

NM YCC 2027 RFP – Responses to Written Questions

August 7, 2026, pre-proposal conference questions and answers

Q. If you have a subcontractor administering the program and they are an NGO, do they also need to be registered with the New Mexico Department of Justice as well? Do subcontractors have the same eligibility requirement and do they need to supply documentation in the application?

A. Subrecipients who manage any portion of the grant should meet the eligibility requirements of a primary sponsor.

Per # 11 of the PSA and GSA contract templates, as outlined in the RFP:

11. Subcontracting.

Sponsor shall not subcontract any portion of the services to be performed under this Agreement without the prior written approval of the YCC. No such subcontract shall relieve the primary Sponsor from its obligations and liabilities under this Agreement, nor shall any subcontract obligate direct payment from YCC.

Additionally, if awarded, YCC may request further subcontractor documentation to verify eligibility during the contracting process.

Q. What qualifies for acceptable activities for the YCC program in regard to paying the corps members? Can we have corps members complete an online educational course prior to attending the actual field program, and get paid for their time?

A. Corps members may be paid for training time as long as it occurs within the contract period, after the letter to proceed has been issued, and within the 26-week project timeline.

August 19, 2026, pre-proposal conference questions and answers

Q. Is building trail structures on public lands allowable?

A. Yes, as long as the appropriate permits are submitted with the work plans in the application process.

Q. What would be the benefit of one organization submitting two different proposals?

A. Every proposal is evaluated on an individual stand-alone basis. Organizations can submit up to two unique proposals.

Q. Is invasive weed removal allowable?

A. Yes

Q. Is there a link online to apply for being designated as a NM Charitable Organization or how do we do that?

A. The RFP does not include a link to apply as a NM Charitable Organization.

Q. I see in the application that there are up to 10 projects that can be submitted per application, can the primary applicant submit multiple projects on the same proposal response?

A. Applicants may include multiple work plans in an individual application.

Q. Is the watershed restoration exemption only for private lands?

A. No. Watershed restoration may be conducted on either public or private lands, provided that all required permits are included with the work plan covering that activity.

Q. Is there a way to give more time between the deadline and answers to written questions section in the future?

A. RFP timelines may differ from year to year.

Q. Will YCC staff provide feedback on proposals that are submitted early and is there a window for applicants to correct mistakes on applications.

A. No. Applications will not be reviewed before the due date, and they cannot be accepted after the due date.

Emailed questions and answers

7/9/26

Q. Is an organization that operates multiple programs only eligible to submit two proposals for the entire organization, or can each program submit two proposals?

A. Eligible applicants are permitted to submit no more than two applications as the primary offeror.

Q. What documentation qualifies as an exemption from the NM Department of Justice for registering as a recognized charity?

A. A letter, memorandum, or email that can be clearly identified as official communication from the New Mexico Department of Justice.

7/24/26 & 8/11/26

Q. The RFP mentions that “renovation of community facilities” are allowable activities for corps members, could charter schools apply for funding for renovation projects? What are allowable activities for corps Members?

A. Yes, charter schools may apply.

Per section **V.** of the RFP:

Projects must be consistent with the purposes of the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission program and may include, but need not be limited to, projects that protect, conserve, rehabilitate or increase resiliency of terrestrial and aquatic species, forests, refuges, rangelands and waters of the state; improve use and access to public parks, greenways, historic sites, libraries, museums, zoos; improve or enhance recreational areas and associated facilities; reinforce the “Keep New Mexico True” campaign; provide emergency assistance, disaster relief or recovery; improve disaster preparedness; increase energy efficiency; beautify, improve and restore urban areas; renovate community facilities; and provide or improve services for the elderly or indigent.

8/19/26

Q. How long is the funding cycle and project duration?

A. Contract length.

Per section **6. Term** of the GSA contract template:

This Agreement becomes effective when executed by an authorized representative of Sponsor and of YCC and when the Department of Finance and Administration encumbers funds for this Agreement. This agreement shall terminate one year from the date of execution unless earlier terminated pursuant to Paragraph 7, Termination, or Paragraph 8, Appropriations, below.

Per number **6. Term** of the PSA contract template:

THIS AGREEMENT SHALL NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE UNTIL APPROVED BY THE GSD/SPD Contracts Review Bureau. This Agreement shall terminate one year from date of Contracts Review Bureau approval unless terminated pursuant to Paragraph 7, Termination, or Paragraph 8, Appropriations. In accordance with NMSA 1978, Section 13-1-150, no contract term for a professional services contract, including

extensions and renewals, shall exceed four years, except as set forth in NMSA 1978, Section 13-1-150.

A. Project Duration

Per section V. Scope of Work number 4) Project Length

Projects must be completed in 26 weeks or less. The project starts when the first corps Member is hired and ends 26 weeks later. All corps members shall be released from employment at the end of 26 weeks.

Q. When are the funds awarded?

A. IX. Sequence of Events number

9. Notification of Funding	YCC	Between December 7 – 18 2026
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Additionally, project funds cannot be used until the contract is fully executed and the letter to proceed has been issued. Contract execution timelines vary depending on the proposed start dates

Q. Do all 10 work plans need to be submitted?

A. No. Applicants may submit as many work plans as they consider necessary to support their application.

8/29/26

Q. Can corps members be hired on a staggered basis within one application?

A. Yes. As long as the project period of 26 weeks is adhered to.

Per section V. Scope of Work number 4) Project Length

Projects must be completed in 26 weeks or less. The project starts when the first corps member is hired and ends 26 weeks later. All corps members shall be released from employment at the end of 26 weeks.

Q. Can corps members have different start and end dates?

A. Yes

Q. If an organization submits two applications, can the same corps members work in both projects if they don't overlap?

A. Yes, as long as they meet the hiring requirements.

Per Number 3. In the RPP, Section A, Corps Member Management, Number 1) Hiring,

a) Corps Members shall meet and the Sponsor shall keep records of the following eligibility requirements at the time of hire:

i. unemployed for any length of time at the time of hire;

ii. New Mexico resident consistent with 18.19.5 NMAC;

iii. aged 14 to 25 years at the time of hire;

iv. have a work permit if under the age of 16; and

v. are not the children, siblings or spouse of the Sponsor's hiring officer or project supervisor.

Q. Can a portion of the match be counted if the work happens outside of the 26-week project period?

A. All supporting documentation required to verify match must be submitted prior to project closeout.

9/2/26

Q. Under Sections I.A and IV, may an eligible governmental or nonprofit Sponsor subcontract portions of project management, youth training, or community engagement to an emerging nonprofit that does not yet have its own IRS determination letter?

A. Subrecipients who administer any portion of the grant should meet the eligibility requirements of a primary sponsor.

Per #11 of the PSA and GSA contract templates, as outlined in the RFP:

11. Subcontracting.

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liabilities under this Agreement, nor shall any subcontract obligate direct payment from YCC.

Additionally, if awarded, YCC may request further subcontractor documentation to verify eligibility during the contracting process.

Q. Under Sections V.C.1(b) and V.D.4, may corps members perform nonstructural yard cleanup and beautification for prequalified elderly or indigent residents on private property when all required agreements, public-benefit documentation, and third-party governmental support are provided?

A. Yes, provided that proper permission from the property owner has been obtained and submitted with the proposed work plan(s).

Q. Under Section V.D.3, may corps members receive project-specific logistics and scheduling training if they are not assigned routine clerical or office duties?

A. Per Section V. 3

3) Training and Education Program.

Sponsors must design and plan to provide training and educational curriculum for corps members during the Project. YCC encourages a wide variety of trainings that increase awareness of the state's resources and career opportunities. Training hours shall comprise **10%** of the total hours budgeted for each corps member for the entire Project. Sponsors must include training in **at least two** of these categories:

Job skills. Skills and competencies directly related to the YCC Project.

Examples: project and job orientations; first aid/CPR; defensive driving; tool safety and handling; and on-the-job training.

Career skills. Trainings that help prepare corps members for employment after the YCC.

Examples: preparing a resumé; interview skills; how to conduct a job search; public speaking; how to identify and report sexual harassment; fire-fighting certification; other certifications; leadership; team-building; and career presentations by professionals.

Life skills. Trainings that help corps members navigate life challenges.

Examples: mental health first aid/awareness; conflict resolution; financial literacy; substance abuse topics; decision making; and reproductive health.

Agriculture/gardening. Trainings that focus on agricultural and gardening techniques and processes.

Examples: regenerative agriculture; livestock breeding and care; irrigation; water harvesting; composting; beekeeping; pollinator habitat; food handling certification; and crop harvesting and handling.

Conservation. Trainings that focus on natural resource processes and issues.

Examples: focused educational field trips to parks, forests and nature centers; restoration training; Leave No Trace ethics; flora and fauna seminars or workshops; conservation biology; wildlife management; forestry practices; climate dynamics; and ecology.

Cultural knowledge. Trainings that focus on community heritage, cultural traditions and knowledge.

Examples: traditional ways; conservation and preservation of cultural resources; educational field trips to cultural sites and history museums; oral history; adobe making; site stewardship.

Public Art: Trainings that focus on conceptualizing, designing, fabricating, and installing public art.

Examples: firing ceramics; welding; carpentry; ceramic tiling; field trips to public art installations; drafting; drawing; painting; consensus building.

Outdoor Literacy. Trainings that familiarize youth with outdoor environments and recreation in New Mexico.

Examples: docent or interpretive training; outdoors safety and preparation; orienteering; how to camp; bicycling techniques, safety and bike repair; water and boating safety; how to rig a raft or boat; how to read a river; fish anatomy and identification.

Further education. Training sessions that integrate the State of New Mexico. Public Education Department content standards for corps members or result in high-school or college credits; or a General Equivalency Diploma (GED).

Excluded: Escape rooms, amusement parks, golf courses, attendance at sports games or similar should not be included in the training curriculum, and will not be reimbursed.

To help develop the training curriculum, YCC has posted two lists on <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/about-ycc/yccrfp/>:

“YCC Training Sessions” lists all trainings Sponsors have provided over the past few years.

“Field Trip Sites” is a list of natural, cultural, agricultural, and recreational sites across the state.

Q. Is the Sponsor expected to cover all payroll and project expenses before seeking reimbursement, or is any form of payroll advance available?

A. Yes. The sponsor must incur and pay all project-related expenses prior to requesting reimbursement. Advance funding is not available under this program.

9/3/26

Q. Are there any restrictions on the type of structures that YCC crews can work on?

A. No. The proposed structure(s) must align with the project scope and be suitable for construction by corps members.

Q. Based on the Hiring section, can YCC employees be added or changed within the 26 weeks?

A. Yes. YCC corps members can be added or removed within the 26-week project period.

Q. In the YCC Cost Response worksheet, corps members wages tab, the spreadsheet asks to insert percentage rates in the gray box, but our organization's workers comp is a flat dollar amount per employee per quarter. How do we enter this into the spreadsheet?

A. Although workers' compensation is billed as a fixed quarterly amount, please estimate the cost in the worksheet using a percentage that most closely reflects your actual rate. These values are estimates only; actual workers' compensation and wage totals will be required at the time of reimbursement