



EDD

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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August 19, 2021

2021 Outdoor Equity Fund Recipients Announced *Outdoor Recreation Division Supports Programs Statewide*

SANTA FE, N.M. – The New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD), a division of the New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD), announced the award recipients of the Outdoor Equity Fund (OEF) for the 2021 (fiscal year 2022) grant cycle.

The first-of-its-kind Outdoor Equity Fund was created to increase equitable access to the outdoors for all youth. The grant supports programming that provides outdoor experiences which foster stewardship and respect for New Mexico's land, water, and cultural heritage.

"Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has recognized that New Mexico's outdoor recreation areas are an important asset for creating jobs and boosting public health," Economic Development Department Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes said. "The second round of grants from the innovative Outdoor Equity Fund will help organizations throughout the state with outdoor programming and education."

The Outdoor Recreation Division is grateful to the amazing volunteer evaluation committee that spent countless hours reviewing over 80 applications:

- April Adams - Administrative Coordinator, Division for Equity and Inclusion, UNM
- Jeannie Baca, Ph.D. - Professional Consultant, Division for Equity and Inclusion, UNM
- Kay Bounkeua - New Mexico Deputy Director, The Wilderness Society
- Rodney Bowe - Director, Men of Color Initiative, Division for Equity and Inclusion, UNM
- Geneva Gilbreath - Sales Manager, Albuquerque REI
- Bob Mosher - Outdoor Programs and Outreach Coordinator, REI New Mexico Market
- Troy Ettel - Executive Director, The Turner Foundation

- Simon Sotelo - Community Grassroots Organizer, NM Wild
- Christy Tafoya - former NM State Parks Superintendent
- Marlene Catherine Yanez - Program Coordinator, La Semilla Food Center
- Assata Zerai, Ph.D. - Vice President for Equity and Inclusion, Division for Equity and Inclusion, UNM

“OEF is transforming how young people are able to access the beauty, culture, and history New Mexico has to offer by investing in a wide range of programs such as those offered by Indigenous, communities of color, educational systems, and conservation organizations across the state’s many geographies. Namely, it’s doing what it set out to do - getting youth outside by reducing the systemic barriers that exist in accessing the outdoors.,” said Kay Bounkeua of The Wilderness Society.

In 2020, the OEF awarded a total of \$261,863.78 to 25 programs, which were able to get approximately 2,700 kids outside. This year, the OEF awarded \$898,337 to 57 programs throughout the state that will get nearly 22,000 youth outdoors over the next 18 months as a result. Private sponsors to the fund include the Wilderness Society, The North Face, and REI, who have invested alongside the State of New Mexico in this innovative grant.

Ninety organizations applied to OEF in 2021, with a total funding request of \$1.2 million.

“With about 3.5 times the funding this year versus last, the Outdoor Equity Fund will reach more than eight times as many youth,” ORD Director Axie Navas said. “That increase is thanks to the leadership of Gov. Lujan Grisham, EDD Cabinet Sec. Alicia J. Keyes, and legislative confidence. And while we still weren’t able to invest in all the amazing programs submitted, we came much closer. This group of 57 awardees is doing truly amazing work throughout New Mexico to make outdoor access more equitable. The rest of the country is taking note.”

Thanks to the hard work and expertise of the OEF reviewers, ORD is proud to announce the list of 2021 Outdoor Equity Fund recipients. Congrats!

2021 (FY22) Outdoor Equity Fund Award Recipients:

Albuquerque Sign Language Academy (ASLA)

The ASLA Honey Badger Conservation Crew will offer a 5-week summer program and integrate overnight excursions across the state to state and national parks, wilderness areas, and public lands for deaf, hard of hearing, students with disabilities, and their families.

Albuquerque

Award: \$20,000

Amy Biehl High School Foundation

Provide an overnight camping trip to the Valles Caldera National Preserve for all Earth Science classes, to allow them to experience a Ponderosa Pine ecological system, while reinforcing concepts learned in the classroom.

Albuquerque

Award: \$2,500

Asombro Institute for Science Education

The Restoring Connections Program will focus on restoring students’ connections to the outdoors as they learn about land managers’ efforts to restore native desert grasslands and the plants and animals of the desert in southern New Mexico.

Las Cruces

Award: \$11,500

Audubon Southwest

Audubon provides standards-aligned field trips and school programs to engage Santa Fe public school students and teachers with hands-on outdoor science experiences that allow them to connect with the local environment and learn about wildlife conservation around the Randall Davey Audubon Center in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains and Santa Fe National Forest.

Santa Fe

Award: \$16,945.53

Bernalillo Community Museum

The Summer Stories program will recruit high school juniors and seniors to serve as sustainable tourism interns. They will build local itineraries, become connected to the tourism industry, and learn to blend outdoor recreation with climate awareness and hospitality services.

Bernalillo

Award: \$7,193

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mountain Region

The Outdoor Mentoring Program focuses on giving young people, ages 5 to 18, equitable access to the outdoors and providing matches (mentors and youth) with outdoor opportunities that they can do together to form a bond and learn about their surroundings.

Gallup

Award: \$10,000

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central New Mexico

The Outdoor Mentoring Program is a new, innovative program that enhances the Big Brothers Big Sisters evidence-based, one-to-one mentoring program by providing outdoor recreational adventures and educational opportunities to children who otherwise might not have the opportunity to participate in activities outdoors and in nature.

Albuquerque

Award: \$20,000

Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP)

Through its environmental monitoring program, BEMP will support monthly, in-depth outdoor education for students and their teachers from low-income schools by collaborating to collect field data to track long-term change in the Middle Rio Grande bosque.

Albuquerque

Award: \$20,000

Centennial High School, Student Success Program

Offer students the opportunity to learn through research, community partnerships, and civic engagement, about southern New Mexico's history of the land, the people, and local culture and traditions.

Las Cruces

Award: \$3,000

Center of Southwest Culture, Inc. (CSC)

Story Riders, a project of CSC, empowers children and youth of color to reconnect with their natural and cultural heritage, while providing practical training in bicycle safety, maintenance, and guided cycling experiences in which participants explore local stories and spaces.

Albuquerque

Award: \$20,000

Chiricahua Apache National Foundation

Project Horse Holders provides underprivileged youth a four-day adventure where they learn elements of caring for horses before taking an overnight guided pack trip into the Gila Wilderness. Youth learn to become confident horse riders, with survival skills, conservation knowledge, and emerge as confident stewards of docents of this sacred indigenous wilderness.

Arenas Valley

Award: \$20,000

City of Clovis

The City of Clovis Summer Youth Program provides local youth from, kindergarten through fifth grade, with opportunities to engage with the environment. Each of the program's eight weeks features a different theme, including earth, wind, fire, water, wildlife, and environmental sustainability.

Clovis

Award: \$20,000

Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions

The immersive high school extension program engages youth from New Mexican high schools in backcountry travel, learning about ecology in the natural world, and creating personal projects related to outdoor recreation.

Albuquerque

Award: \$19,992

Doña Ana Village Association (DAVA)

The village will teach youth about the importance of the national historic trail through community outdoor activities, including community gardening, walking tours of the village, and restoration of historic acequias.

Doña Ana County

Award: \$20,000

Embudo Valley Tutoring Association (EVTA)

EVTA will work in collaboration with Embudo Valley Library (EVL) to present an agriculture-based outdoor program to K-6 students at their afterschool program. The program will take place on the grounds of the EVL which is at the heart of the Embudo Valley, surrounded by the valley walls, an orchard and community gardening with acequia access, and an expanse of BLM land with access to natural areas within a short walking distance.

Dixon

Award: \$2,775



2020 & 2021 OEF recipient **Embudo Valley Tutoring Association** working with students in the community garden.

Families & Youth, Inc. (FYI)

The Outdoor Legacy Project will provide resources and support to educate youth on conservation, climate, and cultural connectedness to the outdoors. It empowers youth by providing innovative, quality outdoors experiences that promote a sense of ownership, relationship, and responsibility with regard to the land and natural resources.

Las Cruces

Award: \$20,000

Flower Hill Institute

Flower Hill Institute will host STEM and Indigenous Knowledge summer camps for Tribal youth. Camps use a culturally responsive educational model in which staff and partnering educators teach a hybrid of “western” science and STEM topics along with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). This unique combination provides an opportunity for students

to learn from cultural experts and Native American scientists about how to monitor and care for the natural world, both from an Indigenous and a “western” scientific perspective.

Jemez Pueblo

Award: \$19,998

Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks

The Moving Montañas initiative connects youth to the outdoors through guided hikes, summer camps, camping trips, and other educational enrichment activities. It aims to educate users about the impacts of a changing climate on the Chihuahuan desert and the actions they can take to help solve our climate crisis.

Las Cruces, NM

Award: \$20,000

Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP)

GRIP’s Silver City Watershed Keepers Summer Camp will provide Grant County children with summertime outdoor experiences that foster stewardship and respect for the area's land, water, and cultural heritage through outdoor activities, field trips, hands-on projects and nature study in the Silver City and the Mimbres River Watersheds.

Silver City

Award: \$9,700

Global Opportunities Unlimited Inc.

Provides inclusive educational fishing and watershed education for disabled, disadvantaged, and low-income children, using adaptive technology to expand the availability of outdoor opportunities to people with disabilities. Participants will learn about aquatic ecosystems and the effects of climate change.

Albuquerque

Award: \$7,700

The Global Warming Express

The Global Warming Express is a By Kids/For Kids science, climate science, resiliency, arts, and advocacy after school program offered free of charge to public elementary schools. Mentors provide curriculum weekly to children in outdoor spaces in the vicinity of their public schools, allowing the children to experience learning through a visceral connection with nature.

Santa Fe

Award: \$19,000

Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance

This program will provide opportunities to local youth for birding, fly fishing, and participating in the Gallinas River Park revitalization with the goal of fostering "querencia" (a love of and connection to place), as engaged youth gain a greater sense of pride and responsibility for the river that supports their community.

Sapello

Award: \$20,000

Hero's Path Palliative Care, Inc.

Outdoor environmental education for families with medically complex children, a highly vulnerable and overlooked population of children that require specialized education and medical care. Through environmental education and hands-on outdoor experiences, the program will support children and their families to reconnect with nature, their communities, and themselves, while empowering them explore the outdoors on their own.

Edgewood (serving Albuquerque and Farmington families)

Award: \$18,050

Hozho Academy

Will provide an outdoor classroom and greenhouse where students learn about and experience various planting and gardening techniques including traditional Native gardening to preserve the tradition and educate students on sustainable stewardship.

Gallup

Award: \$20,000

Insights

A new pilot program, Insights Augmented Reality (AR) DinoTrack, will provide climate change and outdoor educational programming for Gadsden Independent School District's middle school students. The Insights DinoTracks site in Sunland Park, NM is home to thousands of fossilized dinosaur footprints, hundreds of geology teaching sites, modern history artifacts, and millions of aquatic fossils. The hike offers students a fun introductory outdoor recreation opportunity and a hands-on catalyst for conversations about geologic time and climate change

Sunland Park

Award: \$7,040

K'é Community Trails Coalition

Project Trails Trending seeks to educate, connect, and engage youth and the larger community with outdoor recreation by utilizing a digital campaign to get K'é Community Trails "trending" online amongst local youth. The project will begin with two youth workers that will serve as ambassadors to outdoor recreation initiatives with the goal of having 90 regional youth "check-in" to the K'é Community Trail's social media sites while participating in outdoor recreation and/or programming through the Office of Diné Youth and Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Program.

Crownpoint

Award: \$18,107.90

Kids In Need of Supportive Services

Kickin' it with KISS in the Kountry summer program will offer at-risk and low-income youth in Grant County and surrounding areas the opportunity to spend time outdoors. Through wildlife education, viewing, and identification, youth will focus on learning life skills, enhancing social interactions, and value for community and close relationships.

Silver City

Award: \$9,000

Localogy

Vida Camp connects youth in northern Taos County with their foodshed, watershed, and resilient culture. Youth will explore local farms, ranches, and streams while engaging in work to improve the community such as working on the acequias, harvesting produce for the food pantry, and mural painting downtown. The goal is for campers to become active stewards of vital systems through fun and engaging service learning.

Questa

Award: \$15,000

MANA de Albuquerque - A National Latina Organization

The Hermanitas® Youth Leadership program offers one-on-one mentoring, personal, education, and career and leadership training for girls 11-17. As part of this program, the Hermanitas will be provided with opportunities to participate in activities such as hiking,

biking, skiing, rafting, and camping, most of which they have never had the opportunity to participate in.

Albuquerque

Award: \$12,500

Mark Armijo Academy

A combination of outdoor learning activities and environmental education, including the Backyard School Gardening project, birding workshop, herbs, and medicinal plants workshop, and outdoor yoga program to improve academic performance, enhance engagement and enthusiasm in learning and improve behavior by creating opportunities for students to be more focused, collaborative and creative.

Albuquerque

Award: \$7,022.10

Mil Abrazos Community Land Trust

The Enduring Acequia program aims to educate and train a new generation of parciantes, commissioners, and Mayordomos on the importance of maintaining, upgrading, efficiently managing, and cherishing the Vado de Juan Paiz acequia, thus ensuring the preservation of the acequia, which is essential to food security in the region.

La Loma

Award: \$18,220

National Indian Youth Leadership Project (NIYLP)

Project Venture is an evidence-based, culturally guided, outdoor experiential youth development program that promotes positive outcomes in outdoor, adventure-based, experiential settings using traditional American Indian modes of learning and culturally meaningful community service activities.

Albuquerque

Award: \$20,000

Native American Community Academy (NACA)

NACA is incorporating Land-Based Learning (LBL) as part of a holistic learning approach. Many of the students have experienced historical separation from their ancestral lands due to forced relocation and assimilation practices. Healing those relationships with the land is an essential part of enabling students to heal from the generational trauma of colonization and grow into holistically healthy adults. LBL will help students better understand the holistic connection between land, leadership, community, health, and their own Native identity. Additionally, it will lay the foundations of an active lifestyle and teach students to respect and protect the earth.

Albuquerque

Award: \$20,000

New Mexico Dream Team (NMDT)

UndocuHealing Outdoor program provides transformative outdoor experiences for low-income immigrant, undocumented, and LGBTQ+ youth and utilizes the therapeutic power of outdoor surroundings in both urban and wilderness environments to help immigrant and undocumented youth heal from direct and generational historical racial and identity trauma that they and their communities experience.

Albuquerque

Award: \$20,000

New Mexico School for the Arts

The program aims to provide outdoor retreats for students with a special focus on N.M. waterways and cultural heritage where students will discuss the implications of climate change in the region, set up a weather station on campus, create an outdoor classroom, and participate in environmental education programming. Students will reflect on what it means to be stewards and caretakers of the land and create a culminating collective art piece to be displayed in the outdoor classroom as a visual representation of participants' learning and reflection.

Santa Fe

Award: \$20,000

New Mexico Wildlife Federation (NMWF)

The Niños Heritage Project will plan, lead, and host a minimum of five multi-day outdoor and overnight excursions for at least 120 youth from Latino/Hispanic and Native American backgrounds who have never been camping or spent time in outdoor recreation. The project will utilize the broad-based experience of the NMWF and partners utilizing the New Mexico Nature Niños model for outdoor education and exploration.

Albuquerque

Award: \$20,000

Ngage New Mexico

Works with community partners to engage families through guided hikes and will expand this work to encourage them to participate in more outdoor activities together, particularly those who may not be comfortable with, or lack experience in, outdoor recreation and may not otherwise try it on their own. Ngage also promotes outdoor education as a viable concept for local school districts and early childhood providers.

Las Cruces

Award: \$10,000

Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC)

PEEC and Los Luceros Historic Site are partnering on a new program, The New Mexico Outdoor Pass (NMOP), designed to provide environmental educational opportunities for youth and their families in rural Northern New Mexico. Through formal and informal activities, participants and their families can explore a variety of themes relating to the nature and culture of the region with overarching themes of conservation, culture, and climate studies.

Los Alamos

Award: \$10,000

Public Lands Interpretive Association

The "Whiptail Trails Club" is a three-part program that empowers underserved seventh graders in the greater Las Cruces area to learn about Southern New Mexico public lands. This program will provide in-class visits and field trips to middle school students throughout the area and will provide a select group of 15 seventh grade self-identified girls with a camping experience that helps them hone their outdoor skills and grow their leadership abilities.

Los Ranchos

Award: \$8,000

Pueblo of Isleta

Programming will provide opportunities to Isleta Pueblo youth to explore Pueblo land and New Mexico State Parks that they have never been to, while learning about the history of New Mexico. Youth will participate in activities such as biking, fishing, archery, and rock climbing.

Isleta

Award: \$20,000

Pueblo Of Santa Clara

The “Difference Project” is based on the belief that the smallest intervention, like a fishing trip, can make a big difference in a kid’s life. The project will provide a group of disadvantaged Santa Clara Pueblo youth an off-reservation guided fishing trip to the San Juan River and Navajo Lake, where kids will learn to fly fish and lake fish and be provided with their own rod to keep, to encourage them to continue the sport independently.

Española

Award: \$10,501

Reunity Resources

Reunity Resources Farm Camp is an enriching and engaging outdoor education experience for children, offered over the public schools’ summer break. Campers participate in hands-on activities based on what is happening during the growing season on a regenerative farm. Teachers bring cultural and professional expertise in indigenous land management, survival skills, herbalism, cooking, nutrition, yoga, and the arts, allowing students to participate in a variety of activities.

Santa Fe

Award: \$20,000

River Source Inc.

Watershed Job Pathways nurtures the next generation of water and land protectors by combining ecological science with traditional knowledge. The program utilizes a myriad of activities to enable students to have fun while engaging in a STEM-based education that is multi-disciplinary and evokes environmental knowledge and concerns. Exposure to cutting-edge science, remote sensing, and tools for turning data into information for watershed health form a new tool set for many of the students and allow youth to find opportunities to be positive agents of change in the face of climate change.

Santa Fe

Award: \$20,000

San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District

The multi-agency Growing Forward Farm Project will connect students in San Juan County to the legacy of agriculture in the region by funding school field trips to the demonstration farm. The program's will empower youth to implement agricultural and conservation practices learned through hands-on experiences, creating a lifelong connection to nature and a healthy lifestyle.

Aztec

Award: \$19,800

Sandia Mountain Natural History Center

The Outdoor Classroom Program (OCP) connects New Mexico children to the outdoors and to their heritage, while supporting academic success by sponsoring school field trips, curriculum guides, and teacher professional development. Staff meet students in local natural areas to learn about ecology and the interconnectedness of nature in their area and provide curriculum guides and hands-on science activities to teachers.

Cedar Crest

Award: \$20,000

Santa Fe Conservation Trust (SFCT)

SFCT’s Passport to Trails program takes elementary school children from primarily Spanish-speaking southside schools on field trips to local trails. The goal is to introduce kids and their families to the trail system, instill a connection to nature, help them get more exercise and

improve their health, build community, and in the process, create the next generation of conservationists.

Santa Fe

Award: \$12,812.50

The Semilla Project

The SemiYA! (YA = Youth Activation) program combines outdoor land-based learning and wellness with healing and grounding practices, as well as various curricula that (re)connect Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) young adults to their own identities, cultures, and each other. SemiYA! provides the necessary information and tools for BIPOC youth to access the wilderness and outdoor recreational sports that traditionally tend to exclude their communities.

Albuquerque

Award: \$20,000

Taos Academy Charter School

The outdoor education program is a deeply important part of our school culture, leadership curriculum, and team-building activities. We host Leadership and Winter Activity Days as part of our annual school calendar for grades 5-12 that include rafting the Rio Grande, overnight camping, hiking in our high alpine desert home, skiing and snowboarding, ice skating, and ropes course challenges for all grade levels.

Taos

Award: \$20,000



2020 & 2021 OEF recipient **Together for Brothers** biking in the bosque.

Together for Brothers (T4B)

T4B hosts bicycle projects for self-identified young men of color, ages 12-24, in order to

build community and healthy relationships, learn bike safety and maintenance, access outdoor spaces, promote healthy habits, and learn to organize their efforts by telling their own stories to decision-makers about health equity, climate justice, and transit equity.

Albuquerque

Award: \$20,000

Town of Mountainair

The Town of Mountainair will provide after school outdoor trips for low income, at-risk, and disadvantaged youth at Mountainair Middle and High School to Carlsbad Caverns, Sandia Peak, and rafting the Rio Grande in Northern N.M. The goal is to engage youth and allow them to experience their natural surroundings and develop a relationship with the outdoors through activities they have never had the opportunity to participate in.

Mountainair, NM

Award: \$6,480

UNM Community Engagement Center

The Antiracist Youth Leadership Institute (AYLI) Outdoors program: Re-membering our connection to land, water, and culture, is a series of outdoor engagement events that promote education and civic engagement for children and families who live in urban settings across Albuquerque and surrounding areas. The series will engage youth, ages 18 years and younger, in outdoor activities that promote climate education, learning about local history and culture, and creating opportunities to participate in community led civic engagement actions.

Albuquerque

Award: \$20,000

Upper Chama Soil and Water Conservation District

The Conservation Writing Workshops at Escalante Middle High School guide youth in finding a voice to express their experience of the outdoors and perspectives on vital conservation issues in the Chama Valley and Rio Arriba County. Through both outdoor and in-class learning, the workshops encourage students to become active, engaged community members. Based on their visits with local land stewards and their exploration of water and ecological health on both public and private lands, students will develop a publishable essay over the course of the workshops.

Tierra Amarilla

Award: \$20,000

Upper Gila Watershed Alliance (UGWA)

UGWA will partner to put on the Children's Water Festival (CWF) which is a unique multi-day educational event for the fifth graders in Silver City, Lordsburg, and Cobre schools. It includes a full day of exploration at the Gila River, where students cycle through different learning stations. UGWA aims to create opportunities for young people to learn more about the watershed where they live and to use their new knowledge to create lasting solutions for pressing environmental issues.

Gila

Award: \$5,500

Wildcat Blooms Garden

The Outdoor Education program brings students from a low-income school outdoors as gardeners, builders, and environmental advocates by providing the opportunity to participate in garden elective classes, agricultural internships, outdoor education curriculum, and growing community connections. The program is centered around students being outdoors and experiencing the learning that occurs when activities are hands-on and students are actively involved in and able to make a difference in their community.

Albuquerque
Award: \$20,000

WOW

The Taos Pueblo Winter Sports Program will provide access to outdoor winter sports for Taos Pueblo and other Native American Indian youth in the greater Taos area. Participants will experience the thrill of winter sports such as downhill skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

Taos Pueblo, NM
Award: \$20,000

YouthWorks (YW)

YW offers a programmatic model developed to meet the cultural and developmental needs of youth in New Mexico through education and paid training via hands-on practical skills. The Verde Project incorporates youth job training, education, and employment in community-benefitting work aimed at local food insecurity, increased local agricultural production, addressing climate change via environmental restoration, all while improving youth workforce development as a strategic solution to youth poverty and unemployment.

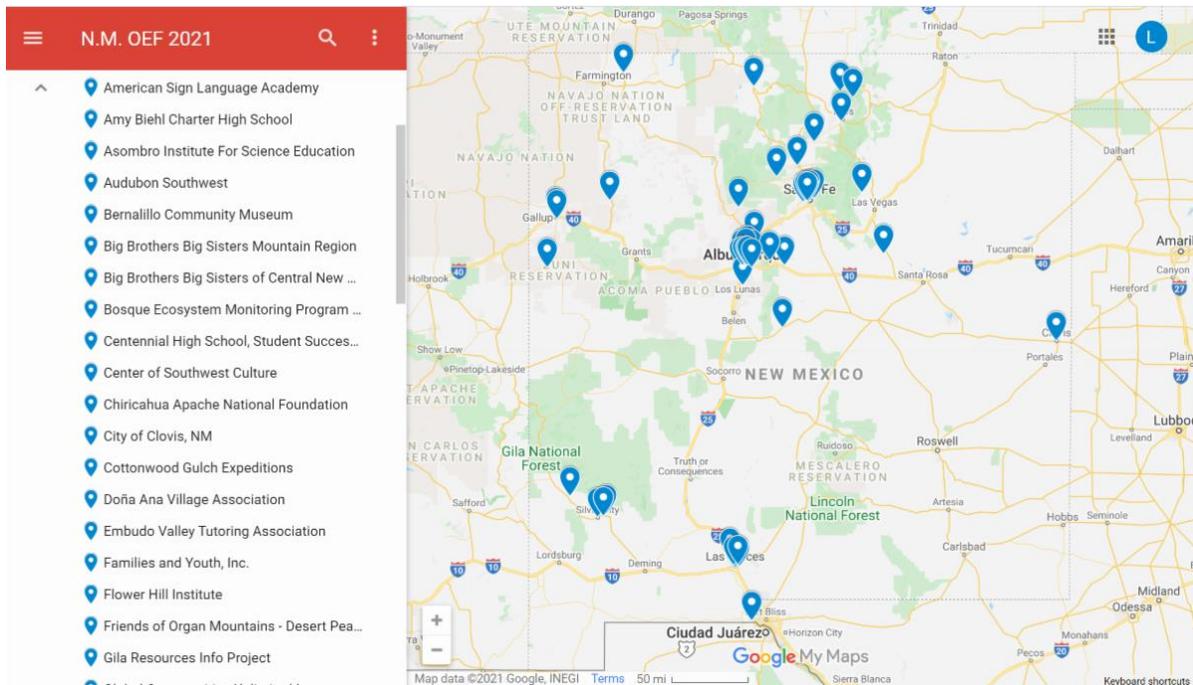
Santa Fe
Award: \$20,000

Zuni Youth Enrichment Project (ZYEP)

ZYEP recognizes the importance and impact of connecting Indigenous youth to culturally significant ancestral sites and how that can contribute promoting resilience in Zuni youth so that they grow into strong and healthy adults who are connected to their culture. The project will facilitate outdoor retreats that allow youth to visit ancestral sites from their migration story, while participating in outdoor recreational activities that are available at those sites.

Zuni Pueblo
Award: \$20,000

Click on the image of the map below to open a google map with locations of all of the recipient programs:



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The New Mexico Economic Development Department's mission is to improve the lives of New Mexico families by increasing economic opportunities and providing a place for businesses to thrive.

New Mexico Economic Development Department
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