



## **Resilient Communities Fund Grant Guidelines for Mainstreet, Arts & Cultural District and Frontier Community Projects**

### **Funding Priorities**

- ✓ Economic Development and Community Economic: Entrepreneurism and business development, light manufacturing, and tourism development.
- ✓ Rural Development Projects
- ✓ Urban planning/Placemaking: includes matching funds for Master (or other) plans, streetscapes, trails, façade improvements, curb appeal projects, parks and recreation activities,
- ✓ Arts and Culture: Includes public art, performing arts, events, scenic/cultural corridor projects
- ✓ Civic engagement activities
- ✓ Food security: Including urban/community-supported agriculture, co-ops, etc.
- ✓ Environmental stewardship
- ✓ Capacity-building among “community builders” (individuals and/or organizations) via education, trainings or convenings.

### **General Specifications**

- Grants shall reflect alignment with NMRA’s mission and strategic plan.
- Projects that leverage capacity via partnerships, collaborations, or sharing of human or financial resources shall receive priority consideration via assignment of bonus points during review of applications.
- NMRA grants will be coordinated with, and through the New Mexico MainStreet program. Grant funding will be coupled with support by the NM MainStreet Program through its provision of technical assistance and oversight.
- Availability of funding will be established via public announcements, requests for proposals or other related application process. Potential grantees must submit an application for consideration by the NMRA. The grant application needs to identify specific tangible performance measures as part of the outcomes; progress toward completion of performance measures (where required) must be included in a final report.

**Funding and Eligibility Criteria:**

1. NMMS affiliates must be in *good standing* with NMMS reporting requirements, standards, and benchmarks: Program must have current MOU on file with NMMS. Non-profit and NMMS compliance documents updated annually. Active boards/committees and evidence of achievement under the MainStreet/ACD Four Points Approach. MainStreet/ACD programs or Frontier Community projects not in "good standing" with NMMS are not eligible for funding.
2. In instances of co-funding, Accredited and Affiliate organizations shall have priority. Accelerator programs may be considered for basic projects or assistance with initial organizational funding needs.
3. MainStreet/ACD programs or Frontier Community projects reverting money from previous grants will not be eligible for funding for a period of 1 year. Similarly, prospective grantees will not be eligible for new grant funds if they have not completed previously funded projects (i.e., if a project remains underway, grantee is ineligible for additional grant awards). This condition may extend to funds or projects established in coordination with the New Mexico MainStreet Program, including capital outlay projects.
4. Maximum grant award MainStreet/ACD programs or Frontier Community project shall be limited to \$5,000 unless otherwise approved by the NMRA Board of Directors.
5. Grants to MainStreet/ACD programs (including design projects) require 1 to 1 cash and/or in kind match. Grantee must provide evidence of match for grant awards. In-kind donations must be tracked as part of the grant reporting. Match resources (financial or in-kind) must be specifically dedicated to the project for which the grant was awarded. Match requirements may be waived for Accelerator or Frontier Community programs.
6. Recurring projects and activities are not eligible for funding in consecutive years.
7. Depending on availability of funds, NMRA may consider awards greater than \$5,000 for large-scale infrastructure, "bricks-n-mortar" or urban/cultural planning projects. Projects and activities requesting support must be listed as a priority on the adopted ACD Cultural Plan and/or ACD/MS district Master Plan.
8. All grant recipients must sign a "General Terms and Conditions Agreement" that specifies the intended use of funds, grant period, reporting requirements, public relations/acknowledgement guidelines and return or unexpended funds. The General Terms and Conditions Agreement may also specify additional terms or conditions related to the grant award. Extension of the grant period may be negotiated but decisions on extensions are reserved for NMRA Board of Directors.
9. Funding is limited to tax-exempt (501c3 designation) organizations in good standing. Prospective grantees may also apply if operating under the formal designation of a fiscal sponsor that has its own 501c3 letter. A copy of a fully signed and completed Fiscal Sponsorship Form will be required.
10. Preference will be provided to applicants indicating 100% board financial contribution to operations (i.e., If applicant can declare that all Board of Directors have provided some financial contribution to the organization during the current fiscal year).