



New Mexico Finance Authority Local Solar Access Fund

Susan Rodriguez, Lead Program Administrator

NMFA is a government instrumentality created by the New Mexico Legislature in 1992. NMFA offers a variety of financing programs for infrastructure, capital equipment, economic development, and more.

NMFA is New Mexico's partner in building economic prosperity and stronger communities.



Created by HB 128 in the 2025 New Mexico Legislative session, the Local Solar Access Fund is a grant program that provides:

- Grants up to **\$1 million for solar energy projects** in New Mexico communities, and
- Grants **up to \$50,000 for technical assistance** needed to support solar energy projects in New Mexico.

NMFA's partner in program implementation is the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), which supports the state's energy transition goals and renewable energy development.

Eligible New Mexico Entities for Project or Technical Assistance Grants

- County
- Municipality
- School District
- Land Grant-Merced
- Indian Nation, Tribe or Pueblo located wholly or partially in New Mexico

Additional Eligible Entity for Technical Assistance Grants

- New Mexico Councils of Government

Project Grants – Eligible Uses of Proceeds up to \$1,000,000

Grants are provided to plan, design, construct, purchase, install, or equip solar energy systems used to power buildings and infrastructure in New Mexico, and include the following:

- Planning, design, and engineering services for solar energy systems
- Purchase and installation of solar panels, inverters, and related equipment
- Energy storage systems including batteries and management systems
- Electrical infrastructure and utility grid interconnection equipment
- Construction and installation labor costs
- Necessary building upgrades or repairs to accommodate solar installations
- Project management and oversight costs

Technical Assistance Grants – Eligible Uses of Proceeds up to \$50,000

- Professional services for grant writing and federal funding applications
- Engineering and feasibility studies
- Environmental assessments and permitting support
- Legal and regulatory compliance assistance
- Project development and planning services



Project Grant applications will be scored and ranked according to the following prioritization criteria:

- **Low-Income Impact (30%)** – Percentage of project beneficiaries that are low-income households
- **Community Need for Funding (25%)** – Entity’s need for funding and lack of alternative resources for the project
- **Critical Infrastructure (20%)** – Projects providing community services or emergency shelter facilities
- **Operating Cost Savings (10%)** – Projected long-term energy cost reductions
- **Energy Storage Integration (10%)** – Inclusion of battery storage or grid-interactive systems
- **Workforce Development (5%)** – Commitment to local hiring, prevailing wages, or apprenticeship programs

Project Grants

For details on the project grant prioritization criteria and definitions, please view the [Local Solar Access Fund policy](#) on the NMFA website.

Technical Assistance Grants

Technical Assistance Grants will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Geographic Distribution

- At least 60% of the funding shall be awarded to rural entities.
- No more than 25% of the fund shall be awarded to any one county.

Project Grants

Project Grant applications will be accepted in an application round that will open January 23, 2026, and close March 6, 2026. All applications will be reviewed after the round closes on March 6.

Project Grant applications will be scored and ranked according to the prioritization criteria in the Local Solar Access Fund policy.

Technical Assistance Grants

Technical Assistance Grant applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis after the program opens on January 23, 2026, and will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applications must be submitted online and are available on the NMFA website under the “Public Financing” drop-down menu at the top:

<https://www.nmfinance.com/local-solar-access-fund/>

Helpful Tips

- New applicants will first need to create an account in the NMFA system.
- Applications can be saved and finished later.
- Attachments should be uploaded as PDFs all at one time when the application is complete and just before you hit the “submit” button.

APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION



Questions?

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- Review the information on the website to see if your entity and your project are eligible.
- Register your entity to set up an NMFA account in the application system.
- Review the application PDF so you know what is in the application and what to expect.
- Start the application. Applications may be saved for later. Attachments should be uploaded at the end just before hitting “submit.”
- Deadline is March 6 for project grants and first come, first served for technical assistance grants.
- Submit your application!