NM FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE: JENNIFER RIORDAN EDUCATE 2 ELEVATE (JRE2E) GRANT

Application Deadline: July 10, 2019, 5pm MT
Proposals may only be submitted online at SHARE New Mexico
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The Jennifer Riordan E2E Grant (JRE2E) is a collaborative funding opportunity that brings together funders from across New Mexico to pool resources and make at least one high impact grant of $50,000. This grant is a collaborative investment from funders in various sectors and we encourage organizations to demonstrate similar collaborative thinking when submitting applications.

What You Need to Know:

- The JRE2E grant is focused on supporting middle school initiatives and advancing the future educational, personal and/or professional pathways of students in grades 6, 7 and 8.
- Applicants must be serving students in Central New Mexico: Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia and/or Torrance counties.
- Applicants can only submit one proposal.
- Applicants from nonprofit organizations and public education institutions are preferred.
- A complete list of FAQs can be found at the end of this RFP.

Eligible organizations must be:

- exempt from U.S. federal income tax pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”) and classified as a public charity under section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2) of the Code; and/or
- an educational institution or governmental entity;
- located anywhere in the United States, however a local partner supporting Central New Mexico is required.
Requirements:
- Proposal Narrative/Questions
- A detailed project budget relating to this request
- Most recent financial statements
  - Audited financial statements are required if your organization has an operating budget of $500,000 or more
- Current year operating budget
- Listing of current members of the Board of Directors
- List of key staff and brief statement of capability of personnel responsible for this grant, (no résumés)
- Description of recent grants, pending proposals and/or plans for additional funding relevant to this proposal

Funding Areas:
Recent national data show that middle school students in New Mexico rank among the nation’s lowest in math and literacy rates. These critical years serve as the bridge between when a student may plant the seeds for a successful path in high school, potentially leading to college and/or career readiness, or when a student may fall behind and struggle to continue with his/her education.

This grant opportunity is intended to support nonprofit organizations serving middle school students and their families. Key interest areas for this opportunity include programs that strengthen:

1. **Parent/adult/mentor involvement**: Programs that engage adults as role-models or serve as supportive figures in a middle school student’s life and education.

2. **Out-of-school time/extended learning programming**: Afterschool, summer or other out-of-school time programs that boost students’ educational, social and/or behavioral growth to keep them engaged in their academic success. Programs may include, but are not limited to, math, literacy, STEM, arts, sports.

3. **Project-based learning**: Programs in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge.

4. **Transitional programs**: Programs that address the challenges middle school students may face transitioning from elementary school to middle school and leaving middle school to enter high school. Thoughtful transitions can be critical in creating a continuum of positive educational trajectory.

5. **Career readiness**: Programs that expose students to career and workforce development opportunities as a way to supplement classroom activities. This may also include financial literacy and soft-skill development.
6. **Teacher/professional development:** Programs that support the advancement of teachers’ professional and classroom development so they can better position their students for academic and personal success.

**Narrative:**
While the JRE2E grant application will be online via [SHARE New Mexico](https://www.sharenewmexico.org) starting May 16, 2019, the following bullets indicate information which will be required in various questions in the online application.

- Your organization and/or program’s mission and goals.
- Description of program for which you are applying for funds (this should include the need for the program, the population who will benefit and the approximate number of people the program will serve).
- How your program fits into one (or more) of the above described funding areas. A stronger application will show how your program fits into multiple funding areas.
- A set of quantitative outputs.
- A set of qualitative outcomes.
- Description for measuring and evaluating the outputs and outcomes of your program.
- How you are collaborating – sharing talent and resources with other organizations in our community.
- How you are ensuring social, racial, economic and/or cultural equity to facilitate educational opportunities for at-risk and underserved populations.
  - We define equity as work designed to address historic burdens as well as to remove present day barriers to equal opportunities. This work supports healing and removes systemic barriers that hold some children back.
- Description of how grant funds will be used.
- Start and end dates of the program, if not ongoing. If this is a new program, you will need to provide an explanation for how the program will be sustained financially beyond the grant period.

Applicants that do not meet the requirements or that submit an application that fails to address every one of these bullets will not be considered.

**Proposals must be received by 5pm MT on Wednesday, July 10, 2019**
No exceptions can be made for late proposals.

**Timeline:**
- **May 16**
  - RFP opens
- **June 5**
  - Information Session Conference Call | 9:00am – 10:00am
  - 505-241-2671 (passcode: 8533894#)
- **July 10**
  - RFP closes at 5 pm MT
- **July 10-19**
  - Grant team reviews proposals
- **July 23**
  - Grant review panel convenes; finalists determined and notified
- **July 30**
  - Presentations from finalists (8:30am – 9:30am)
- **August 7**
  - Grant award event
**Review and Awarding:**

A review panel will be comprised of representatives from all funders who have contributed grant dollars to this funding opportunity.

Applicants may not contact reviewers and reviewers may not contact applicants during the open application and/or review period.

Grant announcement will be made in August 2019.
Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply for a grant?
501c3 nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and/or governmental entities serving Central New Mexico (Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia and/or Torrance counties). Nonprofit organizations must also have current filings with the NM Attorney General’s Office, Secretary of State’s office and have a positive Charity Check Report via Guidestar. (Public education institutions and religious institutions are exempt from Attorney General filings).

My organization uses a fiscal agent. Can we still apply?
Yes. As long as your work aligns with the grant focus and the fiscal agent meets all requirements listed above, you are eligible to apply.

An organization serving as a fiscal agent for various programs, may submit multiple proposals under the fiscal sponsorship umbrella. However, if the fiscal agent also has its own programming, it may only submit one application for such programming.

- For example: the APS Education Foundation may only submit one application for an APS Education Foundation-run and operated program. However, should various APS schools wish to apply using the APS Education Foundation as their fiscal agent, multiple applications from the APS Education Foundation can be submitted in this capacity.

What is the focus of this grant?
This grant is to support middle school education programs in Central New Mexico (Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia and/or Torrance counties).

Can this be for a new program?
You can apply for an ongoing or new program. However, please note that this is not a multi-year grant. Therefore, if the program is new, you will be expected to provide information on how the program will be sustained beyond the grant period.

Are you looking for measurable results?
Yes. A critical part of the grant application will be showing qualitative and quantitative results.
**What is the difference between outcomes and outputs?**
Outcomes serve as qualitative indicators to monitor and report on during your grant period, while outputs are quantitative measurements to monitor and report on during your grant period. More information on outcomes and outputs can be found [here](#).

**Is this a multi-year grant?**
No, this is not a multi-year grant. However, understanding some organizations operate on a calendar year, while others operate on a school year or fiscal year, we will work with the benefitting organization to determine the most appropriate grant period in which to spend the funds.

Regardless of the determined grant period, an initial progress report will be due by August 2020. Should the grant period run longer than this, an additional, final progress report will be due once all grant funds have been expended.

**Are you seeking benefits or recognition?**
Please recognize this funding as a grant from: The NM Funders Collaborative.

**How will funds be dispersed? One time or over the year in installments?**
The grant will be paid in one installment at the start of the grant period (unless the benefitting organization prefers the funds be allocated over time).

**My organization is not specifically classified as an education organization. Can I still apply?**
Yes, as long as your program is supporting students in grades 6-8 and you meet all other criteria, you are welcome and encouraged to apply for this grant.

**Will there be one large grant or many small grants?**
This initiative is focused on high impact grantmaking. Therefore, there will be a minimum of one $50,000 grant awarded.

**Can we apply in partnership with other organizations?**
Absolutely. Collaboration and partnership are very much encouraged! Please note that one grant will be awarded to the primary operating organization in the collaboration, though we would expect the grant funds to be utilized to benefit all collaborating organizations as you may explain in the narrative of your grant application.

- Please note: if you are part of a collaborative program, be sure to discuss your application with all partners to ensure two applications are not submitted for the same program.
Can we submit more than one application?
No. There is a limit of one application per organization. However, if your organization is a participant in a larger collaborative program, you may choose to also submit your own grant application for another program.

An exception to this will be made for fiscal agents who have one or more organizations under their fiscal agency umbrella who wish to apply for this grant opportunity (see previous question on fiscal agency for additional information).

If my organization applies for this grant, can we still apply for funding from any of the participating funders?
Yes. This grant opportunity is totally separate from any other grant programs the participating funders run throughout the year. Your application for this opportunity will not influence any other funding you may or may not be soliciting from any funders involved in this project.

Where can I apply for this grant?
All applications must be submitted through SHARE NM beginning May 16, 2019. The deadline is July 10 at 5pm MT.

When will the grant winner be announced and awarded?
The NM Funders Collaborative will meet in mid-July to determine finalists. Those organizations moving forward will be notified of their status on July 23rd. Finalists will then be required to give a five-minute presentation of your program with five minutes of Q&A. The presentations will take place at the Albuquerque Community Foundation on July 30th from 8:30am – 9:30am (the exact time of your presentation will be communicated on July 23rd). The 2019 JRE2E recipient will be notified of their grant on August 1st and a public announcement will take place on August 7th. The grant funds will also be issued in August.

What funders are participating in this initiative?
- Albuquerque Community Foundation
- Bank of Albuquerque
- Bank of America
- Bradbury Stamm Construction
- Dion’s
- Lovelace Health System
- McCune Charitable Foundation
- New Mexico Gas Company
- Nusenda Credit Union Foundation
- PNM Resources Foundation
- Sandia National Labs Foundation
- Southwest Capital Bank
- United Way of Central New Mexico
Verdes Foundation
Wells Fargo
Western Sky Community Health

What is the grant period? And will there be a grant report?
Understanding some organizations operate on a calendar year, while others operate on a school year or fiscal year, we will work with the benefitting organization to determine the most appropriate grant period in which to spend the funds.

Once the grant period is determined, there will be one final report required at the end of the cycle. However, if the cycle extends beyond August 30, 2020, there will be an interim-status report due by August 30, 2020, in addition to a final report when all grant funds have been expended.

Participating funders will also be scheduling a minimum of two site visits throughout the year to observe your organization’s program(s).

I’m a teacher at a school and I’m not sure what to write for operating budget and Board of Directors on the grant application. Where do I get this information?
Information such as operating budget amount, number of people on a Board of Directors and fiscal year should correlate to the organization receiving the grant funds. For example, a school that applies using the APS Education Foundation as its fiscal agent, would use the APS Education Foundation’s operating budget and Board listing (not that of the school). A similar example would hold true for schools in other districts.

My organization doesn’t serve middle school education needs, but I love this idea. Will there be another collaborative funding opportunity in the future?
Our desire is for funders to continue working together to create higher impact grantmaking. We hope to announce similar collaborative grant opportunities in the future, but no details are available for future funding at this time.

I have questions. Is there someone I can call to get more information?
There will be one information conference call hosted on June 5th from 9am – 10am. Please use the following call-in information: 505-241-2671; passcode: 8533894#

However, because of the nature of this grant opportunity, there is no one individual funder who is available to provide any additional information or clarity. We have done our best to describe our intentions and motivation for this grant opportunity and we apologize if any information remains unclear at this time. To be fair to all applicants, the only information available for this grant opportunity will be communicated during the information session listed above and through these FAQs.

Thank you for your interest in the JRE2E grant and for all you do to support the Albuquerque community!