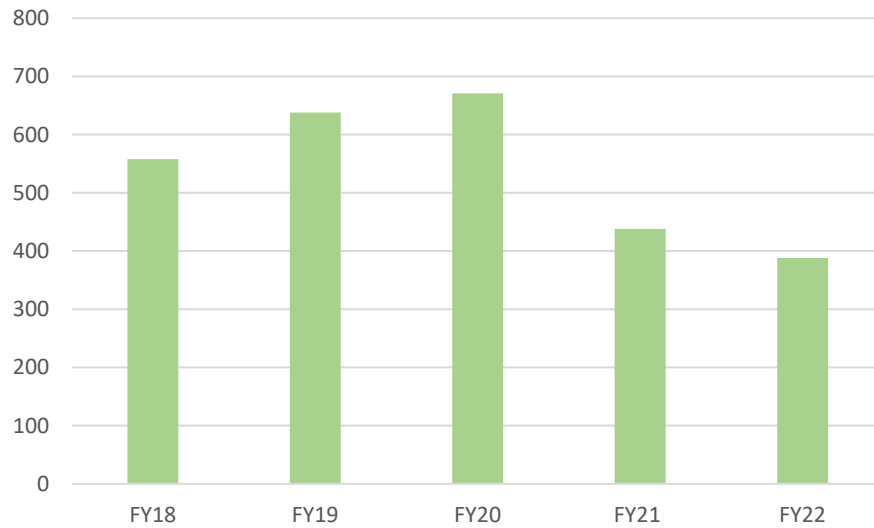


YCC FY 18 - 22 Project Funding

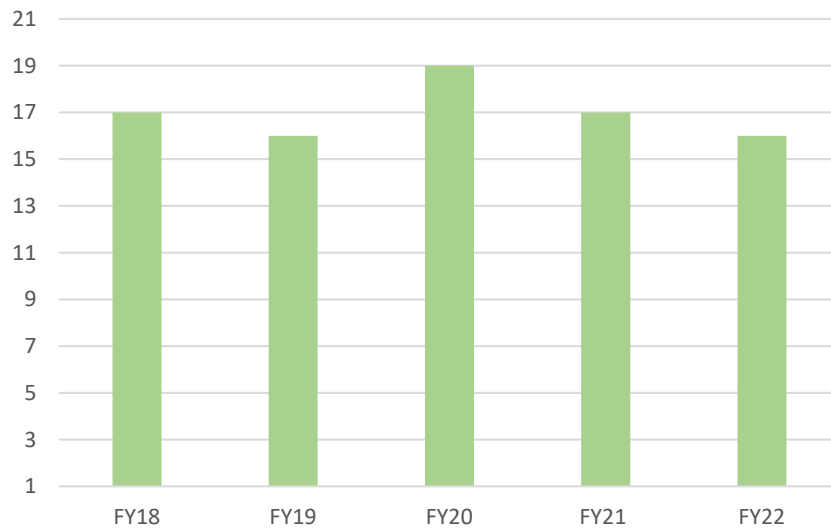




Youth Hired



Number of Counties Served



ALMA YCC crew puts the finishing touches on their sculpture at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge.



FY21 / 22 Accomplishments

- Initiating multi-year cooperative procurement agreements with State Parks, Mining & Minerals, Game & Fish and Historic Sites to be budgeted from YCC fund balance.
- To increase accessibility to the program and reduce errors that result in projects not being funded, requested exceptions to the RFP template from State Purchasing. Most were approved.
- Worked with EMNRD IT to re-structure internal project tracking application software to streamline project entry and enable finer-grained reporting detail.
- Made four visits to projects in process (so far).
- Restructured website to adapt to new web host and content publisher.
- Re-classified second YCC position from Bus Ops Advanced to Budget Analyst to better conform with duties.



FY23 Budget Request - GGRT funds

Use	FY21 Actuals	FY22 OPBUD	FY23 Request	Change
1. Personal Services/Employee Benefits	\$168	\$176.90	\$176.90	0%
2. Contractual Services (YCC Projects)	\$2,125.00	\$4,800.80	\$4,805.80	+0.10%
3. Operating Costs	\$51.10	\$90.70	\$80.10	-11%
4. Other Financing Uses (EMNRD fee)	\$125	\$125.00	\$125	0%
Total Uses	\$2,469.10	\$5,193.40	\$5,187.80	-8.40%

EXPLANATIONS:

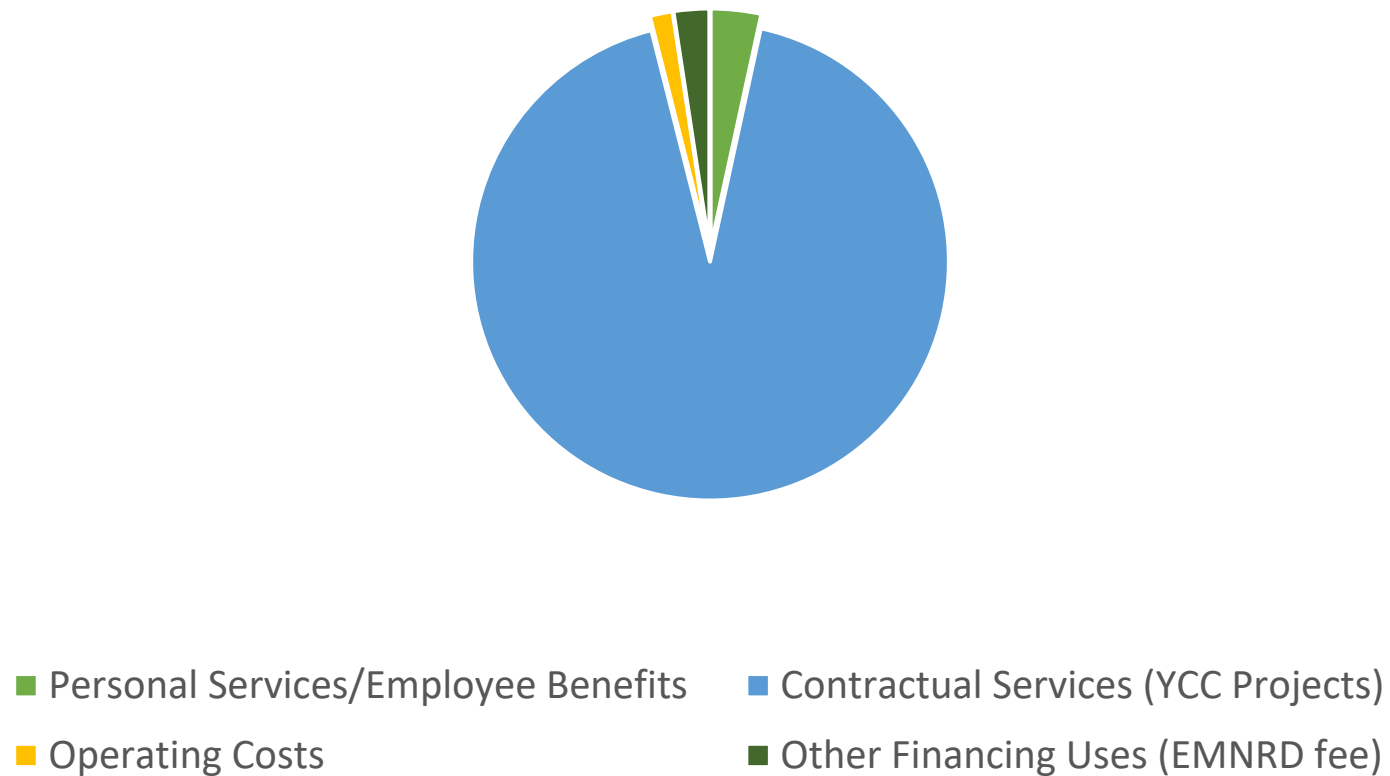
- 1) Increase of \$5.0 in contractual services from YCC's fund balance to support additional projects in FY23.
- 2) Decrease of \$10.6 in Operation Costs due to move to state-owned Wendell Chino Building sometime in FY22.
- 3) Memorandum of Agreement with EMNRD to provide budget, procurement, personnel and Governor liaison services.



FY22 Budget Request - GGRT funds

The bulk of the budget, 93%, is for funding the projects that hire and train New Mexico youth.

FY23 Request





Thank you for supporting youth jobs, training, conservation and community improvement in New Mexico.



Rio Grande Return corps member – this young man is from Torreon, a Navajo community near Cuba and worked in the Jemez Mountains this summer.



Projects FY21 / 22

These are grants awarded in FY22 that will conclude in December of FY21.

Applicant	Type of Organization	Website	County	YCC Award	% Match	Corps Members Hired
Aldo Leopold Charter School - Fall	Charter School	https://www.aldocs.org/	Grant	\$58,195.00	33.88%	40
Aldo Leopold Charter School - Spring	Charter School	https://www.aldocs.org/	Grant	\$94,603.00	23.59%	40
Apprenticeships for Leaderships in Mosaic Arts (ALMA)	Non-profit	https://almatile.org/	Bernalillo	\$55,521.86	79.93%	8
City of Gallup	Local government	https://www.gallupnm.gov/	McKinley	\$144,500.64	34.61%	15
Deming Cesar Chavez Charter HS - Fall	Charter School	https://www.cesarchavezcharters.com/	Luna	\$30,756.52	25.69%	15
Deming Cesar Chavez Charter HS - Spring	Charter School	https://www.cesarchavezcharters.com/	Luna	\$40,781.41	21.82%	15
East Rio Arriba SWCD	Local government	https://www.eraswcd.net/projects	Rio Arriba	\$48,090.23	26.79%	5
Eco Servants - Lincoln	Non-profit	https://www.ecoservants.org/	Lincoln	\$148,900.29	20.24%	26
Eco Servants - Otero	Non-profit	https://www.ecoservants.org/	Otero	\$148,900.29	20.24%	26



Projects FY21 / 22, cont.

Applicant	Type of Organization	Website	County	YCC Award	% Match	Corps Members Hired
Escuela del Sol Montessori Inc	Non-profit	https://www.harwoodartcenter.org/community-programs/art-and-social-justice-apprenticeship/	Bernalillo	\$41,307.21	118.35%	8
National Audubon Society	Non-profit	https://nm.audubon.org/about-us/job-openings	Santa Fe	\$66,440.28	24.35%	8
Sugarite Canyon State Park	State Agency	http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/sugaritecanyonstatepark.html	Colfax	\$60,720.31	207.20%	8
Rio Arriba County Healing Memorial	Local government	http://www.rio-arriba.org/departments_and_divisions/rac_stop/index.html	Rio Arriba	\$149,800.72	22.97%	11
Rio Arriba County Precious Age	Local government	http://www.rio-arriba.org/departments_and_divisions/rac_stop/index.html	Rio Arriba	\$149,606.72	24.08%	11
Rio Grande Return	Non-profit	https://riograndereturn.com/	Sandoval, Bernalillo, Socorro	\$88,324.36	45.29%	5
Pueblo of Santa Clara	Tribe	https://www.facebook.com/scptribaladmin	Rio Arriba	\$132,663.62	20.01%	24
Santa Fe Children's Museum Inc	Non-profit	https://santafechildrensmuseum.org/	Santa Fe	\$71,942.83	20.08%	5
Talking Talons Youth Leadership	Non-profit	https://www.talkingtalons.org/	Bernalillo, Torrance, Sandoval	\$69,560.81	20.14%	5



Projects FY21 / 22 cont.

Applicant	Type of Organization	Website	County	YCC Award	% Match	Corps Members Hired
Taos Land Trust	Non-profit	https://taoslandtrust.org/	Taos	\$139,347.04	20.29%	20
The Forest Stewards Guild - Fall	Non-profit	https://foreststewardsguild.org	Sandoval, San Miguel, Torrance, Mora, Cibola, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Los Alamos	\$149,994.06	31.08%	13
The Forest Stewards Guild - Summer	Non-profit	https://foreststewardsguild.org	Sandoval, San Miguel, Torrance, Mora, Cibola, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Los Alamos	\$149,975.76	25.88%	23
The Village of Columbus - Fall	Local government	http://historicvillageofcolumbus.org/	Luna	\$23,989.28	24.80%	12
The Village of Columbus - Spring	Local government	http://historicvillageofcolumbus.org/	Luna	\$29,344.91	24.71%	12
Village of Santa Clara	Local government	http://www.villageofsantaclara.org/	Rio Arriba	\$94,120.99	22.36%	18
YouthWorks Inc	Non-profit	https://www.santafeyouthworks.org/	Santa Fe	\$149,998.91	49.33%	15
TOTALS:				\$2,337,387.05	39.51%	388
					(average)	