NM Collaborative Zone Grants
Frequently Asked Questions

What is NM Collaborative Zone Grant?
The NM Collaborative Zone Grant ("Zone Grant") is a collaborative grant structure being developed by multiple funders in New Mexico for the purpose of supporting group projects and initiatives seeking to create high impact in New Mexico communities. 2018 is the inaugural year for the Zone Grant, with the McCune Charitable Foundation, the Santa Fe Community Foundation and the Thornburg Foundation participating as funders. The grants are made as unrestricted general operating funding.

Who is eligible to participate in a Zone Grant?
Collaborations of organizations seeking to benefit New Mexicans are eligible to apply for a Zone Grant. The collaboration must include a minimum of 3 organizations, which can include non-profit organizations, for-profit enterprises, faith based groups, community groups and individuals (as long as the purpose of the work is charitable and the funding flows through a single “submitting organization” that is eligible to receive charitable funding). Organizations eligible to receive funding include the following types of entities: qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes, public schools, or governmental agencies.

What is the dollar amount awarded for Zone Grants?
The Zone Grant is a three-year structure that features one year of planning and two years of potential implementation funding. The exact amounts for these grants can change depending on the funder sponsoring the particular Zone Grant, but the baseline amount is $25,000.00 for the planning year plus the potential for $100,000.00 implementation funding per year for two years. Funding allocation among the collaborating organizations will be proposed by the members of the collaborative. A planning grant award does not guarantee implementation funding.

How can we apply for a Zone Grant?
The first step in applying for a Zone Grant is to submit a proposal in response to the Zone Grant Request for Proposals (RFP), which is available for review [here](#). Selected proposals will receive planning grants and technical support to facilitate the planning year. Reports generated by the planning year process will serve as applications for implementation funding.

Can we apply for more than one Zone Grant per year?
The Zone Grant cycle happens once per year and during that cycle, particular groups of organizations may submit only one collaborative proposal.

What if my organization is participating as a partner on more than one proposal?
Individual organizations can participate in multiple zone grant proposals. It is recommended that organizations doing so make clear to their various collaborators that this is the case.
What priority or programmatic areas do Zone Grants address?
Each Foundation that sponsors a Zone Grant will define its own priorities.

- For Zone Grants sponsored by the McCune Foundation, proposals will be expected to address the RFP framing questions for that year's Zone Grants in alignment with the McCune Foundation Priorities and Leverage Points, which you can learn about by reviewing its Strategic Plan, Foundation Priorities and Leverage Points (including the opportunity to view recent webinars) by clicking on the “Apply” page on the McCune website: http://www.nmmccune.org/apply.

- Santa Fe Community Foundation is sponsoring a Zone Grant targeted at addressing the housing crisis in Santa Fe with multifaceted and bold solutions that make affordable housing a more equitably accessible/available resource in Santa Fe.

- For the Thornburg Foundation zone grant, applicants will be expected to review the Resilience in New Mexico Agriculture Strategic Plan (see: The AG Plan and Resilience Background Report) and Thornburg’s food and agriculture priorities as summarized on the Thornburg website: http://thornburgfoundation.org/food-and-agriculture.aspx.

Can individual organizations apply for a Zone Grant?
The Zone Grant is being developed to support collaborations of multiple organizations and so individual groups are not eligible to apply in this structure.

What if we have a fiscal sponsor?
A fiscal sponsor can serve as the submitting organization for a Zone Grant.

We would like to submit additional materials with our proposal. How can we do that?
We are unable to accept supplementary materials at this time. Please only submit the materials requested in the Zone Grant RFP.

When will we hear whether or not our proposal has been selected for a planning grant?
A letter will be sent to each applicant after the review process, which should be completed by the end of October 2018.

If our application is not funded, how can we receive feedback on our proposal?
Please understand that the decline of a proposal does not mean that the project lacks merit. Over the course of this inaugural year, the funders will design a process for providing feedback for declined proposals.

Who can we contact with questions about the Zone Grant and RFP process?
We hope you will join the foundation staff on May 10th for an informational webinar which should answer most questions. However, additional questions in relation to Santa Fe Community Foundation’s Framing Questions about Affordable Housing can be sent to Christa Coggins at ccoggins@santafecf.org. For questions regarding the Thornburg Foundation’s Framing Questions, please send those to Bryan Crawford-Garrett at
bryan@thornburgfoundation.org. For questions regarding the McCune Foundation’s Framing Questions, please send those to Ernesto Torres at ernesto@nmmccune.org. In the event you have technical difficulties submitting the proposal through the ShareNM site, please contact their help desk. Instructions to send questions to ShareNM are in the grant application site.