

ANATOMY OF THE RFA PROCESS

RFA: REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

NEW MEXICO
HIGHER EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT



FY21: Increase FAFSA Application Completion Rates

Total: \$300,000

The purpose of this grant was to increase Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application completion rates. Students face financial barriers with tuition, fees, books, course supplies, food, transportation, childcare, and living expenses while millions of dollars in federal financial aid are not used. The New Mexico Higher Education Department is committed to providing resources to help students succeed. Completing the FAFSA helps students qualify for multiple financial aid resources.

The FAFSA grants were impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic and grantees were given extensions. We are in the process of having final meetings with the grantees and receiving final reports. The following colleges and universities received a grant:

- Clovis Community College
- Northern New Mexico College
- College Horizons
- New Mexico Highlands University
- Santa Fe Community College
- Central New Mexico Community College
- New Mexico State University
- San Juan College



FY22: Addressing College Hunger

Total: \$100,000

The New Mexico Higher Education Department awarded five \$20,000 **Addressing College Hunger** grants to public higher education institutions in 2022. The purpose of the program is to address food insecurity and initiatives that address hunger at New Mexico's public and Tribal colleges and universities. Schools can build essential capacity and infrastructure to create or support efforts to address issues of food insecurity for students, promote wellness, and help outreach to vulnerable students who may experience hunger on a daily basis.

The following projects at higher education institutions were selected to receive funding:

- **Doña Ana Community College** for "Together We End Hunger: Destigmatizing Hunger Among College Students at Doña Ana Community College." Funding will support various events to provide information to students on community food resources and partner with local food banks.
- **Eastern New Mexico University – Roswell** for "UFO – Uplifting Food Opportunities: A Food Pantry for ENMU-Roswell." Funding will create and sustain a campus food pantry, provide SNAP enrollment assistance, fund an annual hunger awareness event, establish partnerships with community food banks, and train campus advisors on SNAP enrollment.
- **New Mexico State University – Grants** for "Feeding and Educating Students to Succeed Academically" (FESSA). The project aims to serve rural Hispanic and Native American students by providing educational opportunities and expanding capacity of the Aggie Cupboard food pantry to serve more students and include infant care and personal care items.
- **New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology** to establish a food pantry on campus. Campus agencies will collaborate with the Socorro Storehouse, Chartwells, and the Socorro Community Food Bank to supply food and continued funding. The food pantry will follow a "shopping" model to reduce stigma surrounding food insecurity and empower students to access resources.
- **University of New Mexico – Los Alamos** to establish a campus food pantry and expand an existing professional clothing closet. Students will have free access to basic needs items including quality food, hygiene supplies, emergency need gift cards for groceries and provisions, and receive education about healthy eating and public assistance programs like SNAP and TANF.

STATUS REPORT: NON-RECURRING ALLOCATIONS TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS FOR FY23 AND BEYOND

NEW MEXICO
HIGHER EDUCATION
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Total: \$190,600,000*

**Not including \$25,000,000 in the Technology Enhancement Fund*

The State of New Mexico through the New Mexico Higher Education Department is funding key initiatives surrounding nursing programs, faculty positions in key fields, research initiatives, and student wellbeing.

Nursing Expansion: \$15,000,000

Status: Opened May 2, 2022

Purpose: New Mexico currently faces a shortage of approximately 6,200 nurses, and all but one of the state's 33 counties are listed as healthcare shortage areas. Public higher education institutions will be awarded funding for activities that expand enrollment in and graduation from nursing programs. Some examples include developing tutoring and mentoring programs to help students pass licensure exams, recruiting high school students into programs, expanding clinical sites, and assisting students with lodging and transportation during clinical rotations.



Higher Education Endowment Fund: \$5,000,000 (FY23)

Status: Opened May 2, 2022

Purpose: The fund enhances research and establishes endowed chairs aimed at enhancing high-need areas of study including healthcare, education, agriculture and water conservation, skilled workforce development, and the sciences.

Endowed Positions in Educator Preparation, Social Work, and Nursing: \$130,000,000 (FY23-FY25)

Status: Opened May 4, 2022

- Educator Preparation: \$50,000,000
- Social Work: \$50,000,000
- Nursing: \$30,000,000

Purpose: In addition to New Mexico's nursing shortage, the state currently faces a shortage of over 1,000 licensed teachers and nearly 100 behavioral health providers and school counselors. Funding will be made available to public higher education institutions to establish endowed faculty positions in these fields, and can be used to hire additional faculty, retain qualified faculty, and increase the number of students graduating and entering these key professions each year.



Technology Enhancement Fund: Transfer of \$45,000,000 to the Fund and \$20,000,000 appropriated to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (FY23 - FY25)

Status: Drafting rules for the Technology Enhancement Fund

Language: "To provide matching funds to state research universities to support innovative applied research that advances knowledge and creates new products and production processes in the fields of agriculture, biotechnology, biomedicine energy, materials science, microelectronics, water resources, aerospace, telecommunications, manufacturing science and similar research areas. The other state funds appropriation is from the technology enhancement fund."

Farm, Food, and Hunger Initiative: Creating Food Secure Campuses: \$600,000 (FY23)

Status: To be published before June 31, 2022, in partnership with the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration

Purpose: The purpose of this funding is to address food insecurity and initiatives that address hunger at New Mexico's public and Tribal colleges and universities. Higher education institutions can build essential capacity and infrastructure to create or support efforts to address issues of food insecurity for students, promote wellness, and help outreach to vulnerable students who experience hunger.

Work Study in High-Demand Degree Fields: \$20,000,000 (FY23-FY25)

Status: Identifying high-demand degree fields and determining an allocation methodology to higher education institutions.

Language: "For work study for students in high-demand degree fields as determined by the higher department."

Purpose: Federal Work-Study is a federally-funded program that provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses. The program encourages community service work and employment related to the student's course of study. Per federal guidelines, there are no restrictions related to a student's field of study. The state provides funding annually to match the federal program.