



**New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network
Call for Applications: Out-of-School Time
Service-Learning Mini-Grants**

Project Timeline: February - July 2025
Applications Due: January 15, 2025

The New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network (NMOST) is pleased to offer this mini-grant opportunity (\$1,500-2,500) for OST providers to implement service-learning and youth voice initiatives in their OST programs during the first half of 2025.

- Open to New Mexico CBOs implementing afterschool or summer programs for middle and/or high school students
- Access nationally-recognized curriculum, resources, and training
- Receive initial grant amount in February 2025; final payment at midway point
- Join a Professional Learning Community (PLC) and connect with other OST programs implementing service-learning and youth voice initiatives
- Submit final project report by August 15th, 2025

Call for Mini-Grant Applications

NMOST is excited to announce at least five (5) mini-grants (\$1,500-\$2,500) to be awarded to New Mexico community-based organizations (CBOs) that operate out-of-school time (OST) programs for 6th-12th grade students. Programs are expected to use mini-grant funds to implement a service-learning project with their participants during Spring and/or Summer 2025. Service-learning is a type of experiential learning that drives students' academic interests and passions toward addressing real community needs.

These mini-grants are available to OST programs currently implementing a service-learning program and those looking to start one. Priority will be given to OST programs whose staff attended and participated in the service-learning workshops offered by the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) in October 2024. Priority will also be given to programs that reach female, minority, and/or rural students. Access the application [here](#).

The objectives of the mini-grants are to:

1. Expand students' awareness of and experience with service-learning to engage, empower, and have real-world experiences.
2. Engage students in activities that bring about transformation in the community and within themselves.
3. Grow out-of-school time program capacity for service-learning programming.
4. Raise awareness of OST programs' impact on education, youth leadership, and service in the community.

Grantees will have access to resources from the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) and technical assistance from NMOST as part of NMOST's Service-Learning Initiative. NYLC is working with NMOST and other State Afterschool Networks around the nation to expand service-learning in out-of-school time programs.

Why Service-Learning?

The New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network aims to expand service-learning statewide and to equip OST programs and staff with tools, ideas, and curricula through our Out-of-School Time Service-Learning Initiative, funded by the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC). Service-learning involves young people in engaging learning activities while preparing them to be lifelong members of a civil society. It is a proven instructional strategy that engages students in their education when they learn that their service is authentic, has substance over time, and can be understood in the context of academic or civic content. Service-learning benefits students as they lead their service experience, problem solve with their peers, and access adult expertise.

NYLC provides expertise in service-learning education and offers a free Resource Library that includes ready-to-implement curricula to make service-learning more accessible. Service-learning supports young people's growth by allowing them to use their voice to take action on issues they're passionate about. It encourages them to apply their creativity and learning to real-world needs. Through service-learning we reflect and learn from both failures and successes so we can try again – building resiliency along the way.

For resources to support service-learning projects, visit <https://nmost.org/service-learning> and <https://nylc.org/afterschool/>. You can also register for FREE access to NYLC's [Resource Library](#).

Mini-Grant Awards & Expectations

A minimum of five (5) mini-grants of at least \$1,500 (up to \$2,500) will be awarded to New Mexico OST programs implemented by CBOs to either start service-learning programs or to advance or expand current service-learning initiatives. Grantees will also be expected to participate in regular meetings with NMOST and other awardees, complete NMOST surveys, and provide a final, narrative report by August 15th, 2025. Mini-grant funds may be used for staff time, materials and resources, field trips and transportation, guest speakers, etc.

Grantees will ensure project sponsorship is credited to the New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network and the National Youth Leadership Council. Grantees may be asked to share results on webinars or during conference presentations for OST audiences. Grantees will receive half the awarded funds at the start of the project and the remainder at the midway point to ensure ongoing, consistent project implementation.

Due Date for Applications

The application will be open from Friday, December 13, 2024 - Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

Applications for this service-learning mini-grant opportunity are **due by 7:00 pm MST**

Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Funded program sites will be notified by January 31, 2025, and projects can begin as early as February 3, 2025.

Online Application

Ready to apply? Access the application [here](#).

For questions or more information, please email igates@nmost.org.