

NM Youth Conservation Corps Request for Proposals (RFP) 2026, Q & A

July 31, 2025, Pre-proposal conference questions and answers

Q. Is fire mitigation/habitat preservation an allowable activity for corps members?

A. Yes

Q. Sponsors are required to submit two photographs with each request for reimbursement. Photos of what?

A. Photos of the corps members working on their projects or attending training.

Q. Is administrative overhead allowed?

A. Yes, sponsors can add administrative overhead costs in the "Other Costs" budget category in the YCC Cost Response Spreadsheet.

August 21, 2025, Pre-proposal conference questions and answers

Q. Is there a form that interested applicants submit to identify their intention to apply?

A. No

Q. Do YCC projects have to take place in just the summer months?

A. No, they can take place any time during the year as long as it's within the contract period. Projects must also 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 YCC funds be used to pay trainers?

A. Yes

Q. Can YCC funds be used for materials?

A. Yes

Q. Is there a reason the project period is limited to 26 weeks?

A. Yes, Article 5b, YCC Statute says: "project" means an activity that can be completed in six months or less.

Emailed questions and answers

Q. Can YCC corps members work on low-income residential homes or privately owned farms?

A. From the RFP Pg.5:

C. Project Requirements

b) Private land

Projects on private land must *primarily* benefit the public and provide only an *incidental* benefit to the private landowners.

Project sites may be owned or administered by the Sponsor; or are accessible to the Sponsor in accordance with a written agreement between the Sponsor and the nonprofit organization.

Sponsors must clearly demonstrate that projects on private land primarily benefit the public. Therefore, Sponsors who propose projects on private land shall also provide the following:

- i. Formal agreements with the private entity, such as a memorandum of understanding, that describe, demonstrate or otherwise support the public benefits of the Sponsor's project; AND a letter of support from a third party public entity, such as a Soil, Water and Conservation District (SWCD), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or another public entity with specialized knowledge on how the project provides a broad public benefit.
- ii. If the project is intended to provide services for indigent or sick New Mexicans, provide a description of the process used to identify these individuals.

Q. Can YCC fund projects located outside of the United States and performed by NM youth?

A. No, projects must take place in NM.

Q. How are the sponsor or sub-contractors reimbursed? Some sponsors may not have the funds to pay crew members up front.

A. From the RFP Pg. 20 & Pg. 34 – PSA and GSA Contract:

5. Compensation

Sponsor shall submit a request for reimbursement (Request) approximately every four weeks, consistent with Sponsor's pay periods. Requests shall include documentation, including proof of payment, for all expenses incurred and match contributions. Wage amounts charged shall be supported by copies of pay advices, paystubs or cancelled paychecks and, if requested, timesheets. All Corps Members shall be entered into YCC's project tracking database (<https://wwwapps.emnrd.nm.gov/YCC/YCCPTS/PT/Default.aspx>) before their wages may be reimbursed. Sponsor shall enter a Project status report into YCC's project tracking database and provide a minimum of two digital photos.

YCCC staff shall promptly review requests, and upon approval, shall request payment of the Sponsor's invoice through the State's financial software. Payment from the State is usually tendered to the Sponsor within 30 days after the date YCCC first enters it in the system.

Sponsors must be a registered state of NM Vendor.

Q. Can a sponsor request funds for rental equipment?

A. Yes, YCC will reimburse expenses related to the project, including:

Materials, supplies, and equipment rental related to the project. See "YCC Cost Response 2026" for full list.

Q. What is the current mileage reimbursement rate?

A. The mileage reimbursement rate in the state of NM for 2025 is \$.67. YCC will reimburse for mileage at the current rate at the time of request.

Q. In the cost response form, Offeror Contribution tab, it states "Volunteer time is valued at \$33.49 as of April 2024". Is there an updated rate?

A. The current value of volunteer time is estimated at \$34.79.

Q. Why does the YCC allow offerors the opportunity to negotiate contract terms?

A. YCC allows offerors the opportunity to propose alternative contract terms and conditions.

Q. How much more can a crew leader earn per hour than a crew member?

A. From the RFP Pg. 17 & Pg. 31 – PSA and GSA Contract:

2. Corps Member Management

C) All Corps Members shall be compensated, at a minimum, as provided by law following the state or municipality-established minimum wage. Sponsors may provide wage increases based on promotion, performance or additional responsibilities; and if there are sufficient funds in the budget to complete the project as planned.

Q. Can an offeror budget for incentive or other bonuses in the Cost Response?

A. From the RFP Pg. 6

C. Project Requirements

c) Corps member wages

All Corps Members shall be compensated, at a minimum, as provided by law following the state or municipality-established minimum wage. Sponsors may provide wage increases based on promotion, performance or additional responsibilities; and if there are sufficient funds in the budget to complete the project as planned.