# NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants: Who can apply, and how

## 1. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local governmental entities with proven land management capacity to support healthy soil, including:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Pueblos, tribes, and nations</td>
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<td>• Acequias</td>
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<td>• Land grants</td>
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<td>• Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs)</td>
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<td>• NMSU—Cooperative Extension Service</td>
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- The application period for Eligible Entities will start **April 11** and end **May 17**.
- **Funding limits** will depend on outcomes from the 2023 legislative session.

## 2. INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS

Individuals, businesses, and non-profits directly engaged in farming, ranching, and other forms of land management

- **Must complete conservation planning with NRCS** in order to apply for a grant
- **Must secure project sponsorship** from their SWCD or their pueblo, tribe, or nation in order to apply for a grant

- The application period for Individual Applicants started **February 17** and ends **April 21**.
- Individual Applicants can apply for **up to $22,000**.

Projects selected for funding must happen between **August 1, 2023** and **May 31, 2024**.

Projects must aim to improve soil health by applying **1+ of the 5 soil health principles:**

1. Keeping soil covered
2. Minimizing soil disturbance on cropland and minimizing external inputs
3. Maximizing biodiversity
4. Maintaining a living root
5. Integrating animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects or keystone species, such as earthworms

Popular Healthy Soil Program grant-funded projects include cover cropping, reestablishing native plant species, applying compost, establishing pollinator habitat, and bale grazing.

All projects involve in-field soil assessment and laboratory-based soil testing.

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**LEARN MORE**

Subscribe to the Healthy Soil Program e-newsletter for program updates, application tips, and deadline reminders.

[https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program-html](https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program-html) | hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu