



New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

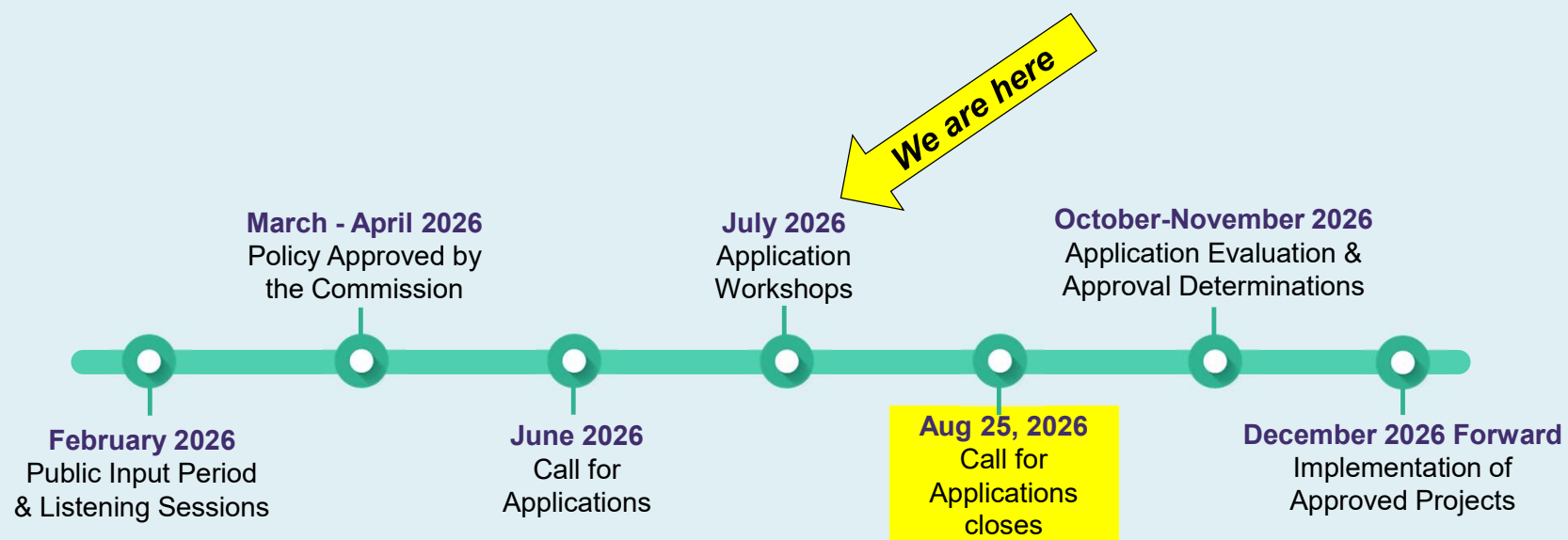


NM Unit Fund Pilot Cycle II Application Workshop

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July 22, 2026

Policy Cycle II Calendar



Application Support Workshop Purpose

Provide support to potential applicants to understand the application process and portal, and clarify eligibility, policy requirements, and next steps.

What to expect:

-  Clarify
-  Build Understanding
-  Inform

What not to expect:

-  Write your application for you
-  Make key decisions about your project
-  Direct you

Resources available

- ▶ In-person Workshop
- ▶ Online Workshop
- ▶ Example Application
- ▶ FAQ Document
- ▶ Policy Document
- ▶ Summary presentation
- ▶ Resolution Template

AGENDA

1. Summary of the Pilot Cycle II Policy
2. Summary of the application process and evaluation criteria
3. Walk through of an application
4. Resources available
5. Q and A

The Pilot Cycle II Policy Utilizes a Complementary Fund Management Approach

A complementary fund management approach seeks to fill funding gaps and maximize leveraging of other funding sources. In practice this limits the Unit Fund from being the sole source of \$ for high-cost projects

WHY A COMPLEMENTARY APPROACH?

- » Reinforces a longer-term and broadly distributed fund management strategy
- » Embraces a flexible implementation approach to help address common financing challenges
- » Directs expensive projects to leverage other resources
- » Aligns with best practices of effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability

HOW IS IT ARTICULATED IN THE POLICY?

- » Establishes a cycle spending cap of \$26 million
- » Extends implementation up to 4 years
- » Allows only 1 award per entity per cycle
- » Establish aligned goals for projects:
 1. Ensure activities are strategic within the local context;
 2. Focus resources on creating an impact ;
 3. Support an approach that sustains benefits;
 4. Ensure there is a readiness to proceed;
 5. Leverage other resources; and
 6. Represent good value for money.

Expanded Eligibility

CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY:



Planning and Design Projects



“Water Utilization” projects covering:

- » Conservation and efficient uses of water
- » Construction, repair, or protection of water infrastructure
- » Watershed health, such as the restoration of riparian ecosystems, water quality improvement, or mitigation of damage to water resources from wildfire



Must deliver a **public benefit**

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY:



Construction Projects are eligible



Projects are **no longer required to be a standalone project or phase** and **may be co-funded** with other sources (e.g. may represent a primary or matching source of funds)



Public Institutions of higher education are eligible Applicants when partnered with a federally recognized Indian tribe, nation, or pueblo or a political subdivision of the state located in the Southwest Region



Encourages fairness and more applications

Especially from disadvantaged groups and project types

Small Entities Category with \$3 million in funding

Small Entities may face disadvantages due to limited staff capacity and financial resources to hire contracted support.

Examples include, but aren't limited to:

- » Acequias
- » Soil and water conservation districts
- » Mutual domestics

Defined as those with annual revenue of \$50,000 or less (excluding capital outlay or grants).

Small entity application funding limits are:

- » \$100,000 for planning and design projects
- » \$500,000 for construction projects

Planning and Design Project Category with \$2 million in funding

Planning and Design projects are at a disadvantage because they are less tangible and immediate. However, they are essential for infrastructure preparation and building a pipeline of shovel ready projects.

Examples include:

- » Professional Engineering Reports (PER)
- » Asset Management Plans
- » Other Technical Plans or System Documents

Clear and Simplified application process

To improve the transparency and address stakeholder feedback



Improved the application

Simplified questions with limited requests for follow-ups, lengthened the application window to 60 days, and allow for saving progress



NIMSC to provide application support during the application period

- » Application Workshop
- » 1-on-1 support
- » Ask and Expert email address



NMISC staff involved in the technical review

of applications, WTB recommendations, and provide recommendations to the Commission



Ensure the public can provide input

- » Post applications publicly prior to Commission approval
- » Provide a pathway for public input



Updated the evaluation criteria

that link directly to project goals, improve the clarity of the descriptions with explanations and examples, and provide a clear scoring rubric

Simplified Application requirements

1 Answer all application questions

and

2 Attach the project specific documentation

All projects

**Resolution
authorizing
submission
of the
application**

**Construction
Projects**

**Final Plans
and
specifications**

**Other depending
on the project**

Examples:

- Project schedule
- Documentation of matching funds
- Map

Updated Evaluation Criteria

To improve the clarity, transparency, and address stakeholder feedback the new evaluation criteria link directly to project goals, better defines each criteria, and provides a clear scoring rubric.

No	Funding Goal	Evaluation Criteria	Contribution to Overall Score
1	Ensure activities are strategic within the local context	Application describes the context, a well-defined water use need, and its strategic solution or defines a step(s) toward a strategic solution aligned with the most recent Regional Water Plan	25%
2	Focus resources on creating impact	Application describes clear and measurable public benefits in water use and health, economy, or environment, and considers environmental impacts.	25%
3	Support an approach that sustains benefits	Application describes the systems that are in place to move forward, operate, and/or maintain the project outputs (technical, financial, human resources)	15%
4	Leverage other resources	The ratio of the sum of all other funds for the project to Unit Fund	15%
5	Ensure there is a readiness to proceed	Applicants have necessary prerequisites for implementation in place or define the plan for how they will be secured (compliance, permits, land and water rights, additional financing)	10%
6	Represent good value for money	The project costs are reasonable and are a good value per beneficiary	10%

Questions?

Resources available

- ▶ In-person Workshop
- ▶ Online Workshop
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- ▶ Resolution template