



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: USDA, Forest Service IRA Forest Landowner Support (USDA-FS-2023-IRA-FLS-01)

Date: 8/30/2023

Dear UNM Researchers,

The **USDA Forest Service IRA Forest Landowner Support** funding opportunity solicits proposals for two IRA provisions: Subtitle D, Sec. 23002 (a)(2) and Subtitle D, Sec. 23002 (a)(3). These provisions provide the USDA Forest Service with funding to: 1) Support the participation of underserved forest landowners in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience; and 2) Support the participation of forest landowners who own less than 2,500 acres of forest land in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience. In addition to market development, action is needed to address challenges faced by underserved landowners, Tribes, and small-acreage landowners. These populations encounter financial, social and/or cultural barriers including discrimination and have limited access to capital and capacity for climate resilient forestry practices. Increasing opportunity and access to technical assistance, conservation incentives, and market opportunities for all landowners is key to achieving landscape-scale impact and supporting thriving rural economies. Targeted engagement of underserved communities and representative organizations is needed to tackle these challenges.

UNM is eligible to apply to two out of the three funding tracks:

- Track A: Proposal budgets greater than or equal to \$2 million and less than \$25 million are due by **October 21, 2023**, 60 days following publication.
- Track B: Proposal budgets less than \$2 million will be considered for funding on a quarterly basis beginning on **October 22, 2023**. (i.e. Track B applications cannot be submitted until *after* October 21, 2023).

Basic research defined as, “systematic study directed toward fuller knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and of observable facts without specific applications towards processes or products in mind” is **NOT** eligible for funding. ****Technical transfer, education, and outreach activities associated with applying research can be included in the application.**** See more information about approved activities on page 13 of the NOFO.

Recipients will be expected to implement and demonstrate measurable progress within twelve months of award. All activities and expenses must be completed within three years. Funding agreements may be

extended by a year with adequate justification; agreements may not exceed a total project period of five years and all funding must be fully expended by September 30, 2031. More details can be found in the program solicitation: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=349857>.

This is a limited competition. **Each institution is limited to THREE (3) applications as lead. In addition, those three applications can only request up to \$25 million combined.** If you are interested in applying to this program, please submit a statement of interest with a tentative project title and a brief description (200 words) by **NOON on September 13, 2023** via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#).

****Because of the short turnaround time, this limited competition will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis. This means that the first three SOIs we receive will be given the three UNM slots.**** To see if applicants for a first-come, first-served opportunity have already been selected, visit the [Limited Competition website](#) and use the "Filter by Award Title" function to search for the opportunity if it isn't visible on the first page.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu for more information.