

Expansion of Services

New Mexico Land Grant Council



Legal Services

- Currently provide legal services through contracts and partnerships
 - New Mexico Legal Aid – Actively working on 3 litigations, 1 administrative adjudication, various other representations - \$60,000.
 - UNM School of Law - Clinical Law Program – Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic – 1 active litigation - \$10,000.
 - UNM SOL Law Student Externships - \$3,500.
 - New Mexico Department of Justice Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division – Counsel to the Council, consultation and training on other land grant related matters.
 - Still under resourced in the area of legal representation for land grants.
 - Total Legal Services expenses in FY 2024 were \$73,500.
 - In FY 2025 total budgeted for Legal Services is \$70,500.
 - Would like to expand legal services provided to land grants by hiring full-time attorney on staff with either Council or Land Grant Merced Institute.
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Land Surveying Services

- Currently provide surveyor services through contract
 - Last year provided surveying services to 5 land grants on 6 different projects
 - Total in surveying service costs in FY 2024 - \$50,000.
 - Total budgeted for surveying services in FY 2025 - \$40,000.
 - Surveying services are also critical for preventing encroachments and for litigation involving boundary disputes.
 - Ideally would like to have a surveyor on staff with the Council
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Natural Resources Management Support

- In FY 2024 provided support to two land grants with exploration of establishing mayordomo fuelwood project in Rio Arriba County via contract - \$10,000
 - Funded YCC project for stream restoration in Torreón through contract with Ancestral Lands Indigenous and Land Grant Youth YCC - \$30,000
 - Funded YCC project with East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District to develop natural resource plans for 4 land grants - \$30,000
 - Provide direct staff support to fuelwood project with State Land Office in East Mountains serving Cañón de Carnué, Chililí, Torreón, Tajique and Manzano Land Grants; Villanueva serving San Miguel del Bado Land Grant.
 - Would like to continue to invest in youth conservation projects and expand services by hiring a full-time natural resources planner to assist land grants with developing projects, applying for and administering funds.
 - Total budgeted for Natural Resources Management in FY 2025 is \$10,000.
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Community and Economic Development Support

- In FY 2024 provided support to the Mercedes Unidas Center in Rio Arriba County through contract for planning assistance - \$10,000
 - Would like to expand community and economic development services by hiring a full-time community and regional planner to assist land grants with developing projects, applying for and administering funds.
 - Total budgeted for Community and Economic Development Support in FY 2025 is \$10,000.
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Youth Development Programming

- In addition to YCC program work the Council has invested in youth development programming using of junior funds.
 - This included semester-long programs for High Students in Tierra Amarilla and Semester Long Program for middle school students in Taos.
 - Land Grant Studies Program has also continued to support youth development through oral history projects involving youth, and curriculum development in partnership with NM Highlands.
 - Would like to continue to invest in existing programs and have dedicated staff or contract services to help develop youth programs in land grant communities.
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Research Services

- The need for continued research support is imperative for litigation.
 - In FY 2023 we were able to digitize micro-film of about 3/4s of the Spanish and Mexican Archival materials owned by the Land Grant Studies Program.
 - In FY 2023 and 2024 we were able to acquire materials from Malcolm Ebright from the Center for Land Grant Studies.
 - Will digitize additional microfilm and make acquisitions from Center for Land Grant Studies in FY 2025.
 - Need to organize archival materials we have on hand to make more readily available to public.
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