

News ReleaseContact: alicia.rodriguez@usda.gov**NRCS announces new application deadline for Conservation Innovation Grants in New Mexico**

Albuquerque, N.M., February 25, 2021 – USDA’s [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (NRCS) has posted the funding opportunity USDA-NRCS-NM-CIG-21-NOFO0001061 for the New Mexico Conservation Innovation Grants at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). The deadline to submit a proposal through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) is **April 20, 2021**.

NRCS will make available up to \$50,000 of funding for eligible individuals, local and state governments, non-governmental organizations, and tribes in New Mexico. Applicants must follow the instructions in the notice of funding and submit a complete package by the application deadline to be considered for funding. The grant opportunity is located at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=331667>

About the Program

CIG awards are intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production while leveraging federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection. CIG generally funds pilot projects, field demonstrations and on-farm conservation research. On-farm conservation research is defined as an investigation conducted to answer a specific applied conservation question using a statistically valid design while employing farm-scale equipment on farms, ranches, or private forest lands. CIG does not fund normal farming operations or provide funds to start an agricultural venture.

To apply for state CIG projects must be carried out entirely within New Mexico and may be statewide in scope or focus on a smaller region or watershed. CIG State competitions complement the national CIG competition and enable NRCS to better address natural resource concerns at the local level. The CIG priorities for 2021 in New Mexico are increased biodiversity to control pests, implementing soil health management systems, water conservation, and restoring wildlife and fish habitat.

Applicants submitting proposals may request a minimum of \$5,000 and up to \$50,000 of federal funds. Applicants must match the Federal award at least 1:1. Matching funds can be cash, in-kind or a combination of both. A reduced match of 25% of the federal funds requested is allowed for projects that meet one of the four criteria:

1. The applicant is an historically underserved producer,



2. The applicant is community-based organization comprised of, representing, or exclusively working with historically underserved producers on a CIG project;
3. An entity developing an innovative conservation approach or technology specifically targeting historically underserved producers' unique needs and limitations; or
4. An 1890 or 1994 land grant institution (7 U.S.C. 3222 et seq.), Hispanic-serving institution (20 U.S.C. 1101a), or other minority-serving institution, such as an historically Black college or university (20 U.S.C. 1061), a tribally controlled college or university (25 U.S.C. 1801), or Asian American and Pacific Islander-serving institution (20 U.S.C. 1059g).

Applicants do not need to be an agricultural producer, but the CIG project must involve at least one [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) eligible agricultural producer. Applicants must carefully follow the instructions in the announcement of funding to ensure that the State priorities will be met with the proposal. Applications that are incomplete, do not specify the cost-share match, or do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be considered. The announcement of funding will be posted at <https://www.grants.gov/> and the New Mexico NRCS website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nm/programs/financial/cig/>.

More Information

To learn more about Conservation Innovation Grants, [visit the CIG webpage](#).

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone, and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with NRCS, Farm Service Agency, or any other Service Center agency are required [to call their Service Center](#) to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

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