



Request for Application Indian Education Act Funding

RFA # 20-92400-00007

Issue Date: April 10, 2020
Deadline Date: May 22, 2020

Contact Information:

Rebecca Reyes
Deputy Director
Indian Education Division
Indian.Education@state.nm.us

Request for Application (RFA) on Indian Education Act Funding

PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)

This RFA is issued for the purpose of improving academic and cultural achievement opportunities in alignment with the requirements of the Indian Education Act. Grants will be made available to tribal departments of education and local education agencies (LEAs) and charter schools serving significant numbers of Native American students for purposes that align with New Mexico's Indian Education Act (NMSA 1978 Section 22-23A-1 through 22-23A-8). The purpose of the Indian Education Act (IEA) is to:

- A. Ensure equitable and culturally relevant learning environments, educational opportunities and culturally relevant instructional materials for American Indian students enrolled in public schools.
- B. Ensure maintenance of Native languages.
- C. Provide for the study, development and implementation of educational systems that positively affect the educational success of American Indian students.
- D. Ensure that the department of education partners with tribes to increase tribal involvement and control over schools and the education of students located in tribal communities.
- E. Encourage cooperation among the educational leadership of Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and the Navajo Nation to address the unique issues of educating students in Navajo communities that arise due to the location of the Navajo Nation in those states.
- F. Provide the means for a formal government-to-government relationship between the state and New Mexico tribes and the development of relationships with the education division of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other entities that serve American Indian students.
- G. Provide the means for a relationship between the state and urban American Indian community members to participate in initiatives and educational decisions related to American Indian students residing in urban areas.
- H. Ensure that parents; tribal departments of education; community-based organizations; the department of education; universities; and tribal, state and local policymakers work together to find ways to improve educational opportunities for American Indian students.
- I. Ensure that tribes are notified of all curricula development for their approval and support.
- J. Encourage an agreement regarding the alignment of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and state assessment programs so that comparable information is provided to parents and tribes.
- K. Encourage and foster parental involvement in the education of Indian students.

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (NMPED) VISION

Provide a culturally, linguistically responsive education to ALL students in New Mexico to prepare them socially, emotionally and academically for success in college, career and life.

LEVEL OF FUNDING

For fiscal year 2021, NMPED intends to award amounts within the following ranges:

- \$75,000 - \$100,000 for New Mexico Tribal and Pueblo Departments of Education
- \$50,000 - \$90,000 for LEAs and Charters that enroll a significant number of Native American students, as previously determined by the NMPED

Applicants may propose a project period between one and four years. The above amounts reflect annual funding. Current and continued funding for this project is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations and program performance.

Funds may be utilized for costs related to personnel, professional development, curriculum/resource materials, tribal heritage language support, transportation, lodging, stipends, and other program-related costs.

Funds made available under this grant shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, any other federal, state, or local education funds.

Please see the Scoring Guideline for further information.

LENGTH OF FUNDING

The resulting contract shall begin upon execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between NMPED and successful applicants, and is intended to continue through the proposed project period, but not longer than June 30, 2021. NMPED reserves the right to terminate any award that does not meet the requirements as defined by the guidelines governing the program or otherwise provided in an executed IGA. Annual funding is dependent upon annual legislative appropriations.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

Eligible applicants must be one of the 23 New Mexico public school districts or seven state-chartered or school district-chartered schools identified as Native-serving institutions and/or any New Mexico tribe, nation or pueblo. Individual school projects, teacher-led projects, community-led projects, parent-led or student-led projects may be considered if submitted through an LEA or district-chartered school, with only one application permitted per LEA or district-chartered school.

See appendix for eligible schools and districts.

FUNDED STRATEGIES/PROGRAMS

Applications must demonstrate alignment with the IEA, the following are NMPED priority areas that may be used as alignment to the proposed programs:

College, Career and Life Readiness: K-12 public education prepares students to have the necessary knowledge and skills to participate in a rapidly-changing, democratic society by successfully transitioning to a post-secondary institution (without needing remedial coursework) and/or entering the workforce and competing in the labor market and aligning interests to the career of the student's choice and living fulfilling lives.

Culturally and Linguistically Relevant Education and Social and Emotional Learning: Social and emotional learning provides the foundation for students to develop social skills (empathy, reflection, cooperation, interpersonal skills, communication), academic behaviors (attendance, academic purpose, self-guided learning, participation), and an academic mindset (belonging, belief in one self, and value in work, meaningful learning). These are critical success factors to improving academic and life outcomes.

Culture and Identity Development: Programs that provide opportunities for students to participate in activities that reflect their unique cultural and linguistic heritages, and that are centered on student strengths and needs, and incorporate student voice into the design of curriculum. Programs must be grounded in the context of the student's community, language, and culture.

Increasing Access to Native American Language Programs: Programs that provide Indigenous Language programs within the community or school that are accessible to students on a regular basis and grounded in the context of the community and approved by the tribe in which the program represents. Indigenous language programs should set goals for students that are aligned with the LEA, Charter and Tribes overall Indigenous Language Program goals. If your district or charter receives funding from the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act, please provide a justification on how the IEA funding will be used above and beyond to support a Native American Language Program.

Applicants must describe how their program aligns with these high-priority areas. Applicants must also describe their intended outcomes, and how progress toward these outcomes will be measured annually. Written proposals may not exceed five pages.

To meet the intended alignment with the IEA, applicants must demonstrate the extent to which the school or LEA serves Native American students by indicating: the number that attend the school/LEA, the percentage of each subgroup in relation to the overall student population, the specific needs faced by the target population, and how the school/LEA will provide services to the target population.

PROGRAM OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT

NMPED will manage the progress of the projects/programs; the program contact is listed below:

Rebecca Reyes, Deputy Director Indian Education Division Rebecca.Reyes2@state.nm.us

For questions related to this RFP, contact Rebecca Reyes Rebecca.Reyes2@state.nm.us prior to the deadline to submit questions April 24, 2020.

SCORING GUIDELINES

Each application will be scored across five (5) application sections:

- I. Project Narrative: Provide a detailed narrative illustrating the community need for the program, the program's alignment with the Tribe/Pueblo/District/Charter strategic plan, planned activities and timeline, and project partners. Describe how the proposed program meets the goals of the IEA and how it aligns with NMPED high priority areas, including culturally and linguistically relevant programs, programs that support college and career readiness, and programs that support social emotional learning, culture, and identity development. Describe the extent to which the Tribe/Pueblo/District/Charter serves Native American students and the unique needs faced by these students. Indicate whether the program will serve low-income students, students with disabilities, and English language learners as applicable. (40 points)
- II. Project Outcomes and Measurement Plan: Provide the intended short-term and long-term outcomes of the program, measurable objectives, numbers of students served under the proposed program, and a plan to measure the success of the program. (30 points)
- III. Project Budget: Provide a budget that details the requested funding for the first year of the program. Use the online form included in the IED grant management. (15 points)
- IV. Support Documents: Provide any additional information that documents community support of the program (e.g., letters of support, community engagement activities, meeting minutes, etc.) and that furthers NMPED's understanding of your proposal. (10 points)
- V. District Assurances: Provide a signed agreement with the assurances included within the online management system. (5 points)

Applications will be scored across five rubric areas ranging from "Complete, coherent, convincing" to "Section not included in application, or is conspicuously incomplete." Either a score of '0' or 'no submission' of any of the components of the application will result in a disqualification of the application.

Applications are limited to 5 pages for items I through III above. Items IV and V are not included in the page limit.

TIMELINE

NMPED will make every effort to adhere to the following schedule:

Action	Responsible Party	Due Date
Issue RFA	NMPED	April 10, 2020
Deadline to submit written questions	Potential applicants	April 24, 2020
Response to questions	NMPED	May 1, 2020
Submission of applications	Potential applicants	May 22, 2020
Evaluation of applications	Review panel	June 1, 2020-June 12, 2020
Selection of grantees	Review panel	June 15, 2020
Finalize contractual arrangements	NMPED/grantees	June 15-19, 2020
Contract awards	NMPED/grantees	July 10, 2020

Grantees

Will need to provide mid-year and annual review on the progress of outcomes.

EXPLANATION OF EVENTS

- Issuance of RFA: This RFA is being issued on behalf of the New Mexico Public Education Department on the date specified in the above timeline.
- Deadline to Submit Questions: Potential grantees may submit questions to Rebecca Reyes at Rebecca.Reyes2@state.nm.us regarding the intent or clarity of the RFA until 5:00pm MST on April 24, 2020 as indicated in the timeline above. Questions shall be clearly labeled and shall cite the relevant sections of the RFA or any other attending document.
- Response to Questions: Responses to questions will be distributed as indicated in the timeline above and according to order in which the questions were received.
- Submission of Application: All applications must be received for review and evaluation by 5:00pm MST on May 22, 2020. Applications received after this time will not be accepted. The date and time of receipt of application will be time-stamped by the online system.
- Evaluation of Applications: The Evaluation Committee will perform the evaluation of applications. The process will take place as indicated in the timeline above depending on the number of applications received. During this time, NMPED may initiate discussions with applicants who submit applications requiring clarification. Discussions may not be initiated by applicants.
- Selection of Grantees: The Evaluation Committee will notify all applicants of the decision on their application by July 20, 2020 or earlier. Feedback and final application score will be distributed to applicants not selected for funding if requested. Each application will be scored by the panelists individually and then discussed at a meeting of the entire panel in order to arrive at final scores for each component. For more detail on the scoring guidelines, see "Scoring Guidelines" section above.
- Finalize Contractual Agreements: During the window of time stipulated in the timeline above, NMPED will work directly with successful grantees to establish contract terms leading to execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA).
- Contract Awards: After review of the Evaluation Committee Report and the signed contractual agreement, the Agency Procurement Office will award as per the schedule in the timeline above. This date is subject to change at the discretion of the State Purchasing Division or relevant Agency Procurement Office. The contract(s) shall be awarded to the applicants whose proposals are most advantageous to the State of New Mexico and the Public Education Department, taking into consideration the evaluation factors set forth in this RFA. The award is subject to appropriate Department and State approval, and both entities reserve the right to not fund any of the applications, if none are judged to be advantageous and/or do not score sufficiently.

REPORTING

Successful grantees will work together with NMPED to establish a reporting schedule focused on progress to outcomes and project budgeting aligned to milestones. Awardees will need to present their project at the annual Government to Government meetings to share their learning and outcomes from their project. LEA, or Charter Grantees will need to provide their needs assessments by October 15, 2020 and Systemic framework for improving educational outcomes for Native American students by January 15, 2021.

EVALUATION COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The committee tasked with the evaluation of applications will have a broad level of experience with Native American education, charter schools, school leadership, teaching experience representing a variety of perspectives and seniority in the field. Members will be highly familiar with New Mexico's educational system, the tribal and charter landscape, and cultural and linguistic relevance within education.

CHECKLIST FOR SUBMISSION (AVAILABLE IN IED GRANT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM)

- I. Project Narrative
- II. Project Outcomes and Measurement Plan
- III. Project Budget
- IV. Project Support Documents
- V. District Assurances Page

Combine all documents into a single file and submit online at: [IED Grant Application](#) Please submit the FY 2021 application using the online application on the IED grant management system.

APPENDIX: Eligible Districts and Charter Schools

Aztec
Albuquerque
Bernalillo
Bloomfield
Central Consolidated
Cuba
Dził Dítł'ooí School of Empowerment Action and Perseverance (DEAP)
Dream Diné Charter School
Dulce
Española
Farmington
Gallup-McKinley
Gordon Bernal Charter School
Grants-Cibola
Hózhó Academy Charter School
Jemez Mountain
Jemez Valley
Los Lunas
Las Cruces
Magdalena
Middle College High School Charter-GAL
Native American Community Academy (NACA)
Peñasco
Pojoaque
Rio Rancho
Ruidoso
San Diego Riverside School
Santa Fe
Six Directions Indigenous School
Taos
Tularosa
Vista Grande High School
Walatowa High Charter School
Zuni