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HOUSE BILL 62

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022**

INTRODUCED BY

Meredith A. Dixon and Susan K. Herrera and Christine Chandler  
and Kristina Ortez and Martin Hickey

AN ACT

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT; CREATING THE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES  
COUNCIL; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; CREATING A FUND TO ASSIST  
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS WITH MATCH REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT  
FUNDING; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] GRANT OPPORTUNITIES COUNCIL.--**

A. The "grant opportunities council" is created and  
is administratively attached to the department of finance and  
administration. The council consists of:

(1) the director of the local government  
division of the department of finance and administration or the  
director's designee; and

(2) the following members appointed by the  
governor:

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1 (a) three county representatives, one  
2 each from a small-, medium- and large-population county;

3 (b) three municipal representatives, one  
4 each from a small-, medium- and large-population municipality;

5 (c) three representatives of other  
6 political subdivisions of the state;

7 (d) two grant professionals who have  
8 experience writing and administering grants;

9 (e) one staff member from a council of  
10 governments who has experience writing or administering grants;  
11 and

12 (f) one local staff member of a member  
13 of the New Mexico congressional delegation.

14 B. The governor shall invite the state director of  
15 rural development and the director of the New Mexico field  
16 office of the rural utilities service of the United States  
17 department of agriculture and other federal representatives in  
18 New Mexico to participate in the activities of the grant  
19 opportunities council.

20 C. Members appointed by the governor shall serve at  
21 the pleasure of the governor. Members who are not paid with  
22 public funds are entitled to per diem and mileage as provided  
23 for state employees in the Per Diem and Mileage Act but shall  
24 receive no other compensation, perquisite or allowance.

25 D. The grant opportunities council shall elect a

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1 chair and vice chair. The department of finance and  
2 administration shall provide staff assistance for the council.  
3 The council shall meet regularly at the call of the chair.

4 E. The grant opportunities council shall advise the  
5 department of finance and administration on grant matters,  
6 including:

7 (1) methods and models for identifying,  
8 procuring, using and maintaining federal and other grants;

9 (2) identification of barriers to procuring  
10 and managing federal and other grants;

11 (3) best practices for managing and accounting  
12 for grants;

13 (4) the contents and analyses of the annual  
14 state and local grants survey; and

15 (5) other grant topics requested by the  
16 department of finance and administration.

17 F. The grant opportunities council shall report to  
18 the department of finance and administration, the governor and  
19 the legislature by December 1 of each year. The report shall  
20 include a description of the council's activities for the year,  
21 an annual state and local grants survey and recommendations for  
22 administrative or statutory changes to improve the number and  
23 quality of federal and other grants awarded to state and  
24 political subdivisions of the state.

25 SECTION 2. A new section of Chapter 12 NMSA 1978 is

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1 enacted to read:

2 "[NEW MATERIAL] GRANTS MATCHING FUND--CREATED--PURPOSE--  
3 APPLICATIONS.--

4 A. The "grants matching fund" is created as a  
5 nonreverting fund in the state treasury and consists of  
6 appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The fund shall be  
7 administered by the department of finance and administration.  
8 Money in the fund is subject to appropriation by the  
9 legislature to help political subdivisions of the state meet  
10 match requirements for federal and other grants. Expenditures  
11 from the fund shall be on warrants of the secretary of finance  
12 and administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the director  
13 of the local government division or the director's authorized  
14 representative.

15 B. The department of finance and administration  
16 shall establish standards of eligibility and criteria for  
17 prioritizing applications for grant matching funds. Priority  
18 for matching fund grants shall be given to projects that  
19 provide services to rural and frontier communities and other  
20 underserved populations and to smaller counties and  
21 municipalities to improve service delivery or to be more  
22 efficient and effective. Application shall be on forms  
23 provided by the department of finance and administration and  
24 shall include all information required by the department."

25 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.--One million dollars

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1 (\$1,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
2 grants matching fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2023 and  
3 subsequent fiscal years to help political subdivisions of the  
4 state meet grant matching requirements for federal and other  
5 grants. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at  
6 the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.