

New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission 2019 Annual Report





New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission



Michelle Lujan Grisham,
Governor

Sharon Hickey Chair	Public Members:	Agency Members	
Andrew Frederick Vice Chair	Amanda Getchell Sharon Hickey Alicia Littlebear Mel Loucks Marlene Yanez	Stephanie Garcia Richard Commissioner, SLO Dana Vackar-Strang	Brian Blalock Cabinet Secretary, CYFD Cassie Ruiz
Sarah Wood Executive Director		Ryan Stewart Cabinet Secretary, PED Zach Chavez	Sarah Cottrell Propst, Cabinet Secretary, EMNRD Andrew Frederick

December 6, 2019

To:

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Members of the New Mexico House and Senate

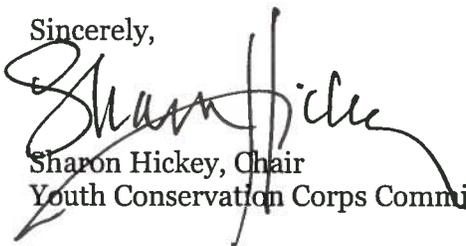
As the Chair of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Commission, it is with great honor that I share our 2019 Annual Report. YCC continues to achieve its legislative mandate by instilling New Mexico's youth with an appreciation for hard work and accomplishment while emphasizing education and training through employment opportunities that conserve and enhance our natural resources and communities. Through these opportunities, YCC provides youth from diverse backgrounds life-enhancing experiences.

Through the stewardship of YCC funds, the support of the Governor and Legislature, and the hard work of the YCC staff, the Commission is proud to report in 2019 we successfully funded 42 projects in 19 counties totaling \$3.1 million. The Commission most recently approved awards for 32 projects totaling 3.16 million for 2020.

The commission has five new members this year and we are especially enthusiastic about YCC's new task of administering the Outdoor Equity Grant fund. The Commission adopted a new rule to administer the fund, and has been laying the groundwork to release these funds in time for summer 2020. We are partnering with the Office of Outdoor Recreation to develop a marketing plan for the fund to attract sustainable donors.

On behalf of the YCC Commission and staff, I pledge our continued commitment to the Youth Conservation Corps and the Outdoor Equity fund and thank you for your support and assistance. YCC is a life-enhancing experience for our youth, and an important asset that provides lasting benefits to our communities and fosters stewardship of our natural resources.

Sincerely,



Sharon Hickey, Chair
Youth Conservation Corps Commission



Governor

Michelle Lujan Grisham

YCC Commission:

Sharon Hickey, Chair

Andrew Frederick, Vice-Chair

Energy, Minerals & Nat Res designee

Amanda Getchell

Alicia Littlebear

Mel Loucks

Catherine Yanez

Zach Chavez,

Public Education Department designee

Cassie Ruiz,

Children, Youth & Families Dept designee

Dana Vackar-Strang

State Land Office designee

YCC Staff:

Sarah Wood, Executive Director

Kristine Sanchez,

Coordinator/Administrator

Mission:

Promote the education, success and well-being of the youth in our communities and provide benefits of lasting value through the conservation and enhancement of New Mexico's natural, cultural and recreational resources.

Goals:

Together we strive for

- healthy natural resources and lasting community benefits
- instilling values of hard work and accomplishments
- promotion of education and training

Values:

To be responsible stewards of the state's resources and positive role models for New Mexico's youth



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OVERVIEW

The New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission was established in 1992 to provide a process to employ young persons in public projects that conserve New Mexico's natural resources and provide community benefits of lasting value.

Each year, the Commission releases an RFP for projects. Eligible projects are those that occur on public, non-profit or tribal lands with reasonable public access and last no longer than six months. Broadly, activities may include conservation projects, facility improvement or emergency assistance and preparedness.

The Commission is funded by gross receipts tax money, and most of YCC projects entail small-scale capital improvements. Municipal parks receive much needed improvements, trails are constructed or improved, open spaces and forest lands are improved, acequias are mapped, murals are installed in public places, and corps members gain a sense of self-worth as well as career training.

Corps members are between 14 – 25 years old and are New Mexico citizens. Seventy percent of each grant goes to wages. In many communities, the project sponsor receives many more applications than the number of positions available, indicating a high degree of interest in YCC programs. Each project also provides career training, life skills and personal and professional development. Training sessions include 1st Aid / CPR, Mental Health First Aid, wildfire certifications, defensive driving, resumé building, fiscal responsibility and tool handling and care. Corps members who have served for 32 to 48 months in the YCC are entitled to an additional cash reimbursement of \$500 or an educational tuition voucher to cover expenses up to \$1,500 at a college or vocational school.

The YCC staff of two provide program management, administration, oversight and outreach. In March of 2019, Wendy Kent, YCC's Executive Director for twenty years, retired. The commission hired Sarah Wood who came on board July 1. Between March and June, YCC Administrator/Coordinator Kristine Sanchez and Interim Director Carmen Austin managed the program and issued the FY2021 RFP.

In November, the YCC bade farewell to long-time Commissioners Wanda Bowman, Cindy Lovato-Farmer and Ana Mangino. These three leaders each served the YCC faithfully for several years and the Commission recognized their contributions at the public meeting on November 22. Governor Lujan Grisham appointed four new commissioners, two from central New Mexico and two from southern New Mexico.

In 2019, the legislature tasked YCC with administering the Outdoor Equity Fund, which will provide mini-grants for outdoor recreation / environmental education programs. The Commission adopted a new rule to conform with the new legislation, and staff have been working with the Outdoor Recreation Division to implement these grants in 2020 and attract sustaining fund donors.

It was my first job and I feel I have more of an understanding of the real world. – YCC Corps Member



Rocky Mountain Youth Corps member removing invasive cattails

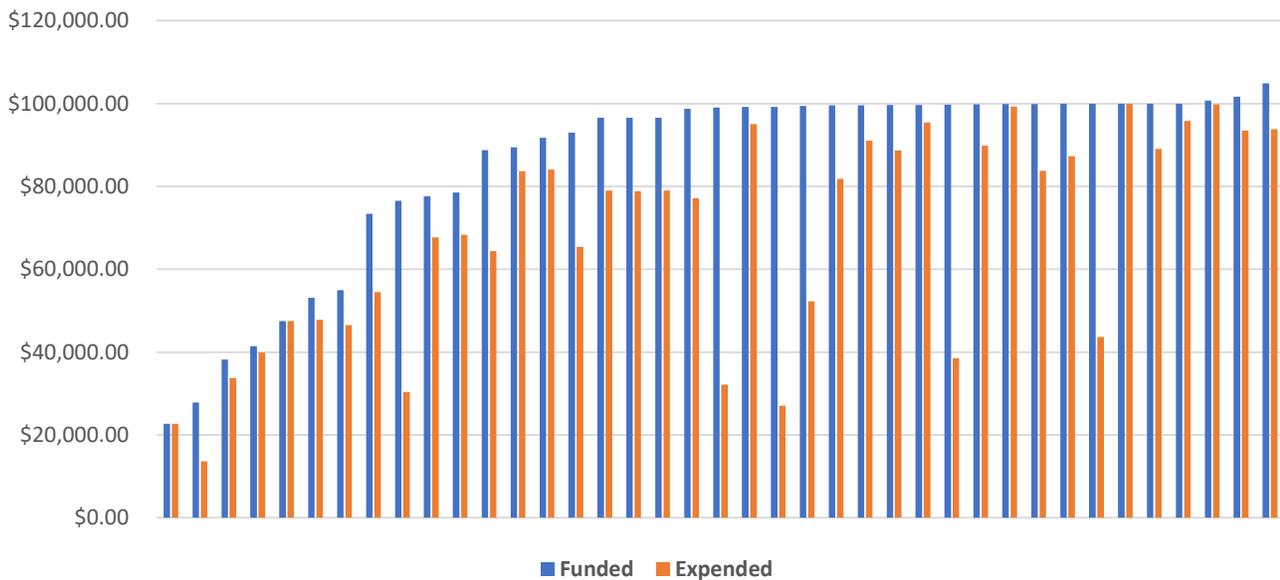
YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

FUNDING CYCLE SUMMARY

In 2019, the Commission funded 44 projects. Two project sponsors could not hire corps members and returned their funding. A total of \$3,040,058 was allocated to the remaining 42 projects; and \$2,629,815 was disbursed as of December 2019.

The Commission capped the maximum funding request per project at \$100,000. About half of the recipients asked for \$100,000 or close to it, however actual amounts spent varied. Money returned was often due to corps members leaving early to return to school or difficulty in hiring corps members at the start of a project.

Comparison of Amount Funded to Expended

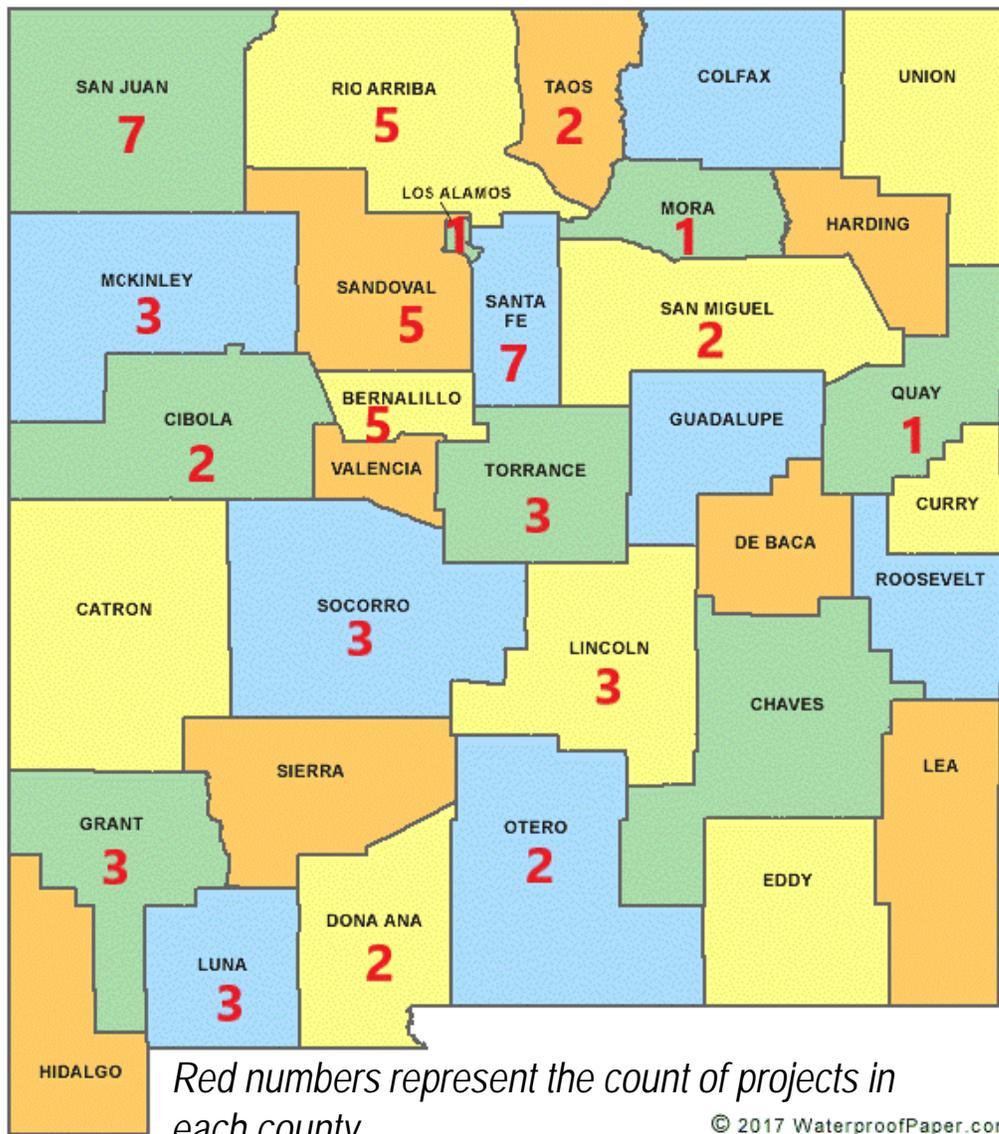


In-kind contributions Project sponsors contributed a total of \$1,840,100 in in-kind contributions. Their contributions included staff time, trainings, equipment purchase and rental, and transportation. This contribution is equal to 69% of the total amount expended on projects.

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

PROJECT LOCATIONS

Projects took place in 19 of New Mexico's 33 counties. Nine projects took place in two or more counties, where corps members worked across county lines in National Forests.



There are gaps in the southeast, northeast and southwest. YCC staff can strategically hold pre-proposal conferences in these areas to encourage more applicants. YCC also has two new Commissioners from Roswell and Carlsbad who may help attract applicants from the southeast.

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

PROJECT PROFILES

Projects in 2019 can be broadly broken down into the categories listed in the graph below which shows the number of projects for each type of activity. The following pages summarize the types of projects and where they took place. [A detailed list of each project is attached in Appendix A.](#)

Number of Projects by Primary Activities



*Aldo Leopold Charter School
YCC crew working on a mural
in Silver City*

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

Community Improvements

Over half of the projects were in the community improvement category. Community improvements are those that are typically related to improving small municipalities public infrastructure. They include municipal park & playground improvements and repair, landscaping, laying down hardscapes and sod, painting park furniture and facilities, maintaining trails, improving community buildings, installing playground equipment, installing irrigation, clearing ditches and installing erosional structures. Municipalities benefiting from these projects were: Alamo Navajo Chapter, Aztec, Columbus, Cuba, Espanola, Farmington, Gallup, Grants, Santa Fe, Silver City, Shiprock, Taos, Tucumcari and the Village of Santa Clara.



Diné Capacity Builders crew on the patio they built at Shiprock Chapter House



Trail up to Veterans' Peoples' Flag built by Gallup YCC crew



Walking paths and exercise equipment installed by YCC at a Santa Clara Park

The YCC is a great starting job where I learned what my responsibilities are and how to manage them. Having this experience puts me ahead of others that may not be work force ready. – YCC Corps Member

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

Conservation projects

Restoration (wetlands and forests), forest improvement (thinning, noxious weed removal, data gathering), trails and wild and prescribed fire skills were combined by project sponsors in several National Forests, Wildlife Refuges, BLM, State Park or State Land office locations. The Forest Stewards Guild, EcoServants, WildEarth Guardians and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps sponsored these projects.

Santa Fe County and the Village of Corrales focused almost exclusively on wild and prescribed fire skills, and fire preparedness throughout Santa Fe County and the Corrales bosque.



Forest Stewards Guild Corps Members on the fire line

I learned a lot about managing people and I would like to work more with forest, soil and water conservation in my future career. – YCC Corps Member



Thinning project in Santa Fe County



Stream restoration structure along San Antonio Creek in the Jemez

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

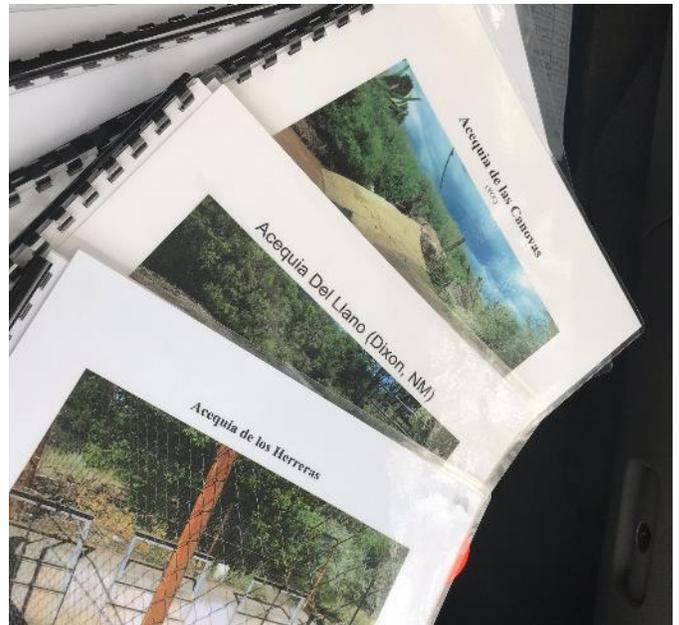
Agriculture and Water Conservation

Two sponsors focused on farming: RFK school in Albuquerque uses a YCC grant for a farm to table program using native seeds and dryland farming techniques; while Youthworks in Santa Fe partners with an organization that owns two farms and teaches youth agricultural skills.

The City of Las Cruces certifies their YCC students in the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) program, then set them loose in city parks to audit watering systems and make recommendations adjustments to achieve the greatest water efficiency. Youth who obtain the QWEL certification are eligible to gain further training and a guaranteed job with the City's public works department, and four of them have taken advantage of this program.

The East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District continued their innovative acequia mapping project, and is providing excellent career training to the crew, as well as much-needed data to local government.

We were able to experience what a irrigation audit is and how to conduct one. Also a positive experience was abling to go through QWEL training and actually get a certification through it. – City of Las Cruces YCC corps member



Detailed reports produced by the East Rio Arriba acequia mapping YCC crew

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

Art installation and Behavioral Health

School improvements took place during two consecutive projects at Deming Caesar Chavez High School where the students made an endearing artistic and educational mural for the day-care center on-site as well as a school mural and landscaping.



The Albuquerque Convention Center got another beautiful mosaic tile mural designed and installed by this year's Apprentice Leaders in Mosaic Arts YCC crew.



A YCC crew mentored by the Harwood Art Center designed and constructed a multi-purpose sculpture that provides shade and light to a park in Albuquerque's International District.



In Silver City, Aldo Leopold Charter School students worked on a Day of the Dead mosaic mural and also completed a painted mural.



Rio Arriba County incorporates a behavioral health initiative with their YCC projects. Youth at-risk with behavioral health issues have been hired the past few years to build a healing garden at a county detention center and improve a senior center.

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

CORPS MEMBERS

Employment: A total of 701 youth were employed in 2019. This is 56 more youth than the number proposed by the project sponsors and reported on the performance-based measures earlier this year. The extra number is accounted for by replacements hired during a season after early resignation or terminations. Project sponsors frequently provided counseling and time to improve before terminating corps members.

Added up, Corps members worked over a total of 156,706 hours this year.

Training: YCC corps members received a combined 27,101 hours of training. The Corps Members Survey in Appendix B lists these in detail.

The top concepts learned or discussed were: ecology, plant identification, Leave No Trace, landscape design and planting, trail construction, trail design, fence building, painting/staining, heavy equipment operation, tool use maintenance & safety, artistic composition and design, critical thinking skills, promptness, employee responsibilities, conflict resolution and First Aid/CPR.

Financial literacy skills were widely taught, but not captured on the survey. A Mental Health First Aid course was also offered to some crew members.



Forest Stewards Guild Graduation

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

CORPS MEMBERS

Demographics: Approximately 34% of the corps members were female and 66% male. Crews that achieved a 1:1 ratio between females and males, such as those at Capacity Builders in San Juan County, reported that this balance seemed to foster hard work and exceptionally good camaraderie. Historically, YCC crews have been about 1/3 female and 2/3 male.

About 30% of corps members are between the ages of 16 and 18; 30% between 16 and 18 and 30% are over age 20. The remaining 10% about between the ages of 14 and 16. Youth in this age bracket must obtain a work permit and are limited as to what kind of work they can do (generally, no work in or around internal combustion engines).

Post-YCC Employment and Education: Sixteen-percent of youth went from YCC to some kind of employment, the YCC at this point does not track which industry. Based on individual accounts, some of these corps members go on to careers in the organization that hired them for YCC. Others enter family businesses, construction, and the military. The vast majority of corps members returned to middle school, high school or college. Thirty went on to vocational school, and 10 went to "other" training.

YCC has helped with construction, architecture, and design experience, but (also) with real-life skills applicable to any field that I would wish to follow after school. These short weeks will leave a lasting legacy. – YCC Corps Member

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

CORPS MEMBERS

Educational Reimbursement and Cash Bonus Benefits: In 2019, 16 people applied for and received a \$500 cash bonus and 4 people received educational reimbursements. This is 17% of the 94 corps members who were eligible for this benefit. Since 2006 (when the database began), about 25% of those eligible for benefits have applied.



Farmington Municipal School YCC Crew helping at a local food bank

The YCC is hands down one of the best programs that I've been able to work with and it really helped me a lot and they gave me the knowledge and the motivation to push myself even further and start a career for myself. – YCC Corps Member, Capacity Builders

Survey Results: Corps members are required to complete a survey at the end of their project to get credit for their YCC service. The survey covers concepts learned and satisfaction with YCC. **Appendix B lists the full survey results.**

Overwhelmingly, 98% of corps members said they had a positive experience in the YCC and 93% felt the program will assist them in pursuing their goals for the future. Their words are featured throughout this report.

OUTDOOR EQUITY GRANT PROGRAM

NEW INITIATIVE FOR YCC

In 2019, state lawmakers passed SB462, the Outdoor Recreation Act, which created the Office of Outdoor Recreation to develop and promote ecotourism and outdoor recreation economies in New Mexico. The act also created the outdoor equity grant (OEG) program in the Youth Conservation Corps and tasked the Commission with administering the program.

The OEG program is the first in the nation to combine outdoor recreation, equity and conservation ethics. Many other states are watching our process with interest.



Outdoor water recreation –
Courtesy NM State Parks

What it will do: The OEG will provide mini-grants to organizations that submit quality plans to provide outdoor recreation programs to youth up to age 18. At least forty percent of the population served by each program will be low-income youth, and each program must include a climate and environment educational component. Grants will pay for transportation, recreational equipment, guide stipends and other associated costs.

OUTDOOR EQUITY GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRESS and PLANS

Funding and Donations:

Lawmakers set aside \$100,000 in 2019 to start the program, and it falls to the YCC to promote it and attract donations that sustain and replenish the fund.

REI has pledged \$12,500, and the Turner Foundation \$30,000 in grants which will be disbursed to the YCC in early 2020. The Environmental Education Association of New Mexico (EEANM) has made one of the first investments by raising about \$1,000 during their Outdoor Equity conference in December.

YCC staff is working with EMNRD's Administrative Services Department to allow credit card donations to the OEG. A number of state agencies are involved in this process, and it may take several months.

Marketing: YCC staff is coordinating with the Office of Outdoor Recreation (OOR) and Director Navas to develop a solid marketing and funding strategy. A joint press release was sent out in December inviting donations to the fund, and a promotional flyer is being developed.

The OOR has devoted a section of their new website to the OEG that links to YCC's website. The YCC website will be modernized when EMNRD makes a contract with a new content provider in 2020.

OOR and YCC staff are also coordinating on future social media for the OEG.

YCC staff is reaching out to interested stakeholders and partners around the state to help promote the OEG. These include Conservation Lands Trust, Nuestra Tierra, and EEANM.

RULE CHANGE

The Commission's current published rule, codified at 11.1.171 NMAC, generally provides for the administration of the Youth Conservation Corps ("YCC") program. The amendment to the YCC Act required the Commission to adopt rules for the OEG's proper administration.

The state records administrator recommended the Commission repeal and replace its rule for the purpose of updating it to follow the current prescribed format.

In addition, the Commission decided there was a need for rule amendments that clarified standards and requirements for YCC programs that were common practice, but not codified. These included the 70% rule for wages, a minimum in-kind contribution, and what kind of educational expenses will be reimbursed. Unnecessary aspirational language was deleted.

The Commission plotted out the rule making schedule in August and initiated the process on September 13, 2019 in a public meeting.

Executive Director Wood wrote the proposed rule with input from the Commission. Wood was designated the hearing officer and traveled to Las Cruces and Albuquerque to hold public hearings. Both were sparsely attended; however the Commission received about 14 public comments through e-mail and incorporated some of the changes into the final rule. The rule was filed with the Administrative Law Division December 4, 2019.

Appendix C is the full text of the adopted rule.

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Goals:

- Develop good administrative processes for the OEG program.
- Simplify YCC process and facilitate better tracking of YCC corps members, project progress and budget.
- Attract more applicants to the YCC program.
- Encourage more corps members to apply for educational reimbursement vouchers.

Recommendations:

- Acquire professional grant software; research and scope of work in progress.
- Update the corps member survey.

Goal: Provide clear direction and resources to guide applicants through the application and reimbursement processes of YCC and OEG programs.

Recommendation: Develop webinars and simplified instruction manuals for the website.

Goals:

- Promote the OEG program.
- Strengthen the YCC program by connecting project sponsors to each other and to training and resources.
- Promote awareness of best practices for YCC projects that have lasting value.
- Promote awareness of available jobs in NM for YCC graduates.

Recommendations:

- Set up social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram) for the YCC and OEG.
- Hold fundraising events for the OEG.
- Coordinate training / get together events for the YCC.
- Update YCC's website when EMNRD acquires new website provider.

COMMISSION AND STAFF

Public Members Appointed by Governor Lujan Grisham

Amanda Getchell is a New Mexico native, who graduated from the New Mexico State University Journalism and Communications Department. She has worked as a Communications Specialist for a Seattle-based communications firm, Strategies 360, in Albuquerque, NM; as a Marketing Assistant with one of the largest tech companies in New Mexico, Lavu Inc.; and most recently as a Marketing Manager with the Canadian-based company, iAnthus Capital Management. Amanda owns and runs her own marketing consulting group, Middle Manda. She is an expert on social media strategy, compliance, and community management for various industries.

Sharon Hickey works at the Los Alamos National Laboratory for Quality and Performance Assurance Division leading and managing the Policy Office. She has extensive experience in institutional policies and procedures, contract requirements, employment law, affirmative action, equal employment opportunity laws and regulations, alternative dispute resolution, fact finding, and conflict resolution. Other past positions include Staff Attorney and Group Leader of Complaint Resolution. Sharon is a Certified Quality Examiner of the Malcom Baldrige National Quality Program and is a Certified Yellow Belt in LANL's Lean Six Sigma Program. Sharon is on the Board of Directors, Vice Chair of the St. Vincent Hospital Foundation in Santa Fe, NM, and volunteers her time and resources to many philanthropic organizations in her community. She is the Chair of the Commission.

Alicia Littlebear is from Tamaya (Santa Ana Pueblo), Mvskoke Creek, Absentee Shawnee, and Euchee Nations. She has resided in New Mexico her whole life. She is currently employed with Wings of America (Wings) as the Program Coordinator. Wings uses running as a catalyst to empower Native American youth to become the next leaders, thinkers and teachers. Alicia believes we can connect back to the land by running, and is an avid runner herself. She is thankful for the work that she gets to do everyday.

Dr. Melissa Loucks is an Assistant Professor of English at New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell. In addition to the Youth Conservation Corps Commission, Dr. Loucks also serves on the Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern New Mexico and the Board of Trustees for Roswell Public Library, and she volunteers with a number of community-based organizations in Chaves County. Dr. Loucks is deeply invested in youth development programming that promotes a well-educated, highly-skilled, and socially- and environmentally-conscious populace for New Mexico's future.

Marlene Yanez is a Fronteriza, a woman from the border, and good food advocate who lives in Sunland Park, NM. She has worked in the non-profit sector for over a decade and currently works at La Semilla Food Center as a Program Director for the Community Education Program. Her work endeavors to create innovative and culturally inclusive food justice programs for youth and adults in the Paso del Region in Dona Ana County and El Paso, TX.

COMMISSION AND STAFF

Agency Designees

Martin “Zach” Chavez is **New Mexico Public Education Department's** Civic and Community Engagement Coordinator. A native of New Mexico, Zach grew up in Cuba, New Mexico. After graduating from Cuba High School in 2006, Zach attended the University of New Mexico. In 2011, Zach graduated with a B.S. in Education and a B.A. in Spanish. After graduation, Zach taught science at the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering Leadership charter high school in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he went on to excel as the Dean of Student Support. In 2015, Zach moved to northern New Mexico where he taught first grade at Chama Elementary, and later mid- and high school Science at Escalante High School. In 2017, Zach moved to Santa Fe with his wife and daughter and began work at the Public Education Department in 2018 following the birth of his son.

Andrew Frederick is the Resource Management Bureau Chief for **New Mexico State Forestry** where he is responsible for the Cooperative Forestry programs and Hazardous Fuels Reduction programs. These programs provide technical assistance to private forest landowners and allows State Forestry to participate with cooperators and collaboratives interested in natural resource management and watershed protection. He has previously held positions as the State Timber Management Officer in Santa Fe and Staff Forester and Timber Program Manager for the Chama and Capitan Districts of NM Forestry Division, respectively. He is the YCC's Vice-Chair and expert on forest practices for the Commission. Andrew is a graduate of Northern Arizona University, School of Forestry and currently lives in Rio Rancho, NM with his family.

Dana Vackar Strang is the Director of Field Operations Division at the **New Mexico State Land Office**. Dana has a B.A. in Political Science from Colorado College and an M.A. from the University of New Mexico in Parks, Recreation and Environmental Education. Dana oversees the Surface Resources Division which manages watershed health, site remediation, illegal dumping, biological and cultural resources and investigations/compliance across 9 million acres of state trust land. The Division is also responsible for the management of over 3,500 active agricultural leases.

Previously Dana was Director of Education for Audubon New Mexico and the Randall Davey Audubon Center for six years. Prior to Audubon, Dana was with the New Mexico State Land Office where she worked her way up to an Assistant Director in the Field Operations Division after holding several other positions at the Agency. She is a former President and board member of the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico, a former Chair of the Youth Conservation Corps Commission, and is the statewide coordinator and teacher trainer for the national Leopold Education Project (LEP). Dana is a mother and wife, and enjoys horses, birding, hiking, and mountain biking.

Cassie Ruiz has worked with **Children, Youth and Families Department** for seven years, both with Protective Services and Juvenile Justice. She is currently a Transition Services Coordinator with Juvenile Justice and is based in Carlsbad. She has worked with youth in various capacities the majority of her adulthood. She practices and teaches yoga. She is passionate about the outdoors and runs, hikes, and paddle boards all over New Mexico.

COMMISSION AND STAFF

Staff

Sarah Wood, Executive Director. Sarah grew up in New Mexico and is a proud Lob-Aggie, having attended both UNM and NMSU where she earned her B.S. and M.S. in Biology. She has lived and worked throughout New Mexico with the US Forest Service and New Mexico Natural Heritage Program as a biologist. She was with New Mexico State Parks for 17 years where she was a regional interpreter, park manager and regional manager. She volunteers with restoration and trail projects, and still likes to present interpretive programs at state parks. She enjoys hiking, rafting, biking, exploring New Mexico, and fixing things. She is thrilled to be YCC's Executive Director, where all her interests and experiences are merged into one fantastic job.

Kristine Sanchez, Youth Coordinator/Administrator, is originally from Chama, NM and was raised by her grandparents Eddie and Luz Vigil, the first mayor of Chama. She moved to Santa Fe with her mother Lucy Vigil, graduated from high school, and was blessed with a daughter, son-in-law, three grandchildren and her husband Tim. She has been working for the State of New Mexico for 28 years, and with the YCC for over 10 years. She enjoys her job, interacting with the youth, and seeing the wonderful impact the program makes on the youth and how beneficial it is to the community. She has an Associates Degree in Computer Science, a Business Degree in Business and a Master's in Business Management.

Appendix A: 2019 Detailed YCC Project List

SPONSOR: Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc.

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$91,774.78; **EXPENDED:** \$84,080.52; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$21,993.56

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The YCC crew members will construct between 80 to 100 rock/brush dams measuring 3X4 cubic yards as recommended by a visit with the Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS). The structures will be completed on the Navajo Nation Alamo Navajo Lands. The Integrated Resource Management Plan will be revisited to determine the land structure and to revisit the dams that were constructed years ago. The YCC crew members role is the collect rocks from the arroyos and red cedar brush and deliver to the areas needing erosion control. The One Rock Dam is the method recommended by the Natural Resource Conservation Corps. The NRCS visited the Alamo community to provide guidance on erosion control. They will come and provide educational classes to YCC crew members to gain knowledge and understanding.

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 12

COUNTY: Socorro

SPONSOR: Aldo Leopold High School - Fall Project (not complete)

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$68,933.37; **EXPENDED:** \$10,427.34 ; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$440.49

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Students are given the opportunity each semester to join one of five distinct crews focusing on topics including: Ecological Monitoring, Murals, Trail Construction, Landscaping/Gardening and Archeology. YCC Trainers are highly skilled and informed community members who support Aldo Leopold's focus on experiential education. Aside from participating in projects beneficial to the community, students are also able to earn 0.5 class credit hours for their work participation, attending training sessions, and becoming more fluent and focused on the significance of workforce readiness and life skills. As a public charter school, we also have additional resources available to our YCC crew members such as counseling and mandatory financial literacy classes. Each crew works a total of 18 Fridays during the 2019 Fall semester.

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 40

COUNTY: Grant

SPONSOR: Aldo Leopold High School - Spring Project

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,180.64; **EXPENDED:** \$95,034.15; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$22,321.87

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Through Aldo Leopold Charter School's YCC program, students are given the opportunity each semester to join one of five distinct crews focusing on topics including: Ecological Monitoring, Murals, Trail Construction, Landscaping/Gardening, and Archaeology. YCC trainers are highly skilled and informed community members who support Aldo Leopold's focus on experiential education. Aside from participating in projects beneficial to the community, students are also able to earn 0.5 class credit hours for their work participation, attending training sessions, and becoming more fluent and focused on the significance of workforce readiness and life skills. As a public charter school, we also have additional resources available to our YCC crew members such as counseling and mandatory financial literacy classes. Each crew works a total of 22 Fridays during the Spring semester. Students are also able to voluntarily take part in projects that work 2 weeks full time in June.

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 58

COUNTY: Grant

SPONSOR: Aztec High School Army JROTC

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$104,884.50; **EXPENDED:** \$93,797.77 **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$97,781.82

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: YCC PROJECT SUMMARY (Summarize the Project with a few sentences): Aztec High School JROTC partners with Aztec Municipal School District, the National Park Service and YCC in their efforts to beautify, preserve and restore Aztec Ruins National Monument. Visitors and locals all say that the parks are nicer than they have ever been with the many improvements the cadets have made through YCC over the last six years. Many safety and boundary protections were added with buck and rail and barbed wire fencing. Both parks are neater with the removal of invasive trees and plants. One of the most popular attractions is the demonstration garden at Aztec Ruins, which is recognized as one of the best in the nation and features agricultural crops from ancient Hopi seeds. Cadets even do some of the irrigation by watering with hand gourds like the Puebloans. Aztec Ruins is one of the fastest growing tourist and visitor attractions in the Four Corners area.

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 22

COUNTY: San Juan

SPONSOR: Capacity Builders, Inc. - Nizhoni Park and Shiprock Chapter House

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,625.25 **EXPENDED:** \$89,862.63; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$22,827.06

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Alternate Work Plan: Install landscaping at the Shiprock Chapter House and build a basketball court and install exercise equipment. Install planting beds and concrete sidewalks along the front and east and west sides of the building. Improve handicap parking stalls in front of the building and continue with installing handicap signs parking bumpers, handrails (welded) and Navajo Nation flag. The basketball and volleyball sand pit will be installed at Nizhoni park which is owned by the Shiprock Chapter House.

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 14

COUNTY: San Juan

SPONSOR: Capacity Builders, Inc. Shiprock Irrigation Restoration

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,928.57 **EXPENDED:** \$83,802.96 **IN-KIND Contribution:** \$30,313.21

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 21

COUNTY:

Appendix A: 2019 Detailed YCC Project List

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Shiprock is a small, rural farming community facing the challenge of near drought-like conditions. The Navajo Shiprock community is dependent on farming and ranching, producing watermelons, corn, squash, cantaloupe, alfalfa, sheep, goats and cattle. Produce is used in the home and sold roadside in small vendor shacks, as well as at local fairs and farmers markets. The irrigation ditch that makes this lifestyle possible is in need of major upkeep and repair. The three mile drainage ditches are currently choked with trees and brush up to 40 feet high. The unwanted vegetation is wreaking havoc by absorbing the limited water supply and depositing silt that reduces ditch capacity and leads to floods during monsoon rains. Corps members will clear the ditch, maximizing the positive impact of available water. The project will become the cornerstone of a community-wide focus on capacity building and collaboration to improve the availability and quality of resources.

SPONSOR: Capacity Builders, Inc. - **Shiprock Improvements**

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 16

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,846.32 **EXPENDED: \$89,862.63; IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: \$22,827.06**

COUNTY:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Alternative work plan: Corps members will improve landscaping around the Chapter House, install outdoor exercise equipment at the Chapter House for community access, and conduct upkeep and maintenance on existing footpaths in Shiprock. Soft skills related to employability will be the exclusive focus of at least 120 minutes of time each day youth spend indoors due to inclement weather. In addition, Corps members will create and polish individual resumes, highlighting their experience and work-force related skills. Ultimately, during inclement weather, Corps members will work to enhance their ability to secure work after the project period has ended.

SPONSOR: City of Aztec

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 18

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$53,082.47

COUNTY: San Juan

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Aztec has developed a Parks and Recreation Enhancement plan which also serves as a template for annual YCC projects. The City has developed a 4 year plan with scaled down projects due to the current economy. The third phase of our four year plan focuses on park improvements. The City's YCC projects have high visibility and community pride, so to continue that, the priority for FY19 is Riverside Park Improvements. The proposed projects focus on installing new irrigation and turf in southwest side of park and new post and cable fencing throughout the park. Lessons learned from previous projects, as always, will be carried forward in our proposed 2019-20 projects. The YCC coordinator and crew leaders will develop a work plan to complete the projects that have been identified. Crew leaders together with assigned members will use pre-task planning and scheduling to complete the projects they have been assigned.

SPONSOR: City of Gallup

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 16

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,753.88 **EXPENDED: \$38,511.88 ; IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: \$46,387.45**

COUNTY: McKinley

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Gallup YCC program builds on a 15+ track record of delivering a highly successful youth workforce program that delivers first-class and worthwhile projects for the community. Projects are aligned with advancing health and economic targets, such as trails, community garden, beautification, conservation, and built environment projects. Gallup YCC and these projects are linked together with the intentional focus of bettering our socio-economics in terms of poverty, unemployment, obesity, diabetes, and suicide. Many that unfortunately are the worst in the nation. We believe that Gallup YCC is one of the most successful programs in building life and job skills, furthering education, instilling pride and conservation ethics, providing an employment opportunity, and securing a foundation for further success in life

SPONSOR: City of Las Cruces

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 51

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,700.00 **EXPENDED: \$88,708.19; IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: \$15,720.63**

COUNTY: Dona Ana

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Las Cruces Utilities (LCU) and Parks and Recreation Departments will complete a 3-month summer project to educate 18 youth, ages 16 to 20, about important water conservation techniques. These techniques are widely recognized throughout the country and certified through the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) program. QWEL is endorsed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency; implementation of this project will lead to larger community benefits in the protection of natural resources. Youth Corps members will be recruited and hired, initially undergoing an orientation to the work environment, a week-long life skills development course, QWEL training and certification testing, and a six-phase project to complete park irrigation assessments/audits in multiple City-owned parks. The City does not regularly perform irrigation audits. With over 300 acres of park or landscaped area owned by the City, irrigation audits are a necessary component of water efficiency

SPONSOR: City of Tucumcari

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 7

Appendix A: 2019 Detailed YCC Project List

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$41,444.18 **EXPENDED:** \$39,885.64; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$29,073.30

COUNTY: Quay

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The corps members will learn new skills with a variety of tasks throughout the program. The proposed projects will improve the aesthetic and quality of the City's public parks. The YCC members will learn how to paint, how to tarp and mulch a playground, improve benches and canopies. We also like to encourage our community to get outside and exercise, therefore we will be adding a volleyball net. There will also be new grills added to the parks so the community can use them for events throughout the year. In addition, the proposed projects will improve educational abilities; and offer corps members a challenging and rewarding experience. The project described will not duplicate similar services in the area and will not displace or replace year round or seasonal workers. The City's project objective includes an improved appearance; accessibility; expose youth to careers; and provides participation with practical job skills.

SPONSOR: Cuba Independent Schools

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 15

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$76,522.12 **EXPENDED:** \$30,379.24; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$8,750.61

COUNTY: Sandoval

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Reclamation and preservation of human and natural resources in Cuba and the surrounding region are embedded in this nine-week project. The training section includes First Aid/CPR, Trail and Tool Safety Education, Career Interest Inventory with Transition to College & Career, Work Ethics and Fitness and Health. Research suggests that completion of Career Interest Inventories will aid students in determining career goals and appropriate educational pathways for achieving those goals. Targeted NMPED core standards in Career Readiness and pre/post Fitness assessments will be utilized. Work projects include walking trail maintenance in the Cuba area and ditch (acequia) revitalizations. Trail projects will be completed in cooperation with the Nacimiento Community Foundation. The Fisher Trail/San Jose Trail Project will allow maintenance of the existing trails that provide the only public access from the village of Cuba to the Santa Fe National Forest on the Mesa. These trails are used by com

SPONSOR: Deming Cesar Chavez Charter High School - Spring

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 12

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$27,807.87 **EXPENDED:** \$13,608.84; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$8,650.00

COUNTY: Luna

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: We feel this YCC project offers an opportunity for many of our students to gain needed job skills and prepare for the workforce. We currently have a successful internship and job placement programs, but many of our students lack basic skills and need a supportive and rigorous program to develop needed skills. Starting with a small YCC program located primarily on our public school/neighborhood campus allows us an opportunity to blend YCC into our continuum of job readiness skills development programs. Our mission at Deming Cesar Chavez Charter High School (DCCCHS) is to provide flexible and personalized programs for anyone in Luna County seeking a high school diploma that would benefit from services and educational programs using non-traditional methods. Our mission is to work with students, families, and communities to identify the strengths, needs, and issues impacting student success. Based on this identification, we will develop or locate programs, processes, and class schedu

SPONSOR: Deming Cesar Chavez Charter High School -- Fall - **not complete**

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 12

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$22,128.81 **EXPENDED:** \$12,138 **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$5,200

COUNTY: Luna

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: We feel this YCC project offers an opportunity for many of our students to gain needed job skills and prepare for the workforce. We currently have a successful internship and job placement programs, but many of our students lack basic skills and need a supportive and rigorous program to develop needed skills. Starting with a small YCC program located primarily on our public school/neighborhood campus allows us an opportunity to blend YCC into our continuum of job readiness skills development programs. Our mission at Deming Cesar Chavez Charter High School (DCCCHS) is to provide flexible and personalized programs for anyone in Luna county seeking a high school diploma that would benefit from services and educational programs using non-traditional methods. Our mission is to work with students, families, and communities to identify the strengths, needs, and issues impacting student success. Based on this identification, we will develop or locate programs, processes, and class sche

SPONSOR: East Rio Arriba Soil & Water Conservation District

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 6

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$47,511.11 **EXPENDED:** \$47,511.11; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$16,981.75

COUNTY: Lincoln, Otero

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project will engage local youth to be involved in conservation by applying technology to the importance of soil and water conservation in our communities. Our natural resources are crucial to producers in the area; by engaging youth, we can make improvements to the efficiency and sustainability of areas in the East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District (ERASWCD). The youth involved in this project will use GPS devices to map Acequias, Riparian and a variety of Natural resource areas within ERASWCD. They will learn valuable skills such as GPS data collection, resource inventory, plant classification, and extensive conservation techniques. The youth will document areas of concern, inventory irrigation turn outs, and take photograph corresponding attributes. Students will utilize ArcGIS software to create shapefiles and maps from waypoints taken from each location inventoried. Shapefiles will then be entered into a database which will be utilized by producers in coll

Appendix A: 2019 Detailed YCC Project List

SPONSOR: EcoServants - Cloudcroft

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 20

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$96,619.70 **EXPENDED:** \$78,980.85; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$20,212.81

COUNTY: Lincoln, Otero

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: EcoServants and the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps (NMYCC) would team up to offer local youth the opportunity for the best summer job experience and training in Cloudcroft. 20 corps members (CM's) would be hired for a 9 to 10 week program in which they can earn a \$1,210 or a \$1,525 AmeriCorps scholarship and over \$9 per hour while learning and performing valuable job skills. We would continue with a 2 or 3 week program with around 7 CM's to finish up projects, assist earning the larger scholarship and spend appropriated funding on wages. Partnering with United States Department of Agriculture- Forest Service (USDA-FS) â€” Sacramento Ranger District, Mescalero Apache Reservation (MAR), Oliver Lee State Park, United States Department of Agriculture- Forest Service (USDA-FS) -Smokey Bear District and the Village of Ruidoso (VOR) we will be concentrating on new and old trails. Crews will also assist with range, wildlife and recreation in duties such as wildlife and vegetable surveys,

SPONSOR: EcoServants - Lincoln County

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 20

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$96,619.70 **EXPENDED:** \$78,843.85; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$20,321.51

COUNTY: Lincoln, Otero

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: EcoServants and the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps (NMYCC) would team up to offer local youth the opportunity for the best summer job experience and training in Lincoln County. 20 corps members (CM's) would be hired for a 9 to 10 week program in which they can earn a \$1,210 or a \$1,525 AmeriCorps scholarship and over \$9 per hour while learning and performing valuable job skills. We would continue with a 2 or 3 week program with around 7 CM's to finish up projects, assist earning the larger scholarship and spend appropriated funding on wages. Partnering with United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service (USDA-FS) â€” Smokey Bear Ranger District, United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service (USDA-FS) -Sacramento Ranger District, Bureau of Land Management â€” Roswell Field Office (BLM), Department of Cultural Affairs, the Village of Ruidoso (VOR), Mescalero Apache Reservation and the County of Lincoln we will be concentrating on new and old trails. Crews will als

SPONSOR: EcoServants - Tularosa

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 20

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$96,619.70 **EXPENDED:** \$79,035.45; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$20,314.30

COUNTY: Lincoln, Otero

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: EcoServants and the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps (NMYCC) would team up to offer local youth the opportunity for the best summer job experience and training in Tularosa. 20 corps members (CM's) would be hired for a 9 to 10 week program in which they can earn a \$1,210 or a \$1,525 AmeriCorps scholarship and over \$9 per hour while learning and performing valuable job skills. We would continue with a 2 or 3 week program with around 7 CM's to finish up projects, assist earning the larger scholarship and spend appropriated funding on wages. Partnering with the United States Forest Service (USFS) â€” Sacramento Ranger District, Mescalero Apache Reservation)MAR), United States Forest Service (USFS) -Smokey Bear District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) â€” Roswell Field office and the Village of Ruidoso (VOR) we will be concentrating on new and old trails. Crews will also assist with range, wildlife and recreation in duties such as wildlife and vegetable surveys, building and repairing fen

SPONSOR: Farmington Municipal Schools

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 17

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$78,577.12 **EXPENDED:** \$68,295.70; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$31,555.32

COUNTY: San Juan

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Corps members will be working with San Juan College to preserve the High Endeavors Challenge Course from the elements by staining the wood with TWP. Corps members will also be removing old ground cover that uses too much water and replacing it with xeriscaping, native plants, and rocks. Corps members will be planting trees around campus where trees and died or where new landscaping is needed. Corps members will install a riverbed drainage system where water erosion has damaged landscaping.

SPONSOR: Forest Guild - Summer

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 20

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,708.37 **EXPENDED:** \$95,460.60; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$110,602.30

COUNTY: Cibola, McKinley, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Torrance

Appendix A: 2019 Detailed YCC Project List

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Summer 2019 Forest Stewards Youth Corps (FSYC), will implement a comprehensive set of natural resource conservation projects and training and educational initiatives involving 20 youth, from up to 7 different counties, on 4 different USDA Forest Service Ranger Districts. Projects will improve thousands of acres of public land and the visitor experience for thousands of citizens. Specifically, in 2019 the FSYC summer program will build or repair 14 miles of public trails, build or repair 13.5 miles of fencing, control 180 acres of invasive species, complete 850 acres of ecological monitoring, conduct 560 acres of thinning preparations, protect over 7 cultural sites, improve 8 wildlife drinkers and tanks, and reduce fire risk by constructing 12.5 miles of fire-line in preparation for prescribed fires that will improve forest health across over 800 acres. Together, these projects will reduce fire risk, improve recreation resources, conserve soils and native plants, and improve forest

SPONSOR: Forest Guild - Fall

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 12

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,452.15 **EXPENDED:** \$91,489.32; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$117,794.01

COUNTY: McKinley, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Torrance

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Fall 2019 FSYC program will employ 12 youth on 2 U.S. Forest Service ranger districts for 12 weeks between August and November. Crews will be hosted by the Espanola ranger district (ERD) in the Santa Fe National Forest and the Mountainair ranger district (MRD) in the Cibola National Forest. Projects will maintain 16 miles of trails, prepare 600 acres for prescribed fire and pile burning, survey 4 archeological sites, survey 10 archeological monitoring transects, survey 50 range transects, remove noxious weeds from 10 acres, construct 3 miles of fireline, repair and inspect 5 miles of fenceline, pile 3 acres of slash, mark 120 acres of timber for restoration treatments, restore 1,280 acres of rangelands, and monitor 640 acres of forest restoration treatments. These projects will reduce the wildfire risk to communities, restore degraded ecosystems by reducing erosion and the spread of noxious weeds, help protect archeological resources, and improve recreational opportunities for local

SPONSOR: Future Foundations Family Center

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 16

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$88,735.32 **EXPENDED:** \$64,441.37; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$60,366.24

COUNTY:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Between May and August of 2019, spanning an 11-week period, 16 youth between the ages of 16-24 will be hired to complete several projects of lasting value within the City of Grants and the Cibola National Forest. Three government partners, the City of Grants, Cibola County and the US Forest Service, Mt. Taylor Ranger District will be helping facilitate and support the projects through in-kind and cash contributions. Projects will consist of developing trails in the Zuni Mountain area, installing a new baseball field at Wells Park, installing tree grates, planting trees, developing the Grants Ridge Trail, installing a pollinator garden, and improving a hoop house. In addition, crew members will plan and implement summer camps for younger children registered to attend the summer program. Serving as positive role models and developing skills that will benefit them in the future. These projects are all geared toward creating places for our community to come together and to help preserve the

SPONSOR: Harwood Art Center of Escuela del Sol Montessori

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 10

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$54,942.40 **EXPENDED:** \$46,516.05; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$86,659.10

COUNTY:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Corps members will create public sculpture that increases lighting in Mesa Verde Park in the La Mesa neighborhood of Albuquerque's International District. This sculpture is integrated into a network of community projects aimed at rehabilitating and enhancing the park, a depleted but valued community resource. Our team will investigate local history and cultural heritage in the International District in partnership with La Mesa Neighborhood Association, the International District Healthy Communities Coalition and Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department. Corps members will host community planning sessions and coalesce input into a cohesive design for a sculpture that reflects the values and hopes of the residents who use the park regularly. Corps members will work with city planners, civic leaders, architects, designers and artists to design, fabricate and install a community driven public outdoor sculpture. They will consult PNM volunteers to determine how best to incorporate

SPONSOR: New Mexico Historic Sites

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 5

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$46,335.52; **TURNDOWN GRANT BECAUSE UNABLE TO HIRE PEOPLE**

COUNTY:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Fort Selden Historic Site is located on land owned by the State of NM, Dept of Cultural Affairs. The site preserves the ruins of Fort Selden, a U.S. Army fort established in 1865 with a mission to protect settlers from outlaws and hostile Apache bands. Some of the first troops to garrison Fort Selden were African Americans and they soon became famous as the "Buffalo Soldiers." Four soldiers received the Medal of Honor while serving at this fort. In 1884 Captain Arthur MacArthur was placed in command of Fort Selden, bringing along his family, including his young son Douglas, the future Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the Pacific theater during World War II. The MacArthur family stayed on at Fort Selden until 1886. The fort was decommissioned in May of 1888. The military ruins at Fort Selden Historic Site are one of the most significant historical properties in the state and the site is listed on the State Register of Cultural Properties and the National Register of Historic Pla

Appendix A: 2019 Detailed YCC Project List

SPONSOR: Rio Arriba County

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,959.53 **EXPENDED:** \$99,816.29; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$48,631.53

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Precious Age Precious Water has three areas of focus: 1) to provide employment and educational training to at-risk, adjudicated adolescent and young adults. 2) construct exercise and recreational opportunities for seniors that will contribute to their continued independent living; and, 3) improve and beautify a public facility with addition of an ADA compliant walking path, multi-use gazebo with a padded floor suitable to senior exercise classes; and resting benches along the walkway surrounded by xeriscape landscaping. Hard to place youth will be provided with employment and educational training; covered outdoor space to hold balance, Tai Chi, and other exercise classes that prevent elder falls (the major reason that elders cannot remain independent in their homes, and the #1 reason that they require expensive Emergency Department care); and, beautification of a public Community Center grounds with a low-maintenance xeriscape flower and native grasses garden.

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 8

COUNTY: Rio Arriba

SPONSOR: Rio Arriba County

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$100,716.29 **EXPENDED:** \$99,959.53; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$38,210.98

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Precious Age Precious Water has three areas of focus: 1) to provide employment and educational training to at-risk, adjudicated adolescent and young adults. 2) construct exercise and recreational opportunities for seniors that will contribute to their continued independent living; and, 3) improve and beautify a public facility with addition of an ADA compliant walking path, multi-use gazebo with a padded floor suitable to senior exercise classes; and resting benches along the walkway surrounded by xeriscape landscaping. Hard to place youth will be provided with employment and educational training; covered outdoor space to hold balance, Tai Chi, and other exercise classes that prevent elder falls (the major reason that elders cannot remain independent in their homes, and the #1 reason that they require expensive Emergency Department care); and, beautification of a public Community Center grounds with a low-maintenance xeriscape flower and native grasses garden.

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 8

COUNTY: Rio Arriba

SPONSOR: Robert F. Kennedy Charter School

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$73,403.65 **EXPENDED:** \$54,534.01; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$17,376.79

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Robert F. Kennedy Charter High School (RFK), located in Albuquerque's South Valley, is asking The Youth Conservation Corps to fund expansion of their Farm to School project. RFK owns a parcel of empty land adjacent to Shadyside Park in Southwest Albuquerque. Corps members will work on several different agricultural, construction and art projects aimed at educating Corps members, improving the ecosystem and beautifying the neighborhood. They will design and construct a shade structure and benches, which will provide high school elective credits in carpentry. Corps members will research native seeds, the impact of pesticides on the environment, and the type of vegetation needed to transform degraded drylands into a thriving farm. Corps members will design, weld and install a wrought iron fence illustrating farming. Some Corps members can choose to participate in RFK's Culinary Program. They will learn the skills needed to work in the food service industry and can earn a ServSafe®

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 12

COUNTY: Bernalillo

SPONSOR: Rocky Mountain Youth Corps - Upper Rio Grande

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,999.99 **EXPENDED:** \$89,080.76; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$104,733.60

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: RMYC's training program will allow for members to receive dedicated trainings related to their project through on-the-job training opportunities as well as personal and professional development opportunities. RMYC has established strong risk management and safety protocols. RMYC will deliver substantial environmental and recreation improvements. RMYC will employ three crews. The first crew will construct segments of the Rio Grande Trail. The second crew will construct fencing, restore wetlands, trails, and other recreation improvements in the Questa Ranger District, and the third crew will work on several conservation projects at the Rio Mora Fish Hatchery and the Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge. In addition to the public benefits and significant improvements to public lands, RMYC will provide marketable on-the-job training and essential life skills training to prepare each Corpsmember for the future.

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 21

COUNTY: Mora, Taos

SPONSOR: Rocky Mountain Youth Corps - Mid-Rio Grande

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$101,698.59 **EXPENDED:** \$93,518.32; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$118,887.14

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 21

COUNTY: Bernalillo, Santa Fe

Appendix A: 2019 Detailed YCC Project List

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: RMYC will hire and train three crews of young adults between the ages of 16-25 for a total of 21 Corps members. This opportunity offers young adults an inclusive environment to explore natural resource careers and experience field-based projects. RMYC's training program will allow for members to receive on-the-job training opportunities related to their project work as well as personal and professional development opportunities. Our goal is to improve the personal self-sufficiency and employability of our Corpsmembers. In addition to Corpsmember training, the projects will have a longstanding impact on the communities and natural environments where they take place. To accomplish these projects, RMYC has established strong risk management and safety protocols. Two crews will restore public open space and trails with the City of Albuquerque and complete trail work, jetty jack removal, a tree inventory and tree plantings in City of Albuquerque park and open space properties. The third cre

SPONSOR: Santa Fe Children's Museum **EXPENDED: \$33,789.84; IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: \$11,043.26**
FUNDED AMOUNT: \$38,230.32

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 4
COUNTY:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The mission of the Santa Fe Children's Museum is about discovering the joys of learning, play and community. We achieve this by providing hands-on-learning opportunities for everyone who comes through our doors, not just the children. Part of the museum space includes our 1 1/2 acre Earthworks Garden. This space is an interactive, outdoor learning environment geared toward sharing sustainable land management practices with all of our visitors. Corps members will receive ongoing training in sustainable and integrated land use planning and management, as well as, organic gardening and the support of healthy ecosystems through the use of xeriscape and permaculture principles, and water-wise gardening principles. Corps members will also gain some basic construction skills. Dissemination of this knowledge to museum visitors through programs and demonstrations will further reinforce the Corps member's training while enhancing presentation and teaching skills.. Throughout the summer,

SPONSOR: Santa Fe County Fire Department **EXPENDED: \$65,378.02; IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: \$71,783.53**
FUNDED AMOUNT: \$93,003.10

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 6
COUNTY: Bernalillo, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Tarrant

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The goal of SFCFD is to prepare young men and women for their future careers. We instill discipline, confidence and respect for themselves and others. Through team work and training on a daily basis. Learning to work with others in difficult situations they may encounter while on a Fire or project site. SFCFD will hire 6 individuals to fill a 6 person hand crew available for forest thinning projects in Santa Fe County. This crew will also be available for deployment to wildland fires and support search and rescue operations in and out of the county. Each member of the crew will receive basic wildland firefighter and power saw operation training and will be qualified as a wildland firefighter. After initial training the crew will consist of 6 members to include 1 leads. Two members from SFCFD firefighters will supervise the crew in all aspects of daily operations. The Wildland Coordinator for SFCFD will administrate the project. Transportation will be provided by SFCFD. Project work w

SPONSOR: Socorro County
FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,954.13 **EXPENDED: \$43,672.67; IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: \$33,295.37**

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 7
COUNTY: Socorro

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Socorro County YCC 2019 will enhance & rehabilitate 3 recreational areas at previous open space sites within 15 miles of Socorro: 2 to the north in Escondida (Escondida Lake Park) and Polvadera (Eusebio M Saiz Memorial Park) and 1 to the south in San Antonio, NM (see area maps). The County is applying for 1 seasonal YCC crew (7 members total, with a crew leader and a Corps leader) to assist park construction work. Both Polvadera and San Antonio parks will require replacement planting of trees/shrubs that didn't take from previous year planting efforts. The installation of shade structures, picnic tables, and signs will be required at all 3 parks referenced. Flag poles will be installed at 2 of the 3 locations. Escondida Lake Park will require extensive planting of native trees, shrubs, & grasses following a detailed design trail construction (see area maps). Concrete will need to be mixed and poured at all 3 locations to secure the structures. The irrigation system installation wi

SPONSOR: Southwest Environmental Center
FUNDED AMOUNT: \$98,770.74 **EXPENDED: \$77,139.63; IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: \$40,392.86**

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 8
COUNTY: Dona Ana

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed YCC project is part of the Southwest Environmental Center's (SWEC) long-term effort to restore riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitats in the Southwest; particularly along the Rio Grande in southern New Mexico and west Texas. Due to dam building, draining for agriculture, and channelization, the Rio Grande River has been heavily modified, thus leading to the vanishing of two-thirds of the native fish, plants, bosques, and natural wetlands. Despite these circumstances, there is much that can be done to restore the ecological health of the Rio Grande. For the past twenty years, the Southwest Environmental Center has been working to revive and connect riparian habitats, aquatic habitats, and wetlands. The primary focus for the YCC project will take place at our ongoing La Mancha Wetland project, near Las Cruces, as well as our new River Edge Farm Property. The hands-on experience that the YCC participants will gain includes improving established trails, removing invasive

Appendix A: 2019 Detailed YCC Project List

SPONSOR: Taos Land Trust

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 14

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$100,000.00 **EXPENDED:** \$95,869.89; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$16,661.41

COUNTY: Taos

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Taos Land Trust (TLT) is creating the Rio Fernando Park, a 20-acre property adjacent to the Town-owned, Fred Baca Park. In September 2018, we will complete a community-sourced master plan, which will identify where walking trails, gardens, discovery play spaces, and structures will go. In 2019, TLT will focus on building out the Rio Fernando Park and connecting it to the adjacent Fred Baca Park. The YCC crews will help us to build this park for Taos residents and visitors. The Rio Fernando Park (RFP) includes 7 acres of wetlands with the Rio Fernando flowing through it, as well as 12 acres of old agricultural lands that we are bringing back to life. The 2018 YCC crew will have rebuilt the abandoned acequia, making the 2019 YCC projects a second phase of the work of 2018 YCC crew. Unlike a traditional park, the Rio Fernando Park will provide the opportunity to showcase ecological conservation, regenerative land stewardship, traditional and innovative agricultural practices;

SPONSOR: The Family YMCA

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 20

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,617.62 **EXPENDED:** \$81,849.75; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$27,394.08

COUNTY: Los Alamos

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Destructive wildfires in 2000 and 2011, and ongoing drought and several fall torrential and damaging rains destroyed most of Los Alamos's 55 miles of community footpaths and hillsides. Since 2001, YCC programs sponsored by Los Alamos County and The Family YMCA have accomplished much of the trail restoration work as YCC crews have enhanced the trails by emphasizing sustainable trail construction in areas above potential flooding, and by placement and construction that helps check water and ensure trail longevity. For 2019, the YCC would like to resume the creation of connections between several existing trails on Los Alamos County property, address US Forest Service paths in outer areas bordering Los Alamos County, construct trail tread, improve trail drainage and lessen the effect of erosion on still remaining severely burned hillsides. Training will be provided on public lands use, tool safety and care, building sustainable trails, the role of fire in the ponderosa pine ecosystem, Fir

SPONSOR: The Issachar Calling

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 29

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,879.56 **EXPENDED:** \$99,326.13; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$19,738.31

COUNTY: San Juan

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Members will install a 574 foot fence for an outdoor public park. The fence will be five foot in height and will have two gates that will be four feet each in length as requested by the Shiprock Chapterhouse. YCC corps member s will also install a combination of rock boulders and railroad tie hedge on the edge of fence to prevent vehicles from driving into the park through the sides. YCC corps members and The Issachar Calling Administrators will work closely with Chapterhouse officials to ensure that the fence is installed according to their specifications. A professional landscaping and fencing expert will be hired to oversee the project and also provide instruct io n to the YCC Corps Members. Corp members will also engage in preparing and grading the parking lot area in order to continue to fix the current drainage problem. Although it has greatly improved, the park still suffers from a semi muddy parking lot area whenever it rains making it still somewhat unsafe and unsanita

SPONSOR: Town of Estancia

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 11

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$73,692.24 **TURNED BACK GRANT BECAUSE UNABLE TO HIRE**

COUNTY:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Town of Estancia proposed to construct several covered areas for the enjoyment of its citizens and its visitors to its Punkin Chunkin Field. The field is utilized for many events including the annual Rotary Club Punkin Chunkin event, which raises money for scholarships awarded to local high school graduates. Currently, there is no covered areas for protection from the elements (sun, rain, etc.) for the spectators. The covered areas will consist of a concrete slab and pro-panel roof allowing the visitors to enjoy the events in comfort. The covered areas will make this field more attractive and encourage economic development by providing facilities that ca be utilized for future events.

SPONSOR: Village of Columbus

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 12

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$22,691.85 **EXPENDED:** \$22,691.84; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$4,352.21

COUNTY: Luna

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The purpose of the project is to give youth in the community a real job experience and at the same time make them conscious of the importance to care for the community they live in. By the end of the project the Village will have beautified the main park for residents by planting trees and shrubs. Crew members will host 3 site demonstrations to interested residents in low water usage for plants. They will be installing water irrigation system at the park. Youth creativity will be enhanced by the creation of murals to be displayed at the park. Murals will have to be designed by crew members as well as the installation plan of the murals. Our community animal shelter will also be improved. A new construction site will be designed, so it can include appropriate security for animals left at shelter. Youth will be working in teams to accomplish the projects.

Appendix A: 2019 Detailed YCC Project List

SPONSOR: Village of Corrales

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 16

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,231.01 **EXPENDED:** \$27,075.53; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$35,727.82

COUNTY:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Crew at the will be able to take part in trainings and work that will give knowledge to be able to respond a variety of emergency situations, wildland fires, wildland Urban Interface fires, flooding, structure fires, cmÂ· fires, Search and Rescue, Animal Rescue, Swiftwater rescue, Emergency Management operations, and Emergency Medical calls. They will also learn about fire prevention activities defensible space, clearing and maintaining fire breaks within the Bosque, Trail management and erosion prevention on the Levees and irrigation ditch system and habitat requirements with in the Village owned property and the Bosque. Crews will take classes and gain on the job training using National Incident Management System, Incident Command System, they will utilized ICS 214 Activity logs for building project plans and use Unit logs for tracking daily activities. Crews will utilizes computer mapping to document Village owned roads and properties for Emergency Management uses. Crews trained

SPONSOR: Village of Santa Clara

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 19

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$89,472.53 **EXPENDED:** \$83,693.47; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$9,306.82

COUNTY: Grant

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: We will build upon our successful 2017 and 2018 YCC programs as we continue to impact historic preservation efforts at Fort Bayard and make improvements to public parks. YCC crews will help with securing and stabilizing several historic buildings at Fort Bayard in risk of complete collapse. Crews will also receive training to become Fort Bayard History Docents and help inform the public as they tour the Fort grounds or visit the Museum. Landscape improvements to municipal properties and public parks will help beautify these areas. Demonstration gardens will help to inform our community about low water use and native plants. Installing play equipment and park amenities helps increase park usage and resident's activity levels. We will have two crews, one older, ages 18-24 working full time from April to August and one, younger, ages 14-18, working for 8 weeks during the summer months. This structure allows us to provide basic job skills to the younger crew members and more advanced trai

SPONSOR: WildEarth Guardians - Valles Caldera

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 8

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,951.12 **EXPENDED:** \$87,272.76; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$154,857.28

COUNTY: Sandoval

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The 2019 YCC Valles Caldera National Preserve and Santa Fe National Forest Watershed Restoration Project is a continuation of previous YCC project efforts to improve watershed health, water quality, improve wildlife habitat, and improve recreational opportunities for the public in the Jemez mountains. YCC crewmembers will plant native riparian vegetation along 1 mile of Redondo Creek and San Antonio Creek, as well as, construct exclosures to protect riparian vegetation and its associated habitat. Both, Redondo Creek and San Antonio creeks are a federally listed water quality impaired stream because of elevated stream temperatures, which negatively impact fisheries habitat and degrades water quality. Planting riparian vegetation along the stream will provide shade over the stream and decrease stream temperatures. YCC crewmembers will also assist in the construction of structures to improve wetland capacity within the Redondo wetland meadow. Additionally, YCC crewmembers will particip

SPONSOR: WildEarth Guardians - Valle de Oro

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 8

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$77,587.76 **EXPENDED:** \$67,708.38; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$173,088.50

COUNTY: Santa Fe

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The 2019 YCC Valle de Oro National Urban Wildlife National Refuge Wetland, Riparian and Water Quality Improvement Project will continue to restore watershed health in the recently designate Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in South Albuquerque. The focus of this project is to create wetland and riparian habitat to improve storm-water runoff, improve water quality, and provide wildlife habitat, on a former diary farm near the Rio Grande The project located on the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge will improve ecological function and conditions to a portion of recently acquired 570-acre lands, which comprise the Refuge. The Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge is a joint use facility developed by both the Albuquerque Metropolitan Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The project is located approximately 5 miles south of downtown Albuquerque, New Mexico in Bernalillo County's South Valley. The Valle de Oro National Wildlife

SPONSOR: YouthWorks

YOUTH EMPLOYED: 9

FUNDED AMOUNT: \$99,025.91 **EXPENDED:** \$32,175.20; **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION:** \$114,160.42

COUNTY: San Miguel, Santa Fe

Appendix A: 2019 Detailed YCC Project List

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: YouthWorks (YW) Santa Fe Youth Conservation Corps will partner with the Wildfire Network (WN) as lead agency in a forest and land restoration and fuels reduction project on the Rowe Mesa, near Pecos, NM. YW will engage WN and other nonprofit training partners to deliver conservation solution projects to benefit the public. Treatments will benefit local communities by creating reduced soil erosion due to better ground cover, less runoff, better water infiltration and reduced risk of high-intensity wildfire. YCC members will also participate in academic coursework as needed and other educational and technical professional skills attainment workshops, certification training, life skills training and hands-on project-based job skills training. All YCC participants who are not enrolled in school will participate in GED coursework taught by licensed instructors, receive tutoring, no-fee counseling, and case management services to address life and social skills and connection to additional

Appendix B: Corps Member Survey Results

NEW MEXICO YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS COMMISSION CORPS MEMBER SURVEY All Projects for 2020

Section 1. This section covers Natural Resources CONCEPTS that may or may not have been discussed during the course of the YCC project. Did your project involve improvements to New Mexico's natural resources? If yes, continue. If no, skip to section 3.

Yes	424
No	97

Biology

Yes	267
No	157

Ecology

Yes	315
No	112

Riparian Systems

Yes	236
No	190

Soil Conservation and Erosion Control

Yes	389
No	70

Watersheds

Yes	266
No	167

Bird and other Animal Identification

Yes	178
No	240

Fire Ecology

Yes	209
No	215

Global Positioning Systems

Yes	161
No	256

Plant Identification

Yes	313
No	116

Proper Planting Techniques

Yes	244
No	178

Xeriscape Concepts

Yes	176
No	243

Wise Water Use

Yes	338
No	92

Leave No Trace

Yes	320
No	106

Section 2. Check the box next to the SKILLS acquired during the course of the natural resource project:

1 Firefighting Courses: S-130/190	44
2 Firefighting Courses: S-212	38
3 Firefighting Courses: Other	32
4 Firefighting: Took Pack Test	35
5 Firefighting: Passes Pack Test	30
6 Firefighting: Obtained Red Card	29
Acequia Improvements	68
Drip irrigation Installation	70
GPS Use	110
Installation of Erosion Control Structures	130
Irrigation Installation	119
Landscape Design and Planting	242
Map Making	82
Orienteering	65
Surveying	148
Thinning	142
Trail Construction	245
Trail Design	217

Check the box next to the skills and/or knowledge acquired during the course of the project:

Above Making and Installation	26
Carpentry	91
Construction Math	80
Fencing	136
Foundations	100
Heavy Equipment Operation	111
Masonry and Concrete	96
Painting/Staining	123
Pipe Laying	88
Plumbing	41
Reading Construction Plans	62
Roofing	66
Stucco	3
Tool Use, Maintenance and Safety	346
Welding	34
Wiring	33

Section 3. This section covers construction and/or mechanical concepts that may or may not have been discussed during the course of the project. Did the project involve construction/mechanics? If yes, continue. If no, go to Section 4.

Yes	240
No	248

Section 4. This section covers cultural (art, writing, visual media) concepts that may or may not have been discussed during the course of the project. Did the project involve cultural concepts? If yes, continue. If no, go to Section 5.

Artistic Composition and Design	104
Library Use	50
Mural Design and Installation	56
Production of Flyers, Handbooks, Field Guides	67
Research through print media or other	64
Tile Mosaic Design and Installation	30
Video/DVD Production	33

Other cultural skills and/or knowledge acquired through participation in the project:

Section 5. This section covers topics related to Job Skills. Check the box next to the skills and/or knowledge you acquired during the course of the project:

Computer Use	152
Critical Thinking Skills	333
Defensive Driving	74
Job Searching	138
Labor Laws	164
Promptness	249
Proper Work Attire	357
Public Speaking	208
Responsibilities of an Employer	228
Responsibilities of an Employee	434
Resume Writing	196
Safety on the Work Site	436

Other Job Skills:

Section 6 This section covers topics related to Life Skills. Check the box next to the skills and/or knowledge you acquired during the course of the project:

Anger Management	119
Conflict Resolution	227
CPR	323
First Aid	347
First Responder	102
Prevention-Sexually Transmitted Diseases	129
Prevention-Substance Abuse	178
Prevention-Violence Towards Others	178

Other Life Skills:

Did you have a positive experience in YCC?

Yes	516
No	13

Do you feel that your YCC experience will assist you in pursuing your goals for the future?

Yes	487
No	41

Will you be returning to school?

Yes	443
No	80

Indicate what level:

College	229
High School	252
Vocational Institution	10

Will you be entering into regular employment? If yes, what type of job will you have?

Yes	252
No	249

Do you believe your experience in the YCC project helped you in obtaining the job? Please explain:

Yes	287
No	171

Please express your opinions and views about your experience in the YCC project and whether you would want to participate in another project:

Appendix C: New Rule, 11.2.171 NMAC

TITLE 11 LABOR AND WORKERS COMPENSATION
CHAPTER 2 JOB TRAINING
PART 171 THE YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS (YCC) AND OUTDOOR EQUITY GRANT
(OEG) PROGRAMS

11.2.171.1 ISSUING AGENCY: The New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission.
[11.2.171.1 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.1 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.2 SCOPE: General Public.
[11.2.171.2 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.2 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 9-5B-1 et-seq. NMSA 1978.
[11.2.171.3 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.3 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.4 DURATION: Permanent.
[11.2.171.4 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.4 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: December 17, 2019, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[11.2.171.5 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.5 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.6 OBJECTIVE: The objective of this rule is to establish procedures and standards for the administration of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program and the Outdoor Equity grant (OEG) program.
[11.2.171.6 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.6 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. "In-kind contribution" means a non-monetary donation of goods or services provided by the project sponsor for the purpose of carrying out a program.

B. "Low-income youth" for the purposes of the outdoor equity grant program means New Mexico residents up to the age of 18 who qualify for a state or federal assistance program, such as free or reduced lunch, Medicaid or other similar program,

C. "Native American" means a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment.

D. "Residential program" means a program where corps members and their supervisors are housed on-site in a residential facility.

E. "Rural" means an area not within a metropolitan statistical area as defined by the United States office of management and budget.

F. "Summer program" means a program taking place between May and September.

G. "Seasonal program" means a program that takes place any time of year and is six months or less in duration.

H. "Under-resourced" means lacking sufficient resources, including, but not limited to funds, opportunity, work force, knowledge base, support systems, physical aids, communication devices, and other physical assets that limit access to job training and outdoor recreation.

I. "Urban" means an area within a metropolitan statistical area as defined by the United States office of management and budget.

[11.2.171.7 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.7 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.8 PROPOSALS: At least annually, the commission will request proposals for YCC and OEG projects. The commission's announcement will include where to obtain proposal information and the date by which proposals must be submitted.

[11.2.171.8 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.15 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.9 YCC PROJECT ELIGIBILITY:

A. Project sponsors: The YCC Commission will accept applications from:

(1) A federally recognized sovereign tribal government within the state.

(2) A state agency.

(3) A local government agency.

- (4) A federal agency operating within the state.
 - (5) A non-profit organization with a 501(c) internal revenue service designation operating within the state.
 - (6) Any organization or agency with a 501(c) fiscal sponsor.
- B.** Projects must be consistent with the purposes of the NMYCC program and may include, but need not be limited to, projects that:
- (1) protect, conserve, rehabilitate or increase resiliency of terrestrial and aquatic species, forests, refuges, rangelands and waters of the state;
 - (2) improve public parks, greenways, historic sites, libraries, museums, zoos, recreational areas and associated facilities;
 - (3) reinforce the “keep New Mexico true” campaign;
 - (4) provide emergency assistance, disaster relief or recovery; or
 - (5) improve disaster preparedness; increase energy efficiency.
- C.** Prohibited activities: The following activities are prohibited in the conduct of any NMYCC project:
- (1) the displacement or substitution of an existing employee by a corps member or the replacement of a seasonal employee normally hired by the project sponsor;
 - (2) the participation by corps members in the removal or cleaning up of any toxic or hazardous waste or toxic or hazardous waste site; and
 - (3) the assignment of corps members to general work activities such as, but not limited to, routine lawn mowing, routine litter control, janitorial duties and clerical tasks.
- [11.2.171.9 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.12 and 11.2.171.13 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.10 YCC PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

- A.** Project sponsors shall ensure that all project sites and practices conform to appropriate state and federal health and safety standards and requirements.
- B.** Project sponsors shall classify their programs as a summer, seasonal, or residential project; and also specify whether their project primarily engages Native American, rural, urban or other under-resourced populations.
- C.** Wages for corps members and corps leaders shall account for a minimum of seventy percent of the total funds requested.
- D.** Projects shall hire a minimum of four corps members and one corps crew leader or corps crew trainer.
- E.** Project sponsors must provide an education and training program to corps members for the duration of the project. The number of hours of training provided for each corps member shall be no less than twelve percent of the total hours budgeted per corps member for the entirety of the project.
- F.** Project sponsors shall match a minimum of twenty percent of total funds requested with in-kind or cash contributions.
- G.** Project sponsors shall provide proof they have obtained permission from all land owners or managers where the project shall take place.
- H.** Project sites: Projects may be undertaken on:
 - (1) public lands, waters or structures located within the state that are under the jurisdiction of the project sponsor or in accordance with a written agreement between the project sponsor and the agency that has jurisdiction over the public lands, waters or structures;
 - (2) lands, waters or structures owned or administered by a non-profit entity or federally recognized sovereign tribal government, provided that these facilities are open to the public on a reasonable basis, there is a public value or benefit to the project, and the facilities are located within the state; or
 - (3) lands, waters or structures owned or administered by a nonprofit organization or federally recognized sovereign tribal government in accordance with a written agreement between the project sponsor and the nonprofit entity or federally recognized sovereign tribal government, provided that these facilities are open to the public on a reasonable basis, there is a public value or benefit to the project, and the facilities are located within the state.
- I.** Project sponsors shall have worker's compensation and unemployment insurance in place for the duration of the project.
- J.** Program applicants shall provide proof of adequate insurance coverage for any liability arising out of program activities for the duration of the program.

[11.2.171.10 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.11 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.11 YCC CORPS MEMBERS:

A. Project sponsors shall, at their own expense, comply with all applicable laws, regulations, rules ordinances, and requirements of local, state, and federal authorities, including but not limited to those pertaining to equal opportunity employment, workers compensation benefits, and fair labor standards.

B. Recruitment, selection, supervision, development and dismissal of corps members will be the responsibility of the project sponsors.

C. Sponsors shall verify corps members meet the following eligibility requirements at the time of enrollment and keep records of such:

- (1) are unemployed;
- (2) are New Mexico residents;
- (3) are in-school or out-of-school youth;
- (4) are between the ages of 14 and 25 years of age
- (5) have a work permit if under the age of 16.

D. Sponsors shall enforce all labor laws and shall be familiar with child labor laws as they apply to employees under the age of 18.

E. Compensation:

(1) Corps members shall be compensated as provided by law following the state or municipality established minimum wage.

(2) Corps members shall be individuals who meet the eligibility requirements and are at least 14 years of age at the beginning of the project.

(3) Corps crew leaders or corps crew trainers shall be individuals who meet the eligibility requirements, are at least 18 years of age at the beginning of the project, and serve in a leadership, trainer or mentor position.

(4) Project sponsors may request wage increases of no more than ten percent of starting wage for corps members based on promotion, performance or additional responsibilities; and if there are sufficient funds in the budget to complete the project as planned.

(5) The YCC will support the project sponsor's existing policy for holiday pay.

(6) Project sponsors may not budget overtime pay into the cost proposal, and under no circumstances will the commission reimburse project sponsors for overtime.

(7) The YCC will not reimburse the project sponsor for hazard pay.

(8) Project sponsors shall follow their established personnel policies for dismissal of corps members. Sponsors are encouraged to provide opportunities for improvement prior to dismissal.

F. The length of a corps member's employment shall be determined by the duration of the work project in which the corps member is participating.

G. The maximum accumulated length of service for which a corps member may be employed on a YCC crew, including all projects in which the corps member participated, shall not exceed 24 months.

[11.2.171.11 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.13 and 11.2.171.14 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.12 YCC EDUCATIONAL TUITION VOUCHERS AND ADDITIONAL CASH COMPENSATION:

A. On completion of employment with the YCC, a corps member who has 12 full months of employment as a corps member during a period not to exceed 48 months, and who has received satisfactory evaluations throughout their employment, may apply for a \$500.00 additional cash compensation or a \$1500.00 educational tuition voucher.

B. The project sponsor shall certify that the corps member was employed for the duration of the project and the YCC staff shall verify same.

(1) The educational voucher is good for reimbursement of expenses at a New Mexico institution of higher education, including accredited universities, colleges, community colleges, vocational schools and on-line education associated with an accredited New Mexico institution of higher education.

(2) The educational tuition voucher is valid for two years and will be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts and proof of payment.

(a) Examples of reimbursable expenses include educational expenses such as tuition, textbooks, and classroom and lab supplies.

(b) Examples of non-reimbursable expenses include personal expenses, transportation, computers, residential rent, and food.

(3) A corps member who receives satisfactory employment evaluations and has completed a minimum of six months employment but less than 12 months in a four-year period due to circumstances beyond the corps member's control, may receive a partial cash compensation or a partial educational tuition voucher.

(a) Circumstances beyond a corps member's control may include but are not limited to: illness; death in the family; a return to school; family relocation.

(b) Circumstances beyond the corps member's control do not include the unavailability of projects or that the project sponsor did not select them for employment with the project.

[11.2.171.12 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.18 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.13 OEG PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

A. The YCC Commission will accept applications from:

(1) A federally recognized sovereign tribal government within the state.

(2) A state agency.

(3) A local government agency.

(4) A federal agency operating within the state.

(5) A non-profit organization with a 501(c) (3) internal revenue service designation operating within the state.

(6) Any organization or agency with a 501(c) (3) fiscal sponsor.

(7) A privately-owned New Mexico resident business.

B. Programs must be consistent with the purposes of the outdoor equity grant program as described in the act; and may include, but are not limited to, programs that provide recreational opportunities and enhance outdoor skills and knowledge of activities such as bicycling, birdwatching, boating, camping, climbing, farming, fishing, flora and fauna identification, hang-gliding, hiking, horse-back riding, hot-air ballooning, hunting, jet skiing, mountain biking, mushrooming, nature study, off-highway vehicles, orienteering, paddling, rafting, ranching, rock-climbing, sandboarding, skiing, sledding, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and swimming.

[11.2.171.13 NMAC – N, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.14 OEG PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

A. Program sponsors shall ensure that all program components and practices conform to appropriate state and federal health and safety standards and requirements.

B. The majority of the program must take place outdoors, and the program shall be designed so that participants are actively engaging in outdoor recreational or educational activities the majority of the time.

C. Program applicants will specify whether their proposal primarily engages Native American, rural, urban or other under-resourced populations.

D. Programs that shall not be funded include, but are not limited to, those that take place primarily indoors, such as classrooms or gymnasiums; museums, aquariums, zoos, festivals or events; organized youth sports, such as baseball or soccer ; and service projects.

E. Program sites: Programs may occur in whole or partially on:

(1) public lands, waters or structures located within the state that are under jurisdiction of the program applicant or in accordance with a written agreement between the program sponsor and the agency that has jurisdiction over the public lands; waters or structures;

(2) privately-owned lands located within the state owned or leased by the program applicant or in accordance with a written agreement between the program applicant and the property owner;

(3) any lands, waters or structures located within the state that are owned or administered by a non-profit entity or federally recognized sovereign tribal government or in accordance with a written agreement between the program sponsor and the nonprofit entity or federally recognized sovereign tribal government.

F. Program applicants shall provide proof of adequate insurance coverage for any liability arising out of program activities for the duration of the program.

G. Service projects or publicly funded enhancements on private land that would increase the value of that land are prohibited.

[11.2.171.14 NMAC – N, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.15 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS:

A. The commission shall adopt a competitive evaluation process to guide the allocation of funds.

B. The commission shall review and evaluate all proposals to determine the proposal's conformance with the goals of the programs as described in the act and 11.2.171 NMAC, Sections 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14.

C. The commission shall take appropriate measures to ensure the evaluation process is not influenced by donors to the youth conservation corps or outdoor equity fund. This may include, but is not limited to, appointing an external review committee; and concealing the identity of applicants during the review process.

D. The commission will distribute funds equitably among qualified projects that variously engage Native American, rural, urban or other under-resourced populations.
[11.2.171.15 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.16 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.16 AWARD AGREEMENTS: Successful applicants shall enter into a formal agreement with the commission for the expenditure of awarded funds.
[11.2.171.16 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.17 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

11.2.171.17 FUNDS:

A. The commission may establish limitations on the availability and use of program funds. Any limitations shall be defined in the current application package

B. The commission may limit the amount of funding available for any element(s) of a program.

C. If money is not awarded in a given fiscal year due to the lack of applications meeting minimum requirements, the commission may reassign the funds to a non-funded or under-funded program that meets all the minimum requirements or may carry them over into the total program allocation for the next fiscal year.
[11.2.171.17 NMAC – Rp, 11.2.171.9 NMAC, 12/17/2019]

HISTORY of 11.2.171 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC History:

The material in this Part was derived from that previously filed with the state records center & archives under; NMYCC Rule No. 92-1, Rules and Regulations Governing the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps, filed November 20, 1992.

History of Repealed Material: 11.2.171 NMAC, The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program, filed 4/30/2001, was repealed and replaced by 11.2.171 NMAC, The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program and Outdoor Equity Grant (OEG) Program, effective 12/17/2019.

Other History: 11 NMAC 2.YCC, The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program, filed 5/14/1997, was reformatted, renumbered, and amended to 11.2.171 NMAC effective 4/30/2001.

Appendix D: 2020 Project List

Applicant	Project	Amt of Request	InKind	Funded	Wage percent	Crew Members	Start	End
Aldo Leopold Charter School	Spring	103,951.98	13,361.25	103,951.98	74	35	1/10/2020	6/30/2020
Aldo Leopold Charter School	Fall	68,933.37	12,161.25	68,933.37	73	35	8/7/2020	12/30/2020
Aztec JROTC		129,976.20	125,403.85	129,976.20	83	35	3/1/2020	7/31/2020
Capacity Builders, Inc.	Farm Road Shiprock	99,956.57	20,659.29	99,956.57	73	21	2/17/2020	4/10/2020
Capacity Builders, Inc.	Nizhoni Park	105,068.09	21,561.29	105,068.09	70	21	4/27/2020	6/19/2020
Capacity Builders, Inc.	Tse Daa Kaan	105,068.09	21,561.29	105,068.09	70	21	7/13/2020	9/18/2020
City of Aztec		59,509.68	25,560.25	59,509.68	89	18	5/26/2020	8/6/2020
City of Gallup		114,915.59	42,449.45	114,915.59	92	16	5/20/2020	9/27/2020
City of Las Cruces - Mountain of Opportunity		129,683.45	13,359.86	129,683.45	73	13	6/1/2020	11/30/2020
City of Tucumcari		42,178.83	33,577.08	42,178.83	70	7	6/2/2020	8/18/2020
East Rio Arriba Soil & Water Conservation District		61,072.86	12,463.80	61,072.86	88	6	4/1/2020	9/30/2020
EcoServants	Lincoln County	123,718.54	24,903.53	123,718.54	72	21	5/18/2020	8/29/2020
EcoServants	Otero County	123,718.54	24,903.53	123,718.54	72	21	5/18/2020	8/29/2020
Harwood Art Center		33,972.08	43,503.39	33,972.08	72	8	6/1/2020	8/13/2020
Mescalero Apache		16,604.36	15,007.24	16,604.36	73	6	9/1/2020	10/2/2020
NM Wildlife Association dba Wild		122,853.60	86,716.24	122,853.60	74	18	3/4/2020	9/4/2020
Rio Arriba County (RAC) Stop	Precious Age, Precious Water	129,337.76	25,687.86	129,337.76	73	10	4/1/2020	9/30/2020
Rio Arriba County (RAC) Stop	Healing Memorial Phase III	129,471.76	25,647.86	129,471.76	73	10	4/1/2020	9/30/2020
		258,809.52		258,809.52				
Robert F. Kennedy Charter School		104,769.17	13,473.14	104,769.17	93	16	2/1/2020	7/31/2020
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	Middle Rio Grande	128,433.78	98,586.17	128,433.78	70	21	3/1/2020	8/31/2020
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps	Upper Rio Grande	128,433.78	100,318.51	128,433.78	70	21	5/1/2020	8/31/2020
Santa Clara Pueblo		124,758.42	37,895.24	124,758.42	83	24	6/8/2020	8/7/2020
Santa Fe Botanical Garden		48,777.00	28,490.10	48,777.00	98	8	5/20/2020	11/20/2020

Appendix D: 2020 Project List

Applicant	Project	Amt of Request	InKind	Funded	Wage percent	Crew Members	Start	End
Santa Fe Children's Museum, Inc.		47,253.05	11,813.79	47,253.05	72	5	6/1/2020	8/31/2020
Santa Fe County Fire Department		125,124.29	109,777.27	125,124.29	90	8	4/4/2020	9/18/2020
Taos Land Trust	Creating Taos Rio Fernando Park	54,892.70	12,432.78	54,892.70	72	7	5/25/2020	8/7/2020
The Family YMCA		118,167.50	28,680.02	118,167.50	78	23	5/26/2020	7/31/2020
The Forest Stewards Guild	FSYC Fall	130,000.00	113,390.83	130,000.00	73	15	8/1/2020	11/20/2020
The Forest Stewards Guild	FSYC Summer	129,998.41	107,892.03	129,998.41	73	24	5/1/2020	8/8/2020
The Village of Santa Clara		116,160.97	12,788.69	116,160.97	75	18	4/1/2020	8/28/2020
Town of Estancia		75,291.24	19,608.97	75,291.24	70	11	6/1/2020	8/31/2020
YouthWorks, Inc.		129,993.41	160,445.36	129,993.41	72	12	4/15/2020	10/15/2020
TOTALS:		3,520,827.06	1,527,432.13	3,420,854.59		535		