



**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Grants Committee
9:30 a.m.
October 22, 2024
Executive Board Room,
University of New Mexico Science & Technology Park**

Committee Members Present	Committee Members Absent	Others Attending	NMSC Staff
Martin Suazo, Chair	Anita Mesa (BHSD)		Douglas Carver
Cindy Aragon, Vice Chair			Jamie Goldberg
Jennifer Barela (LOPD)			Jeremy Seymour
Melanie Martinez (NMCD)			Nancy Shane
Sheila McDonald (DPS)			Keri Thiel
Robert Mitchell (AOC)			
Rick Tedrow (AODA)			

I. Welcome and Introductions.

Martin Suazo, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:49 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes for the May 13, 2024 Meeting.

Upon a motion by Jennifer Barela, Law Offices of the Public Defender (LOPD), seconded by Melanie Martinez, Corrections Department (NMCD), the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

III. Reported Conflicts of Interest.

Chair Suazo informed the committee that if anyone had a conflict of interest with any of the applicants or applications, they should declare it before deliberations begin. There were no conflicts of interest reported.

IV. Sentencing Commission Staff Presentation and Overview of Applications.

Douglas Carver, Acting Director, New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC) informed the members of the committee that the two juvenile applications that the committee had received were not included in the applications on the summary as the committee had stated that it was not accepting applications for juvenile programs in this round. He also noted that applications 1 and 16 would not be considered as 1 concerned payment for expert witness fees, which was not an category for grants in the Crime Reduction Grant Act, and 16 was for a car, a capital expense, which was also not appropriate under the Act. He also noted that the

spreadsheet that the committee would work through had summaries at the top of each judicial district's entry noting the counties in that district, and the number of grants and the total amount of the grants awarded to entities in that district in FY 2025.

Nancy Shane, Director of Research, New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC), and Keri Thiel, Staff Attorney, NMSC gave the Committee an overview of each of the 17 eligible grant applications that had been received, working through a handout provided to the Committee. The total request for these applications was \$1,596,203.

V. Open Discussion.

Acting Director Carver noted that there was \$1.2 million available to disburse in grants for this round, and that the grants were for six months, unless extension language on the current monies was given during the Legislative Session. Staff Attorney Thiel informed the members of the committee that there was a total of approximately \$1.3 million in requests.

Robert Mitchell, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), gave the members of the committee some background concerning the issue the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) had raised over whether state monies could be used for incentives for people in rehabilitative programs such as specialty courts. The state Ethics Commission had ruled that use of state monies for such incentives was permissible, and DFA was following that ruling. He noted that decades of research had shown that for clients with high risk/high needs, incentives work better to keep them on their programs than sanctions. A 2023 United States Department of Health report advocated for funding such incentives, which might lead to more of these kinds of requests in grant applications. He added that these kinds of incentives are particularly useful for those with issues around stimulant abuse, such as methamphetamine; there are medical protocols such as Suboxone that work well as treatment for opioid abuse, but there is nothing similar for stimulant abuse.

Chair Suazo informed the members of the committee that the committee might reconsider its decision not to accept applications from juvenile programs in the coming year at the mid-year meeting the committee holds. He also noted that we will have more data shortly on the effectiveness of the grants the committee has awarded in past years. That meeting will likely be held in May or June.

Rick Tedrow, Administrative Office of the District Attorneys, asked about DFA's acceptance of the Ethic Commission's ruling. Mr. Mitchell confirmed that they were now on board. Mr. Tedrow also asked what the source was of the monies for the grants, and whether there were any Federal or private monies involved. Acting Director Carver noted that the monies came from the state, \$328,000 in the NMSC's base budget, and the rest through special appropriations. He also asked for some further clarification on why grant applications 1 and 16 were being excluded, which was provided by Acting Director Carver and Chair Suazo.

VI. Adjourn into Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session made by Robert Mitchell, AOC, seconded by Melanie Martinez, NMCD, passed unanimously.

The Committee adjourned into Executive Session to discuss the applications and make their awards.

VII. Reconvene and Further Discussion.

Acting Director Carver informed the members of the committee that the NMSC staff wanted to know how to handle monies that might be unspent from grants in this fiscal year, and whether the committee wanted

to allow staff to allocate those monies to existing grants that were performing well and could use more resources. This issue was especially keen as the committee will not know whether the extension language on the FY 2025 monies would be granted in the upcoming Legislative Session, and it would be best not to revert funds given for grants by the Legislature. He said that the staff could keep the committee updated on the status of funds, reporting back to them in December or January, and towards the end of the Legislative Session. Members of the committee discussed the issue and came to a consensus around wanting to be kept informed.

A motion that staff provide an update to the committee on fund monies by mid-March made by Vice Chair Aragon, seconded by Robert Mitchell, AOC, was approved unanimously.

VIII. Final Awards With Any Contingencies or Requirements

Upon a motion by Robert Mitchell, AOC, seconded by Melanie Martinez, NMCD, the committee made the following awards, by unanimous vote:

JD	Agency	Grant Name	Amount Awarded (original)	Notes
2nd	Second Judicial District Attorney's Office	Gun Violence Reduction and Prevention Program	\$473,000	
2nd	Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court	Specialty Court and Behavioral Health Division Participant Incentives	\$30,000	
2nd	Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court	Probation Division Specialized Training	\$20,000	
2nd	Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court	Specialized Training for Specialty Courts	\$38,460	
2nd	Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office	Data-driven Policing Project	\$55,250	
3rd	Third Judicial District Court	Court Treatment Programs	\$51,500	Additional 6-month funding to an existing grant.
3rd	(De)serving Life	Reentry Services	\$22,000	This is a non-profit member of a CJCC.
4th	Fourth Judicial District Court	Treatment Courts	\$82,500	

5th	Community Drug Coalition of Lea County	Pathways to Recovery	\$54,300	This is a non-profit member of a CJCC.
5th	Fifth Judicial District Attorney's Office	Digital Evidence Portal	\$135,000	
6th	Luna County	Court Security Active Shooter Training	\$75,000	
6th	Sixth Judicial District Court	Treatment Court Incentives	\$11,000	
8th	DreamTree	Pre-adjudication Support Pilot	\$171,000	This is a non-profit member of a CJCC.
13th	Valencia County	VMAT Program Improvement	\$30,000	

The total amount awarded was \$1,249, 010.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Grants Committee will be in May or June 2025, to discuss grant priorities and other administrative issues. The meeting date will be set after the end of the Legislative Session.

X. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.