New Mexico Collaborative Zone Grants
Application Deadline: June 21, 2018

Overview
The “Collaborative Zone Grant” is an opportunity for collaborations of organizations and other entities to apply together for multi-year funding to test, prove and support approaches to New Mexico’s challenges that extend beyond the mission of any single organization. The NM Collaborative Zone Grant (“Zone Grant”) opportunity includes awarding of a one-year planning grant followed by the potential for two years of implementation funding. Zone Grants support alignment, collaboration and integration in the New Mexico non-profit sector by providing funding and technical support to groups of organizations seeking to truly test the effectiveness of their collaboration.

A “Zone” can be thought of as a distinct area of alignment among the collaborating organizations. It can be a geographic (e.g. “the South Valley in Bernalillo County” or “rural Southeast New Mexico”), programmatic and/or policy zone (e.g. “early childhood education” or “family economic security”).

Please be advised that in the spirit of openness and the sharing of work and ideas, all proposals submitted for a Zone Grant will be shared with multiple funders (both those participating as funders in the Zone Grant structure, as well as other that are interested in the process) to educate them about work going on in New Mexico. For this reason, applicants should avoid including confidential or proprietary information in their proposals.

Eligibility
- A minimum of 3 distinct organizations must participate in the application
- The submitting organization must be a New Mexico-based 501(c)3 organization, educational institution, federally recognized Indian tribe or governmental entity
- The submitting organization can only submit one application per Zone Grant cycle; however, individual organizations can participate in multiple Zone Grant applications
- Proposed work must be primarily for the benefit of New Mexicans and should be aligned with the priorities of the Lead Funder of the grant

Proposal Requirements
- Narrative
  - Maximum 5 pages, 12 pt. font
  - Diagrams and images are welcome but must be included in the narrative and fit within the page count
- A high-level project budget
- A list of partner organizations with 100-word overview of each organization
- For submitting organization:
  - Most recent financial statement (for budgets over $500,000, financial statements should be audited)
  - Current year operating budget for fiscal sponsor or submitting organization
○ Description of recent grants, pending proposals or plans for additional funding relevant to the proposed work

- The proposal must be submitted via SHARE NM at this link: https://www.sharenm.org/grantseeker. Note that anyone can see the grant awards, but must be registered and logged in to apply for grants.

**Funding Areas/Framing Questions**

The dynamics and systems that inhibit New Mexicans from achieving prosperity and resilience are complex and require innovative solutions that extend across mission areas and sectors. The Zone Grant seeks to support work within self-identified “Zones of Alignment” among organizations seeking to support and build prosperity and resiliency in New Mexico communities. Specific issues that will be addressed by work proposed must show general alignment with the priorities of the Lead Funder of the grant and should be responsive to the appropriate specific framing question below (please select one framing question to respond to for your proposal):

**Lead Funder: Santa Fe Community Foundation** (One grant, $35,000 planning year, up to 2 years of implementation funding @ $135,000 per year.) For specific questions about the SFCF framing question, please send inquiries to ccoggins@santafecf.org.

1. What will it take for affordable housing to become a more equitably accessible/available resource in Santa Fe?

**Lead Funder: McCune Foundation** (Four $25,000 planning year grants resulting in two implementation grants with up to 2 years of funding each @ $100,000 per year.) For specific questions about the McCune framing questions, please send inquiries to ernesto@nmmccune.org.

2. How can vulnerable families be supported to overcome the barriers they face in building assets and wealth?
3. How might organizations work together to connect “direct service” provision to broader policy change for the benefit of vulnerable New Mexican families?
4. What would an equitable transition to renewable energy look like for New Mexico communities?

**Lead Funder: Thornburg Foundation** (One grant, $30,000 planning year guaranteed, with the possibility of up to 2 years of implementation funding @ $75,000-$125,000 per year – note that implementation funding is not guaranteed at this time and will be subject to funding availability and the results of the planning grant.) For specific questions about the McCune framing questions, please send inquiries to bryan@thornburgfoundation.org.

1. Institutional procurement (by entities such as schools, prisons, universities, hospitals, etc.) of locally produced food holds tremendous potential – to promote local production; to provide access – especially for smaller-scale and mid-size producers – to consistent and reliable market opportunities; and to offer healthy, local food to consumers, particularly lower-income populations. To date, however, institutional procurement has yet to realize its potential in New Mexico. Building upon past successes and failures in
the state and elsewhere, how can the myriad potential benefits of institutional procurement be achieved?

2. In many ways for future farming and ranching in New Mexico to be more sustainable and beneficial to the health of our working lands, water, and people, it will require a wide-scale (re)turn to methods used in the past – be they in using less tillage and fewer chemicals for production; in grazing that mimics how herds roamed in the past; in promoting more diversified farm/ranch operations; in water and land management; etc. What can be done to accelerate the (re)turn to and wider-scale adoption of these types of practices?

To respond to either of these questions, it will be important that applicants review and reference the Resilience in New Mexico Agriculture Strategic Plan (see: The AG Plan and Resilience Background Report) and propose multifaceted approaches that include working to affect policy change (at state, municipal, and/or tribal levels). Applicants should also specify the proposed geographic coverage of the project, which could be in one or more specific rural, urban, county, or tribal communities or could have a statewide reach.

**Narrative**

The Narrative portion of the proposal must be no longer than 5 pages and include the following:

- Clear, concise statement of the issue the collaboration will seek to address, highlighting a shared understanding of the challenge that all participating groups agree upon.
- Responses to the following questions:
  - **Systems Approach** - What are the systemic issues and dynamics that lead to the challenges the collaboration is seeking to overcome? What element of the system does this work seek to change?
  - **Collaboration Opportunity** - What is the collaborative’s “theory of change” (how do you imagine the collaboration will change the dynamics being addressed)? What does this collaboration make possible that otherwise wouldn’t be if the partners weren’t working together? What do the partner organizations hope to learn from this collaboration and the proposed work? What is risky about this approach?
  - **Community Impact** - Who will be the beneficiaries of the work? How did members of the affected communities engage in the development of this approach and how did this engagement influence the design? How would they engage going forward in planning and implementation?
- Description of work to be supported by this funding and the roles of each partner in successful implementation and how the funding will be used.
- Description of evaluation approach.
- Summary of partners that are coming together in this proposal and why each is relevant to this approach (what role will each play or what work will each take on?); description of
any other important partners not yet committed/included in this proposal, their potential role and how they might be engaged in the planning process (as applicable)

- Describe leadership and decision making structure of the collaboration
- Describe the key undefined elements of this collaboration that will be considered and refined in the planning process

**Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 18, 2018</td>
<td>RFP and FAQ Issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10, 2018</td>
<td>Webinar/Information session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21, 2018</td>
<td>Deadline for RFP submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2 - Sept 29, 2018</td>
<td>Proposal reviews/potential site visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 27, 2018</td>
<td>Planning Grants awarded (2-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2018</td>
<td>Tentative convening of awardees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>