



How ELIGIBLE ENTITIES apply for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants

PRESENTED BY DEAN BRUCE AND KATIE CRAYTON,
CO-LEADS, THE HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM AT THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Welcome and Housekeeping

We invite you to introduce yourself in the Chat, noting:

- **the name of your Eligible Entity** (*Pueblo of Acoma, Acequia del Caño, Town of Tome Land Grant, Ciudad SWCD, San Juan County Extension, etc.*)
- whether your jurisdiction contains more **cropland, rangeland, or another land type**

During the presentation

Please stay on **Mute**, keep your **Video** off, and type questions in the **Chat**

After the presentation

You can use the **Raise Hand** feature, then unmute to ask your question

These slides and a captioned recording will be posted soon on our Eligible Entity web page

Today's Agenda

- ❑ **An overview** of the grant-application cycle
- ❑ **A quick refresher** on...
 - ❑ **Who and what projects** are eligible
 - ❑ **When and where** projects can happen
- ❑ **How to apply** following our step-by-step process online
- ❑ **Questions & Answers**

WHO is eligible to apply for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants?

Who can apply for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants?



1. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- New Mexico's "local **governmental** [entities] with proven land management capacity to support healthy soil", including:
 - Pueblos, tribes, and nations
 - Acequias
 - Land grants
 - Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs)
 - NMSU Cooperative Extension Service
 - Other **parties meeting the Eligible Entity definition above**

Apply for up to \$100,000.00 *



2. INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS

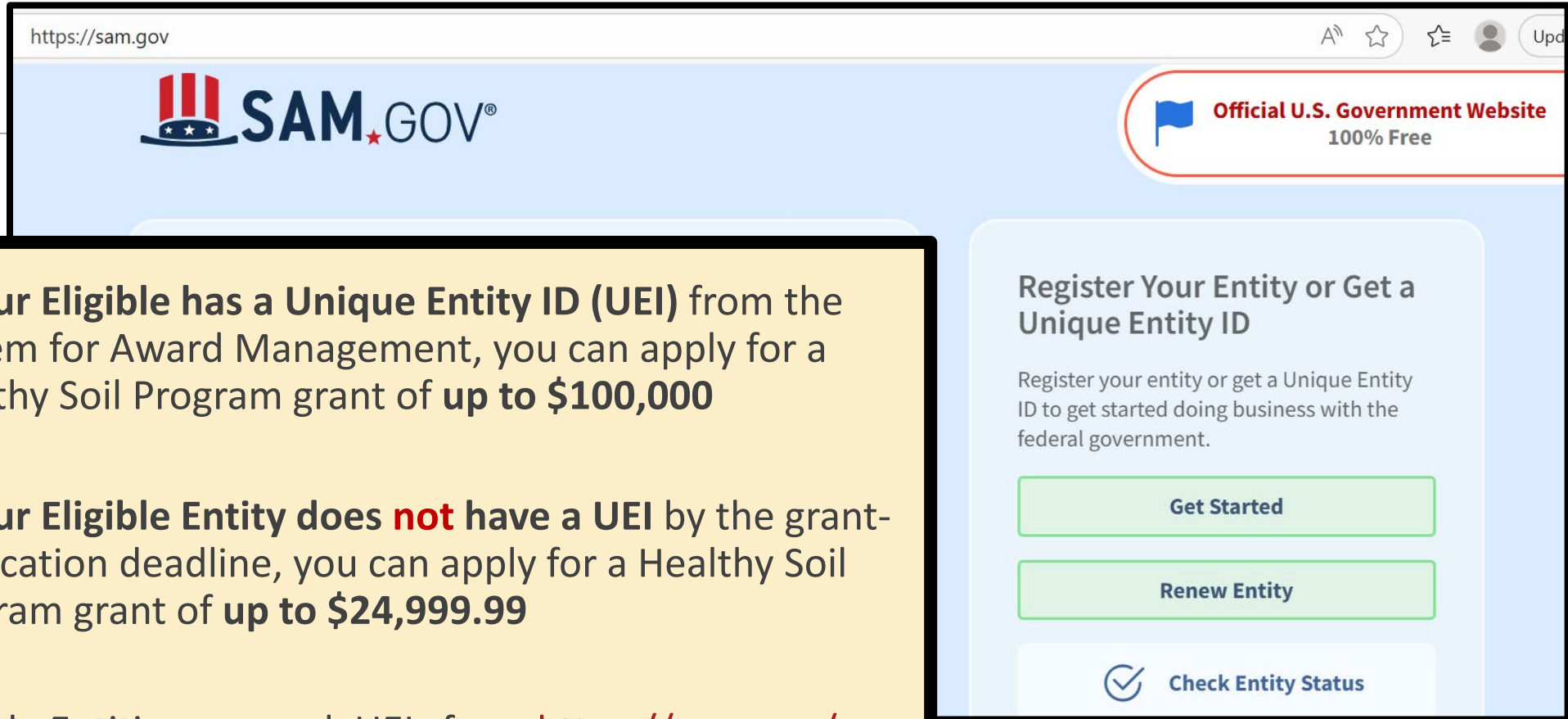
- New Mexico's **non-governmental** parties that are directly engaged in farming, ranching, or another form of land management:
 - Individuals, businesses, and nonprofits
- To apply for a grant, **Individual Applicants must:**
 - Complete conservation planning with NRCS**
 - Secure project sponsorship** from their SWCD or tribal government

Their webinar is today at 1:30 p.m.

Apply for up to \$24,999.99

Visit NMDA's Healthy Soil Program website to **subscribe for weekly updates**, including funding announcements

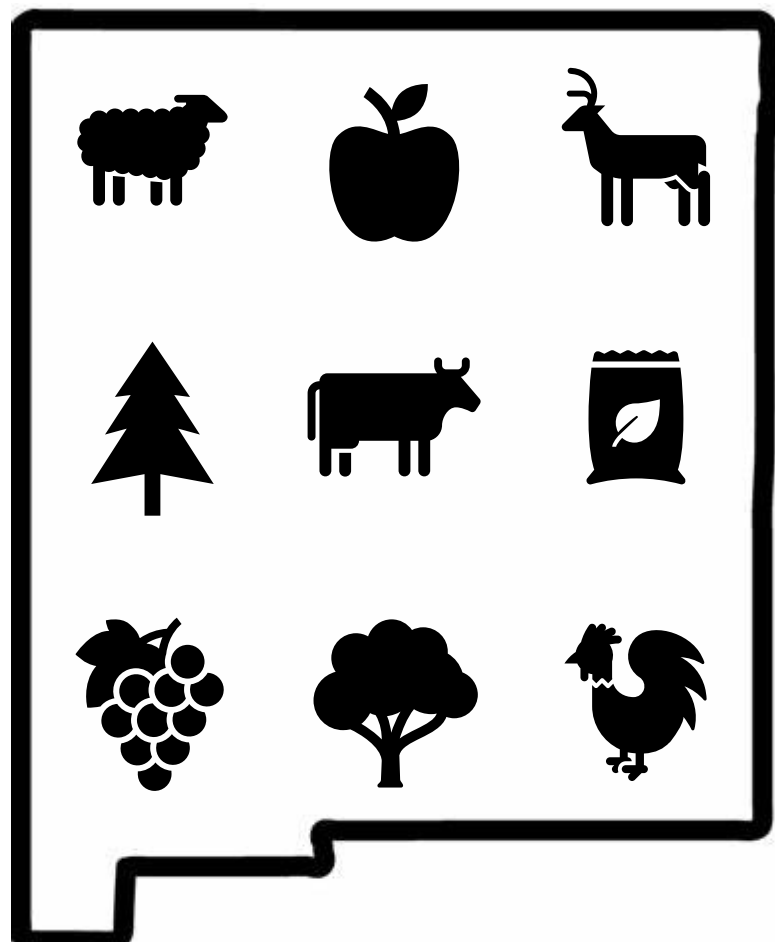
Does your Eligible Entity have a UEI?



- If your Eligible has a Unique Entity ID (UEI) from the System for Award Management, you can apply for a Healthy Soil Program grant of **up to \$100,000**
- If your Eligible Entity does **not** have a UEI by the grant-application deadline, you can apply for a Healthy Soil Program grant of **up to \$24,999.99**
- Eligible Entities can seek UEIs from <https://sam.gov/>. The process is free but **can be time-consuming**

WHERE can Healthy Soil Program-funded projects happen?

Healthy Soil Program projects can happen...



- **Anywhere in New Mexico**
- **On any type of operation:** cropland, rangeland, irrigated pasture, forest land, orchards, vineyards, gardens...
- **Where there's an *existing* relationship to the land:** either the Eligible Entity owns it, leases it, manages it on another's behalf, or partners with local landowners to perform work on it
 - Bottom line: **The Eligible Entity must have landowner permission** to implement a soil health project on land it doesn't own
- **On any amount of land:** Projects can be measured in acres or square feet

WHEN can Healthy Soil Program-funded projects happen?

WHEN NMDA’s Healthy Soil Program grants happen

Projects can last up to ~15 months,
starting mid-July 2026 and ending September 2027


	July 15, 2026	August	September	October	November
December	January 2027	February	March	April	
May	June	July	August	September 30, 2027	

WHAT projects are eligible for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program?


To qualify for NMDA’s Healthy Soil Program grant program, projects must revolve around 1+ of **the 5 soil health principles**

The 5 soil health principles

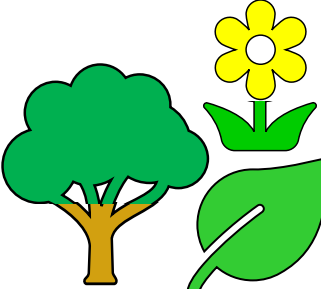
1. Keep soil covered.



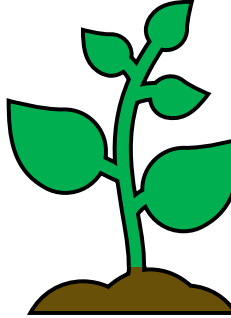
2. Minimize disturbance on cropland and minimize external inputs.



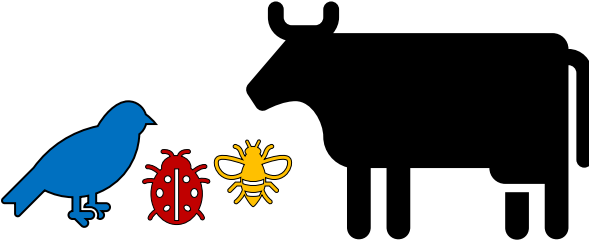
3. Maximize biodiversity.



4. Maintain a living root.



5. Integrate animals into land management,
including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects or keystone species, such as earthworms.



A sampling of grant-funded project activities on CROPLAND



A sampling of grant-funded project activities on rangeland



SUBSOILING

To see where subsoiling has happened in the photo above, look for the areas parallel to **this red line**.

Photo courtesy
Rangeland Solutions, LLC,
Curry County, NM

INTENSIVE ROTATIONAL GRAZING

Photo courtesy CS Ranch
Colfax County, NM



BALE GRAZING

Photos courtesy M-Scar Farm & Ranch, Colfax County, NM



HOW does my Eligible Entity apply for a grant from NMDA's Healthy Soil Program?

<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/hsp/requirements-for-eligible-entities.html#gsc.tab=0>

New Mexico Department of Agriculture

DA

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

FORMS & APPLICATIONS

LICENSING & REGISTRATION ▼

INSPECTIONS ▼

STATUTES & RULES

FY27 Requirements and Outreach Opportunities for Eligible Entities

Everything you'll need to
apply as a local
governmental entity is
on the **ELIGIBLE ENTITY**
webpage – just follow
Steps 1-4.

New Mexico's pueblos, tribes, and nations; acequias; land grants; soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs); NMSU—Cooperative Extension Service; and [entities] with proven land management capacity to support healthy soil", as Eligible Entities are defined in the Healthy Soil Act.

on process outlined below pertains to the next (Fiscal Year 2027, or FY27) Healthy Soil Program grant application cycle. The deadline to apply is 12 p.m. Friday, March 20, 2026. **Late, incomplete, and paper applications will not be accepted or reviewed.**

FY27 program by reading the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ - coming soon) and by attending the following outreach opportunities:

, 2025 webinar: How eligible governmental entities can apply for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants. [Registration is required to attend.](#)

Healthy Soil Program updates – future funding opportunities, as well as soil health events and news – subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter using the form at the bottom of the [Healthy Soil Program](#) home page.

Step 1. Select the project site(s) and identify the top soil health-related resource concern(s).

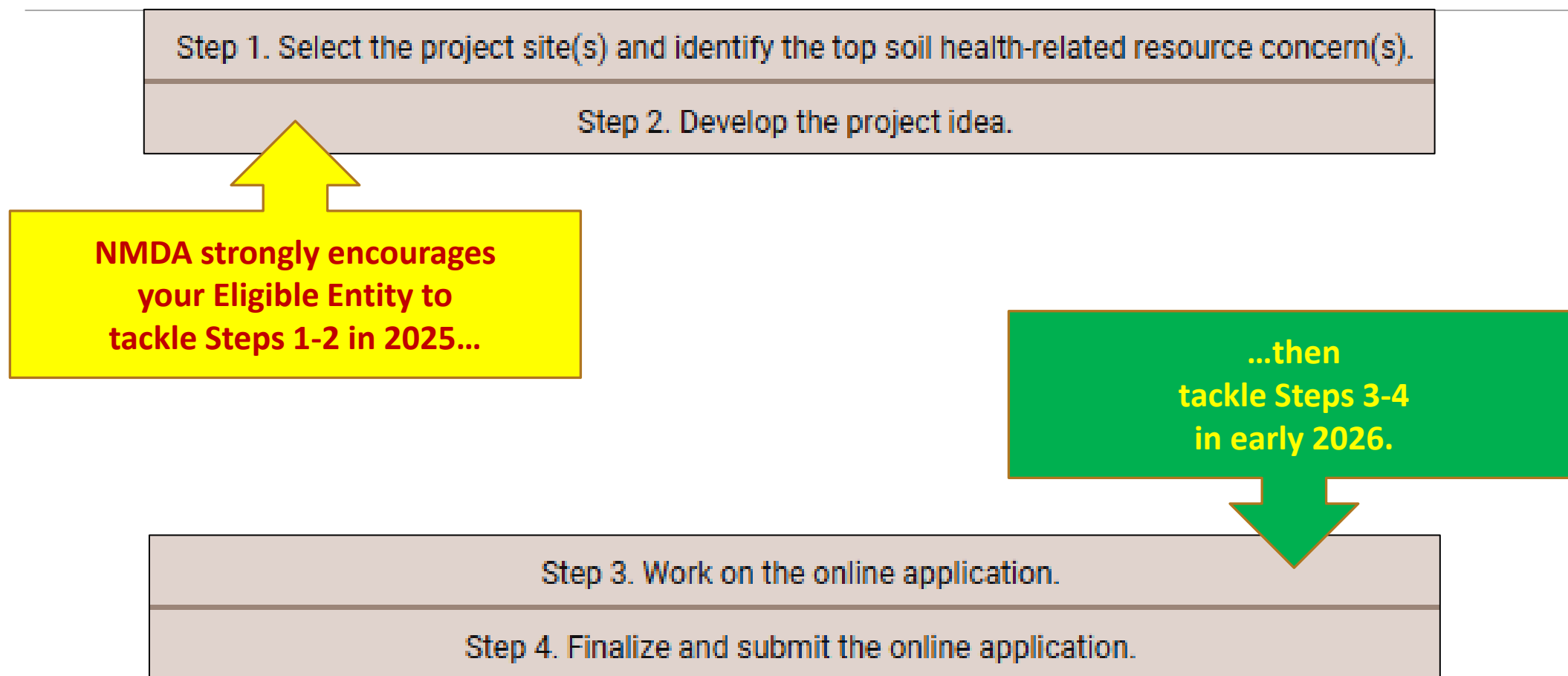
Step 2. Develop the project idea.

Step 3. Work on the online application.

Step 4. Finalize and submit the online application.

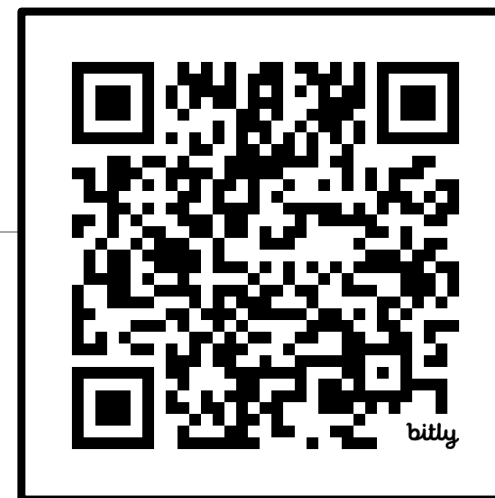
Questions? Email NMDA's Healthy Soil Program team at hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu.

How to approach the step-by-step application process for **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES**



The steps and materials on the Healthy Soil Program webpage for ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

Scan this QR code to go to **the webpage for ELIGIBLE ENTITIES**



Questions?



**Visit our website to learn more
and to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter**
featuring application tips and deadline reminders,
as well as soil health events, news, etc.

[https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/
healthy-soil-program.html](https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program.html)

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