



HOW ELIGIBLE ENTITIES APPLY FOR HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM GRANTS TO IMPROVE THE SOIL

DEAN BRUCE AND KATIE GOETZ, CO-LEADS OF NMDA'S HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM

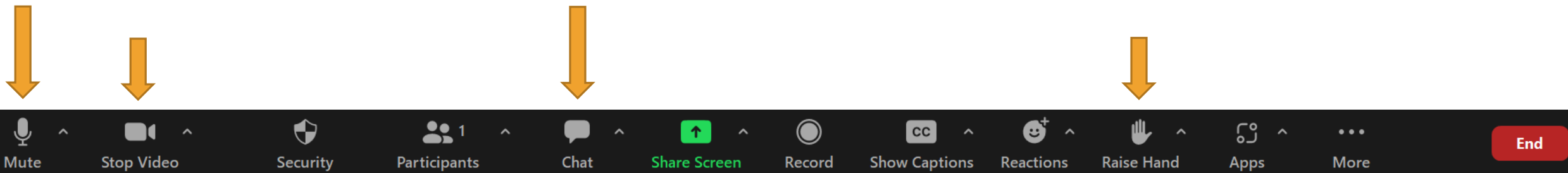
Welcome and Housekeeping

You're welcome to introduce yourself in the **Chat**, noting the name of your Eligible Entity – and whether your Eligible Entity encompasses primarily cropland, rangeland, etc.

During the presentation, please stay on **Mute** and type your question in the **Chat**

After the presentation, you can use the **Raise Hand** feature, then unmute to ask your question out loud

We are recording. We will share these slides, plus a subtitled video, soon



Today's Agenda:

All about NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants

- ✓ **Who** can apply?
- ✓ **What** projects are eligible?
- ✓ **When** can projects happen?
- ✓ **Where** can projects happen?
- ✓ **How** does our Eligible Entity apply?
- ✓ **Why** are grant certain grant applications successful and others aren't?

WHO in New Mexico can apply for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants



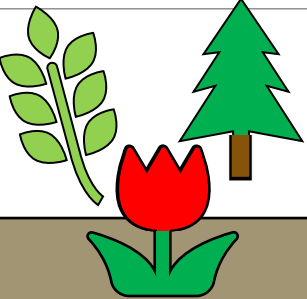
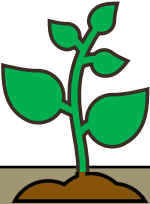
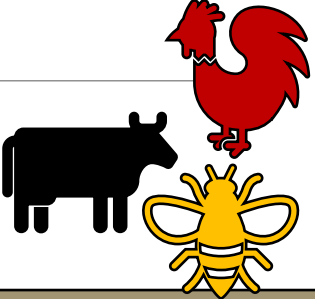
1. Eligible Entities

- Pueblos, tribes, and nations
- Acequias
- Land grants
- Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs)
- NMSU—Cooperative Extension Service
- Other “**local governmental entit[ies] with proven land management capacity** to support healthy soil”
- Application period: From **February 23 to April 26 at 12 p.m. (noon) Mountain Time**
- Can apply for **up to \$100,000 per project** if your Eligible Entity has a UEI
- Can apply for **up to \$25,000 per project** if your Eligible Entity doesn't have a UEI

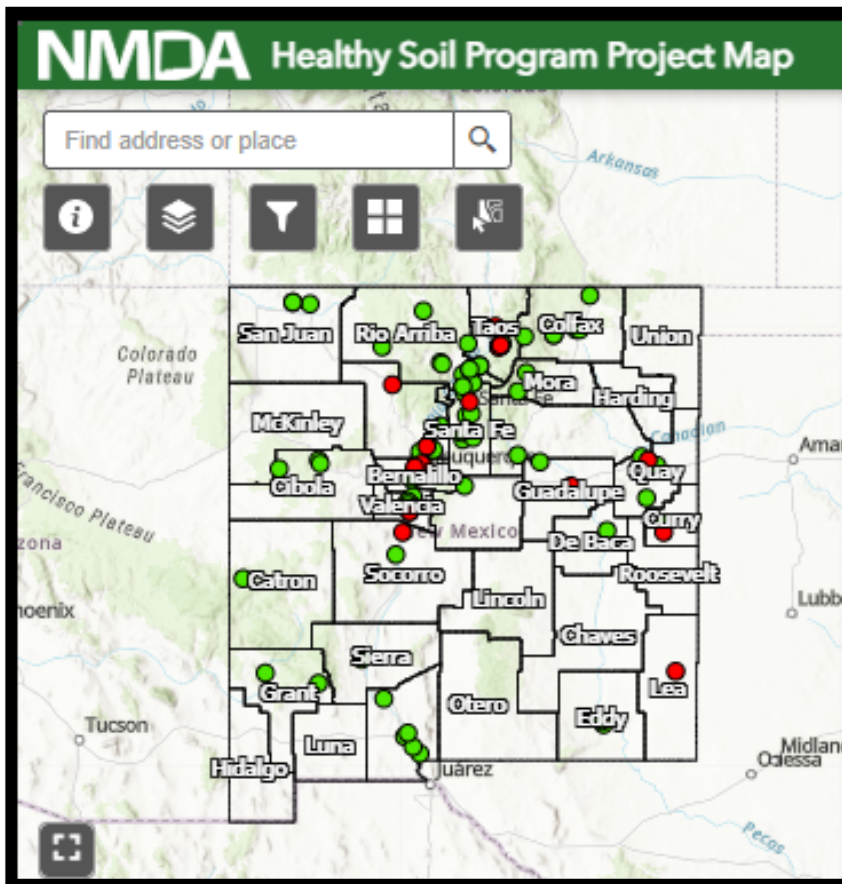
2. Individual Applicants

- **Non-governmental parties** (individuals, businesses, and nonprofits) directly engaged in farming, ranching, or another form of land management
- Application period: February 23-April 26
- Can apply for up to \$22,000 per project

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

The 5 Soil Health Principles	 1. Keeping soil covered	 2. Minimizing disturbance on cropland and minimizing external inputs	 3. Maximizing biodiversity	 4. Maintaining a living root	 5. Integrating animals into land management...
EXAMPLES of project activities that revolve around each principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving plant residue • Planting cover crops • Using organic mulch • Grazing rangeland at a level to maintain cover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting tillage and synthetic inputs • Rotating livestock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using diverse crop rotations • Planting diverse cover crops • Integrating livestock into cropland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing fallowing • Planting cover crops • Maintaining and promoting plant diversity on rangeland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing livestock on cropland • Proper grazing use on rangeland • Planting pollinator habitat

WHAT projects are eligible *(cont'd.)*



- This map shows projects from Fiscal Years (FY) 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023
- Click on a **red** dot to learn more about a previous Eligible Entity project
- Find this map on the Healthy Soil Program website: <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program.html>

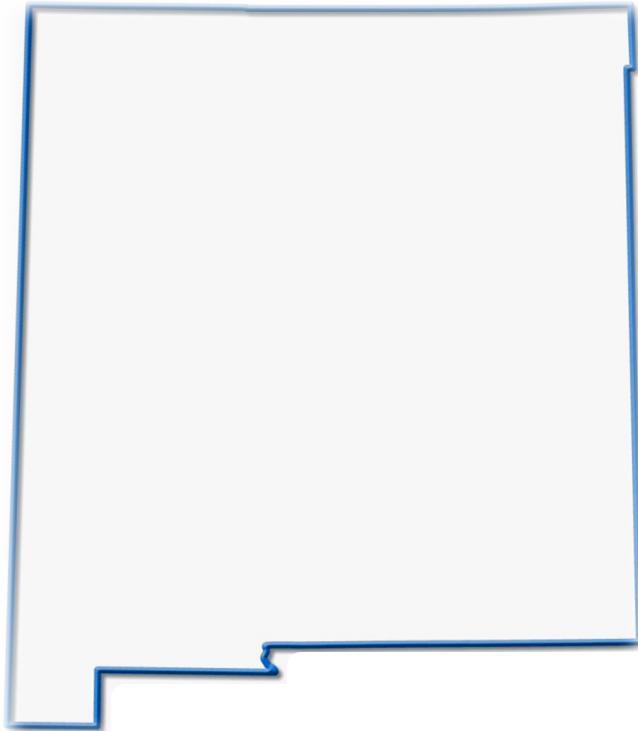
WHEN projects funded by NMDA's Healthy Soil Program happen

For Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) projects, project activities can happen only between **August 2024** and **May 2025** (10 months)



Images credit: Envato

WHERE Healthy Soil Program-funded projects can happen



Cropland, rangeland, forest land, orchards

Market gardens, community gardens, and subsistence gardens

Projects can happen **only where there's an existing relationship** between the Eligible Entity and the project site

The Eligible Entity must have landowner permission to implement a Healthy Soil Program project on land it doesn't own

No minimum acreage requirement

- Acres and square feet are both acceptable measurements

Image credit: KindPNG

HOW your Eligible Entity can apply for a grant from NMIDA's Healthy Soil Program



NMDA

Search our site: ENHANCED BY Google

FY25 Requirements for Eligible Entities

Eligible Entities include New Mexico's pueblos, tribes, and nations; acequias; land grants; soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs); NMSU—Cooperative Extension Service; and other “local governmental entit[ies] with proven land management capacity to support healthy soil”, as Eligible Entities are defined in the Healthy Soil Act. To apply for a Healthy Soil Program grant of **up to \$100,000**, an Eligible Entity must follow the steps below. All **completed** applications must be submitted online by **April 26, 2024 at 12 p.m. (noon) Mountain Time**.

Learn more by reading the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) for Eligible Entities](#). For application tips and Healthy Soil Program updates – as well as soil health news and events – subscribe to our weekly newsletter via the form at the bottom of the [Healthy Soil Program](#) web page.

January 18, 2024 pre-application webinar: [Register here](#) to join us from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Mountain Time.

Step 1. Identify the project site(s) within the Eligible Entity's jurisdiction, as well as the soil health-related resource concerns the Eligible Entity's project will address.

EVERYTHING YOU'LL NEED TO APPLY FOR A GRANT
CAN BE FOUND ON THE HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM WEB PAGE
SPECIFIC TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.

Step 1. Identify the project site(s) within your Eligible Entity's jurisdiction, as well as the soil health-related resource concerns the project will address.



Your Eligible Entity can **consider a number of factors** in deciding where to implement its project, including but not limited to:

- the **land with the greatest potential** for soil health improvement
- the number of **local land managers** benefitted
- the **plant communities and animal populations** benefitted
- the **visibility of the project** to local land managers, the public, and students; and
- the **proximity of the project site** to your Eligible Entity's headquarters

Step 1. Identify the project site(s) within your Eligible Entity's jurisdiction, as well as the soil health-related resource concerns the project will address.

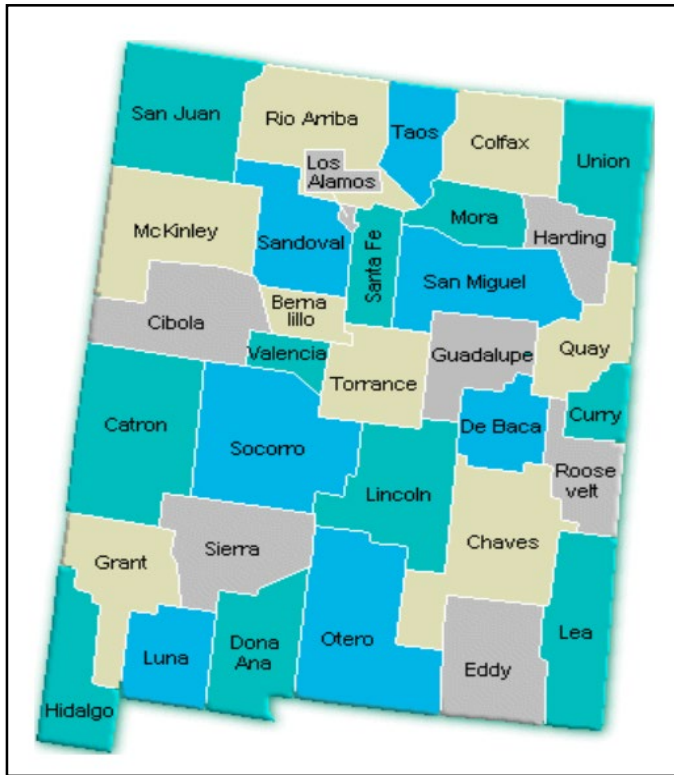
- **Examples of soil health-related resource concerns:**

- erosion
- compaction
- depleted organic matter
- concentration of salts (or other chemicals)
- loss or degradation of soil-organism habitat
- aggregate instability (i.e., poor soil structure)



Image credit: USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Step 1. Identify the project site(s) within your Eligible Entity's jurisdiction, as well as **the soil health-related resource concerns the project will address.**



Map courtesy of USDA

For help in identifying soil health-related resource concerns, contact the nearest office of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS has 35 local service centers in New Mexico

Find your nearest USDA/NRCS service center:

<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs>

Step 2. Develop your Eligible Entity's project idea.

Thinking about your Eligible Entity's project site(s) and soil health-related resource concerns, ask yourself (and Eligible Entity leadership, coworkers, etc.):

- *Which soil health-related natural resource concerns will our project focus on?*
- *Which soil health principles will best address those resource concerns?*
- *Which agricultural/conservation practices will best put those soil health principles into action?*

Step 2. Develop your Eligible Entity's project idea.

NMDA's Resource Concern Guide Sheets show the relationship between soil health-related resource concerns and soil health principles, as well as **examples** of agricultural/conservation practices that can address those resource concerns

The resource concern guide sheets can help your Eligible Entity decide which practices to implement in order to improve soil health

Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25)
NMDA's Healthy Soil Program
Resource Concern Guide Sheet for CROPLAND

This guide sheet is designed to help you select agricultural/conservation practices existing soil health-related natural resource concerns on cropland. It is intended as a starting point rather than as an exhaustive list of all resource concerns and agricultural practices that address existing resource concerns. These agricultural practices align with those promoted by the New Mexico office of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The three-digit codes associated with NRCS New Mexico Practice Standards are listed and hyperlinked below to provide you additional information.

The soil health principles as defined in the 2019 Healthy Soil Act are listed below and correspond with the numbers in the right-hand column of the chart that follows.

- 1) keeping soil covered
- 2) minimizing soil disturbance on cropland and minimizing external inputs
- 3) maximizing biodiversity
- 4) maintaining a living root
- 5) integrating animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects or keystone species, such as earthworms

Resource Concern	Agricultural Practice on Cropland
Erosion (wind and water) Presence of eroding soil (soil movement both on to and off of the field) due to wind, rain, or irrigation water application	Cover crops to protect soil surface (340)
	No-till (329) or reduced-till (345) farming techniques
	Field borders (unharvested crop residue and/or high-residue plantings along field edges; shrub establishment) (386) Mulching (484)
Low soil organic matter Lack of organic materials at various stages of decomposition within the soil	Cover crops (340)
	Organic-based soil amendments (compost, manure, biochar, etc.) (590), (484)
	Diverse crop rotation (cash crop) (328)
	No-till (329) or reduced-till (345) farming techniques Proper grazing of cover crops/cash crops (528)
Water infiltration and percolation Poor water movement into and within the soil (ponding of water after rain events or irrigation)	Cover crop mixes with various rooting depths (340)
	Organic-based soil amendments (compost, manure, biochar) (590), (484)
	Short-duration, high-intensity grazing (528)

Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25)
NMDA's Healthy Soil Program
Resource Concern Guide Sheet for RANGELAND

This guide sheet is designed to help you select agricultural/conservation practices to address your existing soil health-related natural resource concerns on rangeland. It is intended as a starting point rather than as an exhaustive list of all resource concerns and agricultural practices that can address existing resource concerns. These agricultural practices align with those promoted by the New Mexico office of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The three-digit codes associated with NRCS New Mexico Practice Standards are listed and hyperlinked below to provide you additional information.

The soil health principles as defined in the 2019 Healthy Soil Act are listed below. They correspond with the numbers in the right-hand column of the chart that follows.

- 1) keeping soil covered
- 2) minimizing soil disturbance on cropland and minimizing external inputs
- 3) maximizing biodiversity
- 4) maintaining a living root
- 5) integrating animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects or keystone species, such as earthworms

Resource Concern	Agricultural Practice on Rangeland	Soil Health Principle
Decreased plant productivity and health Lack of overall forage production and health of existing plant species	Prescribed grazing (528)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Native grass and/or pollinator habitat establishment (500), (327)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Temporary fencing * (382)	--
Insufficient plant species and composition Plant community composition of warm-season grasses, cool-season grasses, forbs, and shrubs not consistent with management goals	Organic-based soil amendments (compost, manure, biochar, etc.) (484), (590)	3
	Prescribed grazing (528)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Lack of soil biodiversity A lack of diversity among the plants, animals, and soil organisms interacting with the soil	Native grass and/or pollinator habitat establishment (500), (327)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Cover crops to improve soil fertility/plant diversity (340)	1, 3, 4, 5
	Temporary fencing * (382)	--
	Organic-based soil amendments (compost, manure, biochar, etc.) (484), (590)	3
Lack of soil biodiversity A lack of diversity among the plants, animals, and soil organisms interacting with the soil	Prescribed grazing (528)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Native grass and/or pollinator habitat establishment (500), (327)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Cover crops to improve biodiversity (340)	1, 3, 4, 5
	Temporary fencing * (382)	--

Step 2. Develop your Eligible Entity's project idea.

Thinking about your Eligible Entity's project, ask yourself (and Eligible Entity leadership, coworkers, etc.):

- *Which of our planned agricultural/conservation practices can actually be **implemented between August and May**?*
- *What **goods and services** will we need in order to implement those agricultural/conservation practices?*
- *From **which companies** will we source those goods and services?*
- *What are the **actual costs** of those goods and services?*

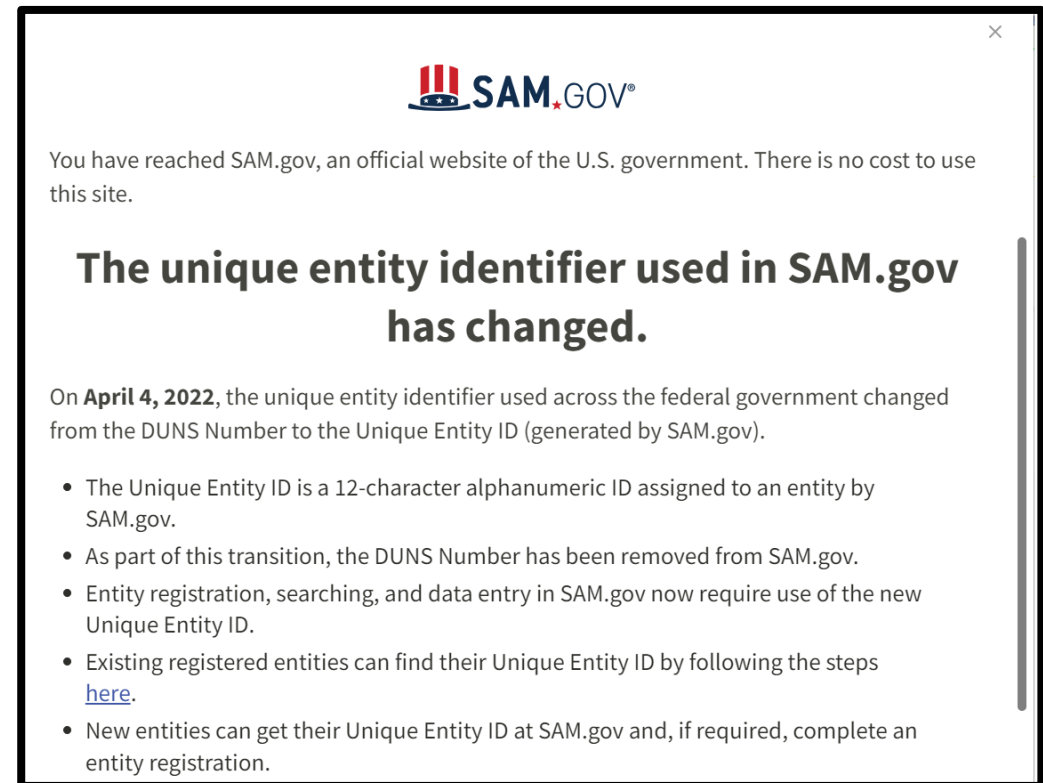
Find the FAQ
and other resources
on our website




Step 3. Work on the online grant application – including the all-important timeline and budget.

\$100,000: The most an Eligible Entity can apply for **if they have a Unique Entity ID (UEI)** from the System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

\$25,000: The most an Eligible Entity can apply for **if they don't have a Unique Entity ID (UEI)** from the System for Award Management (SAM.gov)



The screenshot shows a notification from SAM.gov. At the top is the SAM.gov logo. Below it, the text reads: "You have reached SAM.gov, an official website of the U.S. government. There is no cost to use this site." The main heading is "The unique entity identifier used in SAM.gov has changed." Below this, a paragraph states: "On April 4, 2022, the unique entity identifier used across the federal government changed from the DUNS Number to the Unique Entity ID (generated by SAM.gov)." A bulleted list follows, providing details about the UEI and the transition process.

 SAM.GOV®

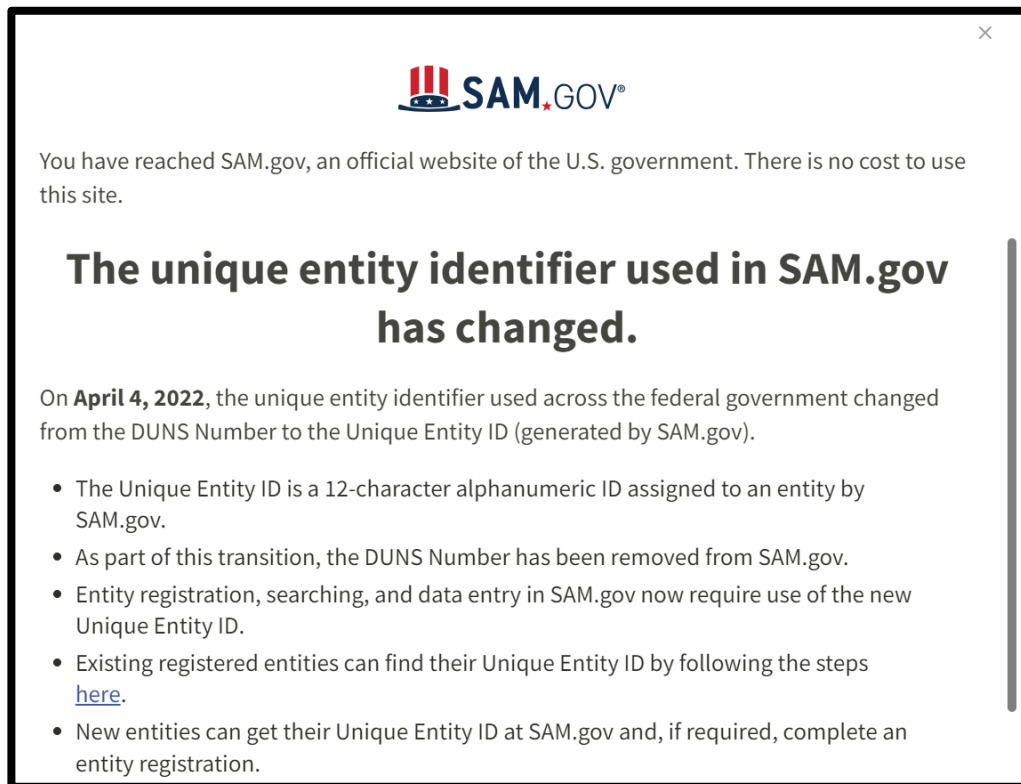
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The unique entity identifier used in SAM.gov has changed.


On **April 4, 2022**, the unique entity identifier used across the federal government changed from the DUNS Number to the Unique Entity ID (generated by SAM.gov).

- The Unique Entity ID is a 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned to an entity by SAM.gov.
- As part of this transition, the DUNS Number has been removed from SAM.gov.
- Entity registration, searching, and data entry in SAM.gov now require use of the new Unique Entity ID.
- Existing registered entities can find their Unique Entity ID by following the steps [here](#).
- New entities can get their Unique Entity ID at SAM.gov and, if required, complete an entity registration.

Step 3. Work on the online grant application – including the all-important timeline and budget.



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Eligible Entities without a UEI can work with the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) to get a UEI

The process is free but can be time-consuming

Step 3. Work on the online grant application – including the all-important timeline and budget.

TIMELINE of PROJECT ACTIVITIES in chronological order		FISCAL YEAR 2025 (FY 25) ELIGIBLE ENTITY BUDGET: GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED FOR YOUR HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM PROJECT													
NMDA will not reimburse actual expenses in excess of line-item totals. Thus, you should account for any applicable taxes, shipping and handling charges, etc. in each line-item's cost per unit.															
TIMELINE	PROJECT ACTIVITIES	A. Non-Durable Goods (tangible, short-lived items like cover crop seed, compost, etc.)				B. Durable Goods (tangible, long-lived items like PVC pipe, T-posts, wire, etc.)				C. Services (specialized work performed by a business)					
		Name of Non-Durable Good	# of Units	Unit of Measure (lbs., tons, etc.)	Cost per Unit	Name of Durable Good	# of Units	Unit of Measure (linear feet, posts, etc.)	Cost per Unit	Brief Description of Service	Name of Business that will Perform this Service	# of Units	Unit of Measure (hrs., days, etc.)	Cost per Unit	Services Line-item Totals
1	1st Q (Aug-Oct 2024)	REQUIRED: Get soil sample(s) from project site(s) for lab-based soil testing -- in addition to (free) in-field soil assessment -- before starting the project			x										
2					x										\$0.00
3					x										\$0.00
4					x										\$0.00
5					x										\$0.00

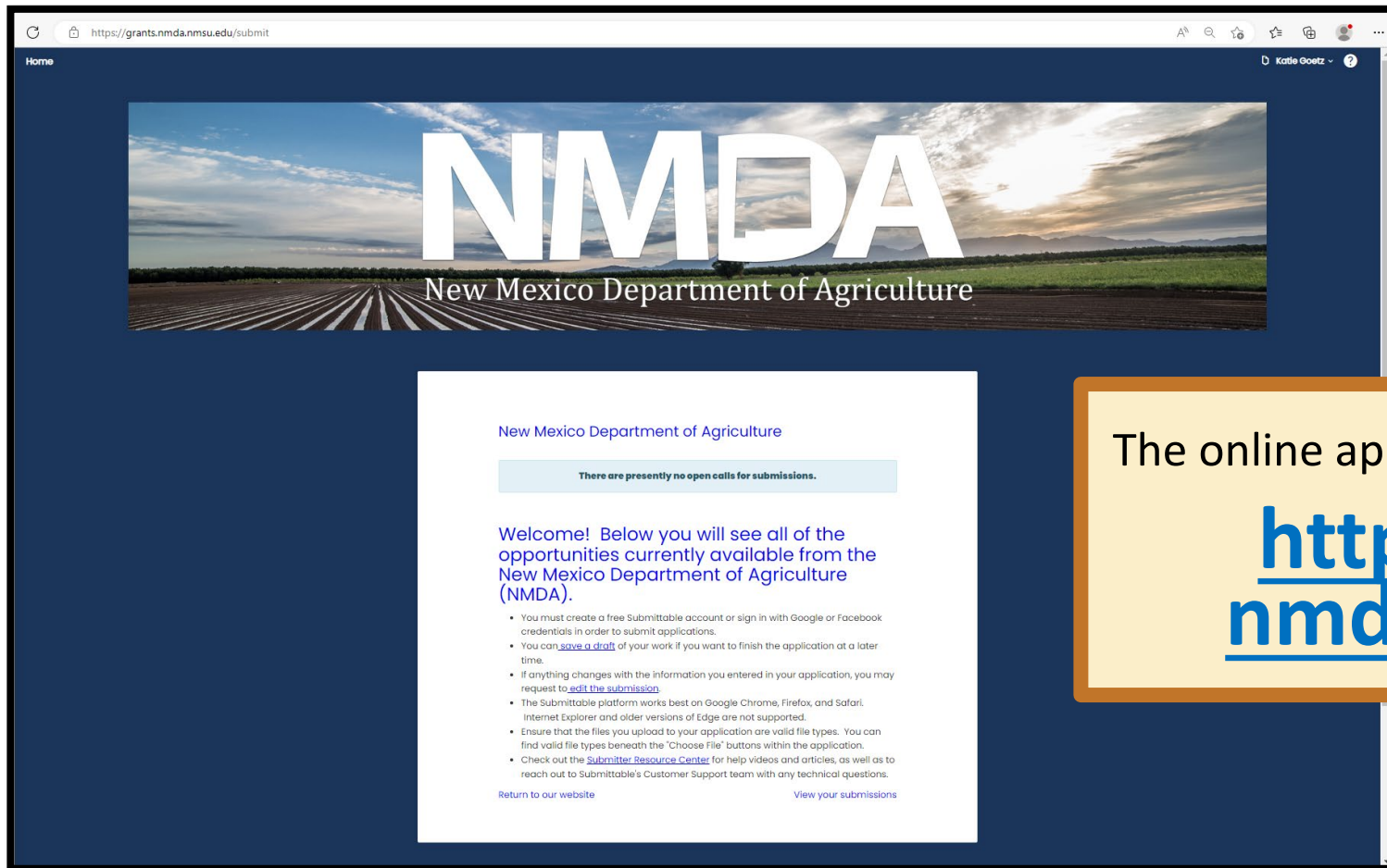
Step 3. Work on the online grant application – including the all-important timeline and **budget**.

Eligible for consideration	Ineligible for consideration
<p>Nondurable Goods Tangible, short-lived items like cover crop seed, compost, etc.</p>  <p>COVER CROP SEED Compost</p>	<p>Nondurable Goods Tangible, short-lived items like topsoil, cash crop seed, livestock</p>  <p>CASH CROP SEED</p>
<p>Durable Goods Tangible, long-lived items costing \$4,999.99 or less</p> 	<p>Durable Goods Tangible, long-lived items costing \$5,000.00 or more</p> 
<p>Services Specialized work that is directly related to soil health (like <i>testing</i> soil, <i>renting</i> no-till equipment, etc.)</p> 	<p>Services Specialized work that is not related to soil</p>

See the FAQ on our website for more examples

Image credits: kissclipart.com, bucknellian.net, pngkey.com, clipartkey.com, freepik.com, stockio.com, creazilla.com, dlpng.com

Step 4. Finalize and submit your Eligible Entity's online grant application **by April 26, 2024 at 12 p.m. (noon).**



The online application launches **Feb. 23** at

<https://grants.nmda.nmsu.edu>

Step 4. Finalize and submit your Eligible Entity's online grant application **by April 26, 2024 at 12 p.m. (noon).**

Use the checklist on our website to ensure your Eligible Entity's grant application is complete and ready for submission:

- Project site images
- Bale grazing template (*required if bale grazing is a component of your Eligible Entity's project*) completed by NRCS
- Timeline and budget template
- Supporting items (*optional*)

WHY are certain Healthy Soil Program grant applications successful, and others aren't?

Successful applications...	Unsuccessful applications...
✓ Are complete and submitted on time	X Are incomplete and/or not submitted by the deadline
✓ Are focused on improving soil health	X Are focused on beautifying a landscape, feeding livestock, etc.
✓ Benefit the Eligible Entity and/or multiple land managers within its jurisdiction	X Benefit only one land manager
✓ Are clear and specific about project activities	X Are vague about project activities
✓ Have budgets that are clear and specific about the names, costs, and amounts of goods and services requested for the project	X Have budgets that request items whose names, costs, and amounts aren't well researched
✓ Are unique , tailored to the needs of the project site	X Are copied from somewhere else

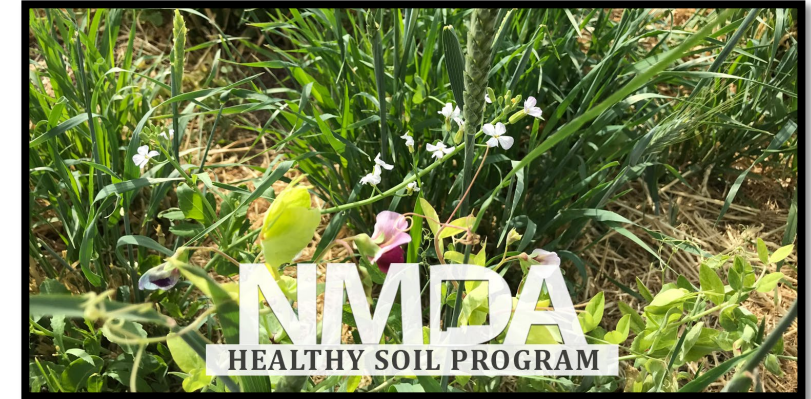
Questions?

NMDA's Healthy Soil Program **homepage:**

<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program.html>

Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter for application tips and deadline reminders, as well as soil health news and events

Email us your Eligible Entity's soil health news and events for further publicity!



Web page specific to **Eligible Entities:**

<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/hsp/requirements-for-eligible-entities.html>

hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu

575-646-2642

Sign up for our **March 5**
application-demonstration webinar
(the online application launches Feb. 23)