

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Environment Department

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary Jennifer J. Pruett, Deputy Secretary

The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

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Solid waste grant funding now available for scrap tire, illegal dumpsite abatement, recycling projects

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is now accepting applications for fiscal year 2022 Recycling and Illegal Dumping (RAID) Fund grants for scrap tire management, illegal dumpsite abatement and recycling and composting projects. Municipalities, counties, solid waste authorities, cooperative associations (as defined in the RAID Act), land grant communities, pueblos, nations and tribes and are eligible for funds totaling \$800,000. These grants are administered by NMED.

Illegal dumping not only results in pollution, it also is an eyesore and can negatively affect property values. In addition, dumpsites, especially scrap tires, can collect water and become breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Grant funding may be used to offset the cost of scrap tire collection and recycling, establish recycling facilities, purchase equipment, purchase products produced by a recycling facility using materials from New Mexico, create educational outreach and marketing campaigns, develop recycling infrastructure, abate illegal dumpsites, contract with vendors to promote recycling – and more.

A list of past projects funded by the grant is available on the NMED Solid Waste Bureau <u>website</u>. In the last 15 years, NMED has awarded 342 RAID grants totaling \$10.6 million to 108 groups from around the state.

Ineligible entities are encouraged to partner with eligible entities. No matching funds or in-kind contributions are required but are encouraged. For this funding cycle, the RAID Alliance will again prioritize educational projects and projects that emphasize collaboration and partnerships among entities.

To apply, visit <u>https://www.env.nm.gov/solid-waste/forms-2/#RAID</u>. **Applications are due by 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 23, 2021**. They may be submitted by e-mail, mail or fax. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis for the state fiscal year starting on July 1, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2022.

NMED's general fund was cut 30% over fiscal years 2010 to 2019. Without an increase in resources, grant programs like these and other services are at risk. NMED is seeking additional funding to support bedrock solid waste programs through House Bill 108 (HB108), the Solid Waste Solvency Bill. More information on HB108 is available <u>here</u>.

For more information about the upcoming RAID grant cycle or to discuss project ideas, contact Solid Waste Bureau Outreach Section Manager Genevieve Morgan at <u>Genevieve.Morgan@state.nm.us</u> or 505-490-5356.

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Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator | NMED |1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050 | P.O. Box 5469 | Santa Fe, NM 87502 (505) 827-2855 or nd.coordinator@state.nm.us

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator.

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