

NM WRRI Agricultural Water Resilience Program FAQs

These answers were updated on June 17, 2026 and are subject to revision.

General Program Questions:

1. Who is eligible to apply for AgWRP funding?

Eligible applicants include New Mexico public entities that partner with ranchers or farmers. These public entities include soil and water conservation districts, irrigation and conservancy districts, watershed districts, acequia and community ditch associations, tribal governments, or local governments (see RFA section 1.4 for more details).

Note: Individual ranchers and farmers must partner with an eligible public entity to apply.

2. Can a soil and water conservation district apply on behalf of an acequia association, or does the acequia association need to apply themselves?

An acequia association can be the eligible applicant.

3. Does an eligible applicant have to partner with a rancher or farmer?

Yes, a complete application must include an eligible applicant and a partner rancher or farmer.

4. Can the partner be a producer association? For example, a water conservation project at a cooperative production facility.

An individual rancher or farmer may self-identify as part of a project or facility, but must be identified individually.

5. Is a for-profit project within a tribe an eligible partner? To clarify, our tribe has for-profit agricultural enterprises within the tribe. Do these "in-house" farmers count as partners?

An individual farmer or rancher may be represented by the for-profit agricultural enterprise but must be identified individually.

6. Can an eligible applicant submit multiple applications?

Yes, an eligible applicant can submit multiple applications with different partners, but they must have the capacity to support all the projects they apply for.

7. Can one application serve more than one partner rancher or farmer?

Yes, an eligible applicant can submit one application with multiple partners. The eligible applicant would need to include individual budgets and water monitoring and assessment agreements for each partner in the group. Keep in mind, the maximum award for a single project is \$300,000.

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8. Can the eligible applicant and the partner rancher or farmer be the same entity?

No, the eligible applicant and the partner rancher or farmer cannot be the same entity.

9. Can multiple properties/types of projects be considered on one application?

Multiple projects can be submitted by one eligible applicant, but they need to have their own application.

10. Is participation in the Monitoring and Water Impact Assessment required?

Yes, each partner farmer or rancher for an awarded project is required to collaborate with NM WRRI for monitoring. Participants should include water monitoring equipment in the budget or use equipment already installed on the property. Participation is formalized through the Monitoring & Water Impact Assessment Agreement found on the program website.

11. What kinds of monitoring equipment might be installed?

Each awarded project should include devices such as flow meters, soil moisture sensors, rain gauges, and stock tank level sensors. See Appendix B of the RFA for more information.

12. After reading Appendix B there are still questions of which equipment is best for the project. Is there someone who can help?

If you still have questions, please email agwrp@nmsu.edu and our researchers can help advise on equipment purchases.

13. What are the reporting requirements?

Awardees must submit progress reports and a final report including data analysis, lessons learned, before/after photos, etc. Templates for all reports will be provided. Payment of final invoices is contingent upon NM WRRI's acceptance of the final report.

14. Can I get technical support designing my project?

NM WRRI can help advise on the water monitoring equipment design by emailing agwrp@nmsu.edu.

15. Can an eligible applicant apply for project design and engineering now and follow up at a second funding period for project construction?

This program is only designed to have one funding period, so it would be highly recommended to put design, engineering, and construction together in one project application.

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16. Are projects allowed that include public lands (e.g., federal, state)?

If the proposed project includes activity on public land, the eligible applicant and partner must have the appropriate permissions to implement all components of the proposed project.

17. What is the project timeline?

Projects will have two phases. The first expenditure phase requires that all project funds be expended from September 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The second completion and assessment phase will extend until June 30, 2028.

Application Questions:

18. How do I apply?

Submit your application on the program website at: <https://nmwrri.grantplatform.com/>. The deadline is Monday, June 29, 2026, at 5:00 PM MDT. More details are available on the program website.

19. Can an eligible applicant submit more than one application from the same account?

Yes. Each eligible applicant can submit multiple applications using the same account.

20. Can a farmer or rancher (i.e. partner) submit more than one project application?

Yes. Partners can submit more than one project application, but each application must be submitted separately and require partnership with an eligible applicant.

21. Can I save my progress and return to an application later?

Yes, you can select save and exit and the application will be available for you to complete until the deadline June 29, 2026, at 5:00 PM MDT.

22. Can the application be updated after submission before the deadline?

Yes, from the application platform, you can select an application from your dashboard and update it. Applications can be updated until the deadline on June 29, 2026, at 5:00 PM MDT. After this deadline, the application platform will close, and applications cannot be modified.

23. What if I submit my application and then realize there's a mistake?

If you need to make changes to an application you already submitted, please make those changes and submit the entire application again before the deadline at 5:00 pm MT on June

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29, 2026. Once the application window has closed no changes can be made to any applications.

24. For Question D3 of the application, “Number of farms and ranches that the project serves:”, is this the number of people benefited or the number of farms/ranches?

This is the number of properties that are benefited from the project.

25. Where can I get help with the application?

NM WRRRI hosted an informational webinar and Q&A on May 20, 2026. The slides from the presentation are included along with webinar recording on the [program website](#). At the 7:30 mark of the webinar, we walked through the entire application. You may also email questions to: agwrp@nmsu.edu with the subject line: “*FY27 Agricultural Water Resilience Application Questions.*”

26. When will contracts be sent to successful applications?

Applicants will be notified regarding the status of their applications on August 14, 2026, and contracts are expected to start September 1, 2026.

Financial Questions:

27. What expenses are eligible for reimbursement?

Costs eligible for reimbursement include but are not limited to labor (hourly wages), equipment rentals and purchases (e.g., irrigation systems, pumps), supplies, contractor/subcontractor fees, travel for project implementation, and gross receipts tax. See Section 2.1 E.1.1 of the RFA for more details. Ineligible costs include but are not limited to indirect fees, lobbying, or ongoing maintenance beyond the contract term. See Section 2.1 E.1.2 of the RFA for more details.

28. Are eligible applicant expenses for implementing/administrating the project allowed?

Yes, the eligible applicant can include expenses up to 10% of the budget for implementing/administering the project are allowed, but they must be detailed and justified in the budget as direct costs (e.g. salary, fringe, travel, workshops), not a simple percentage of the total budget.

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29. Is there a limit on the amount of administrative fees that can be requested?

A cap for administrative costs is set at up to 10% of the project budget. Administrative fees should be clearly allocable to the project, necessary and reasonable for the project's success and well-justified in the budget narrative.

30. Can grant funds support the researcher's time and resources?

The researchers will be treated as subcontractors and the budget will need to detail and justify their time and the scope of work that they'll be completing on the project.

31. What is the reimbursement process?

The eligible applicant will submit the appropriate paperwork to NM WRRI for reimbursement.

Note: Only the eligible applicant can bill for the project and only for expenses they incurred (i.e. reimbursing the partner), so agreements between the eligible applicant and partner about how purchases will be made are highly encouraged.

32. What is the timeline for reimbursement of costs?

Once the appropriate paperwork is submitted to NM WRRI, payment is typically issued within 45 days.

33. Do farmers have to be registered with the federal farm service and have a federal ID number with sam.gov to receive funding?

No, because this is state funding, not federal funding, farmers do not have to be registered with the federal farm service or have a federal ID number through sam.gov.

34. What are restricted state/federal funds not eligible for match?

Restricted state/federal funds not eligible for match are funds coming from state or federal sources for specific projects that are granted through either a grant contract agreement or are for specific projects.

35. Is a contingency fund allowed in the budget?

Contingency funds are not allowed. A breakdown of all the direct costs associated with the project must be included in the budget.

36. Is there any buffer in the approved budget for the rapid rise in construction costs?

Include in your budget your best estimate that's reasonable for the cost you expect to have for your project.

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37. Will the eligible applicants need to issue 1099s to the farmers/ranchers they work with to implement these projects?

The eligible applicant's accounting department needs to determine if they need to issue 1099s to the partner ranchers and farmers. NMSU will issue a 1099 to the eligible applicant.

Eligible Activity Questions:

38. What types of projects are eligible?

Projects must support agricultural water conservation and resilience without increasing water depletions. Examples include improved irrigation systems, livestock watering infrastructure, rainwater harvesting, soil moisture monitoring, and crop conversion to drought-tolerant species. See Appendix A of the RFA for more examples.

39. Is the upgrade of existing infrastructure an eligible activity?

Yes, upgrading existing infrastructure is an eligible activity, but remember it is up to the individual applicants to show that either water use efficiency or water resilience are positively impacted by the proposed activity.

40. Does a proposed project have to include agricultural food production or is water savings enough to qualify?

A proposed project needs to include agriculture and ideally support food production along with water savings.

41. If a proposed project is retiring irrigation, would a water right lease be an eligible activity?

This program is not designed to buy out water rights.

42. Is improving soil health and the capacity of soils to absorb and store water a suitable activity?

It is up to the individual applicants to show that either water use efficiency or water resilience are positively impacted by the proposed activity.