

Report to New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts
New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Programs and Resources Division
<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/apr/soil-and-water-districts.html>

December 2025

OMA Notification Requirements

Remember that if you have to hold a district board meeting at a date, time or location that deviates from the information you advertised in your Open Meetings Act resolution, you must advertise it accordingly. Here are the guidelines:

Regular Meeting – 10 Days Prior

Special Meeting – 3 Days Prior

Emergency Meeting – 24 Hours Prior

Nov to Dec	Adopt Open Meetings Act Resolution to cover upcoming calendar year (cc: NMDA)
December 1 st	Agreed Upon Procedure Report (AUP) or Certification forms due to the NM State Auditor's Office
January	Elected supervisors take oaths of office Reorganize district board: Elect chairman, vice chair, and secretary-treasurer Report to NMDA name, address, and phone number of all board members and indicate chair, vice chair, and secretary-treasurer positions Conduct district board mid-year budget review Ensure that proper bonding policy is in place
January 30 th	2nd quarterly budget report due to DFA-LGD (cc: SWCC region commissioner and NMDA)
January 31 st	WQ&C grant 2nd quarterly report and budget due to SWCC

1. SWCDs: Apply for the \$160,000 with NMDA for Capacity Building

Please see NMDA's attached guidelines and proposal instructions for the SWCD FY26-28 Capacity Building Funding Opportunity. There is also a budget template that NMDA suggests (rather than requires) SWCDs use.

NMDA will accept proposals for this round of capacity building funding from July 15, 2025 to July 15, 2026 (12 months). Once NMDA has approved a proposal and the necessary paperwork is completed, funded activities can begin.

Please email the completed proposal and budget to your SWCD Specialist and pdepner@nmda.nmsu.edu. **If you have questions about this funding opportunity or require assistance, please contact your SWCD Specialist.**

2. NMDA's Healthy Soil Program: Important updates

NMDA is encouraging individual applicants such as farmers, ranchers and other land managers to contact their project sponsor as soon as possible and let them know that they are planning to apply for the Healthy Soil Program FY27 grants. Individual Applicants are asked to provide their prospective project sponsor with their contact information as well as the location of the project. Once this information is provided, we ask that SWCD's or pueblos, tribes or nations provide that information to NMDA's HSP Team. This information will allow NMDA to determine if additional assistance may be necessary to provide conservation planning for individual applicants.

In order to have the most up to date information on NMDA's Healthy Soil Program, SWCD's and other eligible entities as well as farmers, ranchers and other land managers are encouraged to subscribe to the weekly HSP email newsletter. The HSP weekly email includes updates from NMDA's Healthy Soil Program team. Subscribing is simple: Send an email to hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu with the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

FY26 Healthy Soil Program REMINDERS:

- October 31 marked the end of the first quarter for FY26 grants. First quarter reports, including pre-project soil test and assessment data, were due to **NMDA on Nov. 30**.
- **All projects must be invoiced for reimbursement at least *quarterly*.** This requirement aims to help all parties keep pace with the paperwork during the nearly 15-month grant term.
- The **FY27 HSP** application period will open January 16, 2026. The deadline to apply is 12 p.m. (noon) Mountain Time on Friday, March 20, 2026. Late, incomplete, and paper applications will not be accepted or reviewed.
- Individual applicants that are applying for the FY27 HSP grants must complete conservation planning by February 20, 2026.

Bottom Line: If an HSP applicant cannot get NRCS conservation planning and comes to you for assistance, please pass on their contact information and the location of the project to NMDA's HSP Team (hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu).

We remind SWCD's that if you have any questions about the Healthy Soil Program please feel free to email those questions to the HSP Team at hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu

3. \$500,000 in USDA specialty crop funding available for NM

NMDA to hold workshops in December in advance of Feb. 14 proposal deadline

LAS CRUCES, N.M. – More than \$500,000 in funding is available to New Mexico producers through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, administered by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA).

The USDA's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program enhances the competitiveness of specialty crops, defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops. Projects should focus on marketing, training, certification, food safety, pest control or plant health that benefit specialty crops broadly.

Producer groups, non-profits, trade associations and universities are eligible applicants. Projects cannot solely benefit a single organization, product or individual.

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture is holding three virtual workshops in December in preparation for the Feb. 14 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program proposal deadline. Saffron flowers are considered a specialty crop by the United States Department of Agriculture. (Envato Elements stock photo)

To help applicants prepare for the Feb. 14, 2026 proposal deadline, NMDA will host three virtual outreach workshops in December:

Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 3:30 p.m.

Register in advance for this meeting at:

https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/UrCzYjk0Sxmqb5_x5K1djw

Thursday, Dec. 9 at noon

Register in advance for this meeting at:

https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/X_xYQGulTEe9Q7RE00hKMg

Thursday, Dec. 11 at 7 a.m.

Register in advance for this meeting at:

<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/81479704753>

After registering, participants will receive a confirmation email with meeting details.

Applications must be submitted to NMDA by Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026. A panel of experts and NMDA staff will review all submissions.

4. NMDA Grant Contact Emails

If your SWCD has an FY26 project with an NMDA grant or program, please submit invoices, requests, and reports with the grant or program name to the email addresses below. For FY26 HSP projects, please also include the project number.

- **Capital Outlay:** Patricia Depner at pdepner@nmda.nmsu.edu and Gabriela Hernandez at ghernandez@nmda.nmsu.edu
- **Healthy Soil Program:** HSP@nmda.nmsu.edu
- **District Opportunities grant (formerly known as the Land of Enchantment Fund Grant):** LOE@nmda.nmsu.edu
- **Noxious Weeds Management Grant:** weeds@nmda.nmsu.edu
- **Water Quality & Conservation Grant:** SWCC@nmda.nmsu.edu
- **\$160,000 SWCD Capacity Building Funding Opportunity:** Patricia Depner at pdepner@nmda.nmsu.edu; for questions about applying for the funding, contact your Specialist.

As a reminder, **submissions of invoices directly to NMSU will delay reimbursement.**

Although the invoices will be addressed to NMSU Accounts Payable, **all invoices must be submitted to NMDA for review and payment processing.** If you are unsure which email to submit invoices to, **please contact NMDA at 575-646-2642.**

The items below might be of interest to SWCDs. These items were retrieved from various sources outside of NMDA.

5. Small Local Public Bodies Assistance Program from Office of State Auditor (OSA)

The OSA is pleased to announce the launch of the Small Local Public Bodies assistance program. The OSA has partnered with local independent public accountants to assist LPB's prepare and submit financial reports to meet reporting requirements per the Audit Rule and Audit Act. Please note that funding is limited and will be awarded based on need and availability.

Apply here: [LPB Financial Assistance Application Form](#)

6. DFA NM Match Fund

Published at link below; retrieved by NMDA on July 22, 2025

The New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration invites state agencies, tribal governments, counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions to apply for the New Mexico Match Fund. See policy for full list of eligible entities.

The Match Fund provides a unique opportunity to leverage once-in-a-generation federal funding for infrastructure, research, economic development, the energy transition, and other critical projects that will benefit New Mexico.

FY26 Funding Available:

- **\$50 Million for Matching Grants**
- **\$4M for Project Implementation**
- **\$17.5M for Federal Compliance Offset**

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, first-come, first-served. DFA reviews complete applications and makes determinations within 20 business days.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/nmmatchfund/>