



New Mexico Highlands University Government Relations
Board of Regents Report
March 7, 2024

The recent fifty-sixth New Mexico Legislative Session saw 661 total bills and 77 memorials introduced. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed into law 69 of those bills.

Introduced

344 House Bills
317 Senate Bills
60 House Memorials
17 Senate Memorials
2 Senate Joint Memorials
15 House joint resolutions
18 Senate Joint Resolutions
1 Senate Resolution
1 House Resolution

Passed

69 Bills Signed by Governor
2 Senate Memorials that passed
28 House Memorials that passed
1 Senate Joint Memorial that passed
1 House Joint Resolution Passed
2 Senate Joint Resolutions Passed
No constitutional amendments
Veto on Senate Bill 217 (severance tax)

New Mexico Highlands University Appropriations

Section 4. Instruction and General Purposes Funding (I&G)

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed House Bill 2 on Wednesday, March 6. The Higher Education Funding Formula determined that NMHU will receive \$34.478 million in Instruction and General Purposes funds for FY25, \$3.177 million for Athletics, \$200k for Tribal Education Initiatives, and \$250k for Teacher Pipeline Initiatives from the New Mexico General Fund.

NMHU saw it's I&G funding increase by 5.07% from FY24 to FY25. Please note that four RPSPs from FY24 (Improve Retention and Completion of Underserved Students, Center for Professional Development & Career Readiness, Minority Student Service, and Social Work Grant Funds) have been rolled into the I&G fund, and, as such, those funds will be distributed at the administration's discretion. **Total appropriations including capital is \$6.4 million.**

FY25 General Fund Regular Legislative Session - (in thousands)			FINAL	
New Mexico Highlands University	FINAL FY24	FINAL FY25	\$ Change	% Change
Instruction and General	\$ 35,622.4	\$ 37,478.0	\$1,855.6	5.2%
NM Tribal education	\$ 200.0	\$ 200.0	\$0.0	0.0%
Teacher pipeline	\$ 250.0	\$ 250.0	\$0.0	0.0%
Total I & G	\$ 36,072.4	\$ 37,928.0	\$1,855.6	5.1%
Athletics	\$ 3,177.4	\$ 3,177.4	\$0.0	0.0%
Behavioral Health	\$ 500.0	\$ 500.0	\$0.0	0.0%
Doctorate of Nursing Practitioner	\$ 155.9	\$ 155.9	\$0.0	0.0%
Acequia and Land Grant Education	\$ 46.9	\$ 46.9	\$0.0	0.0%
Native American Social Work Institute	\$ 235.0	\$ 235.0	\$0.0	0.0%
Advanced Placement	\$ 202.4	\$ 202.4	\$0.0	0.0%
Forest and Watershed Institute / Reforestation	\$ 533.4	\$ 533.4	\$0.0	0.0%
Nursing Expansion	\$ 224.1	\$ 295.1	\$71.0	31.7%
Underserved Students - Retention/Completion*	\$ 50.0	\$ -	(\$50.0)	-100.0%
Center for Prof Dev and Career Readiness*	\$ 171.0	\$ -	(\$171.0)	-100.0%
Minority Student Services*	\$ 515.6	\$ -	(\$515.6)	-100.0%
Social Work Grant Funds*	\$ 125.0	\$ -	(\$125.0)	-100.0%
NMHU Total	\$ 42,009.1	\$ 43,074.1	\$1,065.0	2.5%

*RPSP Rolled Up into I&G per HED and LFC Guidelines

Section 4. Research and Public Service Projects (RPSPs)

FY25 funding for RPSP's remains at FY24 levels except Nurse Expansion, which increased by \$71k. Four of NMHU's RPSPs were rolled into the I&G appropriation, resulting in a \$861.6k added to FY25's I&G funding. **In total, NMHU received \$1.065M in new I&G funding for FY25, resulting in 2.5% in new funds.**

Section 5. Special Appropriations

The following special appropriations distribution methodologies are yet to be determined by the Higher Education Department. Items 1-9 are statewide. 10 is for two-year colleges and regional comprehensive universities. Item 10 reflects NMHU's partnership with New Mexico State University, which serves as the fiscal agent for the Reforestation Center. **In total, NMHU will receive a share of \$113.1 million in special appropriations.**

Section 5 (non-recurring) (in thousands)	FINAL
(5.205) Building Renewal and Replacement (BR&R)	\$ 32,500.0
(5.206) Dual Credit Pass Thru (HED)	\$ 1,000.0
(5.207) Equipment Renewal and Replacement (ER&R)	\$ 5,000.0
(5.208) New Mexico STEM Graduate Student Scholarships	\$ 10,000.0
(5.209) Health Professional Loan Repayment Program	\$ 15,000.0
(5.210) Shortfalls within the Opportunity Scholarship Program	\$ 10,600.0
(5.211) Increase Interest in Healthcare Fields	\$ 1,500.0
(5.212) Endowed Social Work Faculty Teaching Positions	\$ 10,000.0
(5.213) Technology Enhancement Fund	\$ 25,000.0
(5.226) New Mexico State University (Reforestation Center)	\$ 2,500.0
Total Section 5 (non-recurring)	\$ 113,100.0

1. **(205) Building Replacement and Renewal (BR&R):** \$32.5 million
 - This funding is for distribution to the higher education institutions of New Mexico for building renewal and replacement and facility demolition. A report of BR&R transfers must be submitted to the higher education department before funding is released. (restricted)

2. **(206) Dual Credit Programs:** \$1 million
 - This will be distributed to post-secondary institutions statewide to support dual credit programs for New Mexico high school students.

3. **(207) Equipment Renewal and Replacement (ER&R):** \$5 million
 - This funding is distributed to New Mexico higher education institutions statewide. An equipment renewal and replacement transfer report must be submitted to the HED before funding is released. (restricted)

4. **(208) New Mexico STEM Graduate Student Scholarship Fund:** \$10 million
 - To provide scholarships to graduates of New Mexico high schools who are enrolled full-time in a master's or doctoral degree program at a graduate-degree-granting state university in New Mexico in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics program provided that no student shall receive an award amount greater than seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$7,200) per academic year. Any unexpended funds remaining at the end of fiscal year 2025 from this appropriation shall not revert and may be expended through fiscal year 2027.

5. **(209) Health Professional Loan Repayment Program:** \$15 million
 - For the health professional loan repayment program.

6. **(210) Shortfalls Within the Opportunity Scholarship Program: \$10.6 million**
 - For shortfalls within the opportunity scholarship program in fiscal year 2024, contingent on enactment of Senate Bill 159 or similar legislation of the second session of the fifty-sixth legislature creating a higher education endowment fund. The other state funds appropriation is from the higher education endowment fund to be awarded after July 1, 2024.

7. **(211) Increase Interest in Healthcare Fields: \$1.5 million**
 - For a partnership with a college of osteopathic medicine to develop a comprehensive outreach program to increase interest in the healthcare field within the state of New Mexico.

8. **(212) Endowed Social Work Faculty Teaching Positions: \$10 million**
 - For endowed faculty teaching positions and student financial aid, including scholarships and paid practicums in bachelor's and master's degree social worker programs at New Mexico public and tribal institutions of higher education to expand enrollment and the number of graduates able to work in the behavioral health, child welfare and school systems. The higher education department shall distribute funding based on the number of New Mexico residents enrolled in programs in fiscal year 2024 and must obtain certification from each higher education institution that the endowment revenue will supplement and not supplant spending at the institution's social worker program before making an endowment award.

9. **(213) Technology Enhancement Fund: \$25 million**
 - For distribution to eligible higher education institutions for the purposes defined in Section 21-1-27.2 NMSA 1978. The other state funds appropriation is from the technology enhancement fund.

10. **(226) NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY \$ 2.5 million**
 - For operation and management of the **New Mexico Reforestation Center**. Any unexpended balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2025 from this appropriation shall not revert and may be expended through fiscal year 2029.

Section 8. Compensation Appropriations

- A. “\$65,756,900 is appropriated from the general fund to the department of finance and administration for fiscal year 2025 to pay all costs attributable to the general fund of providing an **across-the-board salary increase of three percent to employees in budgeted positions who have completed their probationary period subject to satisfactory job performance.** The salary increases shall be effective the first full pay period after July 1, 2024.” – *House Bill 2 Page 235*

7. Compensation Appropriations. Higher Education: \$31,630,500

- a. “thirty-one million six hundred thirty thousand five hundred dollars (\$31,630,500) to the higher education department for nonstudent faculty and staff of two-year and four-year public postsecondary educational institutions...” – *House Bill 2 Page 236*

Section 8 Compensation Appropriations (in thousands)	FINAL
Higher Education Compensation @80% salaries I&G, Athletics, & RPSP	\$ 31,630.5
Total Section 8 Compensation Appropriations (in thousands)	\$ 31,630.5

Section 9. New Mexico GROW Funds–General Fund

New Junior Appropriations for 2 years

Section 9 NM GROW Funding (in thousands)	FINAL
(9.A) Workforce Training (FY25) \$20M per year	\$ 500.0
(9.B) Workforce Training (FY26) \$20M per year	\$ 500.0
(9.C) Workforce Training (FY27) \$20M per year	\$ 500.0
(9.D.28) Graduate Scholarships for Social Worker Students	\$ 160.0
Total Jr. Appropriations	\$ 1,660.0

A, B, C 13. Higher Education–Workforce Training: \$20 million (FY25, FY26, FY27)

- For New Mexico community colleges and regional universities to pay up to the full cost of student tuition and fees for workforce training courses not eligible for other financial aid and that result in an industry-recognized credential or endorsement.
- This funding may also be used to subsidize costs of students involved in **apprenticeships or internships**. Higher education institutions shall submit an implementation plan to the higher education department prior to receipt of funding and include identification of the types of certificates or credentials offered and the employers and industries eligible for internship and apprenticeship support.

D 28 F. Graduate Scholarships for Social Work Students

- \$160k for scholarships for graduate-level social work students. *Governor Lujan Grisham vetoed “curriculum and instructional development language.”*

Capital Outlay

1. \$225k to plan, design, construct, purchase, and equip campus security upgrades, including vehicles, barricades, and tasers.
2. \$40k to purchase, equip, and furnish campus safety and security upgrades, including automated external defibrillators.
3. \$3M to plan, design, construct, furnish, and equip improvements to the facilities building.
4. \$430k to plan, design, construct, renovate, purchase, furnish, and equip a facility as an indoor and outdoor recreation center.

Reforestation

1. \$10M partnership with NM Reforestation. *Distribution TBD*

Capital Outlay (in thousands)	FINAL
Facilities Building	\$ 3,000.0
Legislative Fellows Initiative	\$ 430.0
Security - Equipment and Vehicles	\$ 225.0
Safety - Defibrillators	\$ 40.0
Total NMHU Capital Outlay	\$ 3,695.0
NM Reforestation Center	\$ 10,000.0

General Obligations (GO) Bond Projects

1. **Bond Issue B:** Acquisitions at public libraries, public school libraries, academic libraries, and tribal libraries statewide.
 - a. \$6M to the Higher Education Department for supplemental library acquisitions, including books, equipment, electronic resources, collaborative library resources, and information technology projects for academic libraries statewide. *NMHU distribution TBD*
2. **Bond Issue C:** For capital improvements and acquisitions at institutions of higher education, special schools, and tribal schools statewide.
 - a. To the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University, \$4.36M to plan, design, construct, and equip improvements to the Ivan Hilton science building.

Significant Legislation

Passed and Signed

1. House Bill 28 Public Projects-Revolving Fund Projects

- Authorizes NM Finance Authority to make loans from the Public Project revolving Loan Fund. Higher Education Institutions with projects in the original bill: LCC, MCC, NMHU, SJC, UNM & WNMU.

2. House Bill 151 - Post-Secondary Affirmative Consent Policies

- Requires state-funded Higher Education Institutions to adopt policies/procedures addressing affirmative consent and prevention of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, harassment or stalking. A Senate Judiciary Committee amendment focused the bill solely on affirmative consent. Requires HEIs to adopt certain policies and procedures to determine whether consent was given, including confidentiality, employee training, and awareness programs and prevention strategies including in every incoming student's orientation.

3. Senate Bill 159 – Higher Education Trust Fund

- **Sponsored by Senator Pete Campos**, the Higher Education Trust Fund was created as a non-reverting fund in the state treasury. The fund consists of distributions, appropriations, gifts, grants, and donations and totals \$959 million. Money in the fund is subject to appropriation by the legislature to provide money for scholarships for tuition and fees at public post-secondary educational institutions, as provided by law.

4. Senate Bill 239 – Lottery Scholarship Changes

- Amends existing law to include the summer semesters in Lottery Scholarship course load requirements, changes 4-year' Student Credit Hour requirement from 15 minimum each semester to 30 per year, Community College requirement from 12 each semester to 24 per year. Extends Lottery eligibility to tribal college students. Sets Lottery maximum of seven Fall and Spring and three summer semesters or 3½ years max for bachelor's degree. Requires 4-year Lottery students complete 15 Student Credit Hours in the Fall and Spring. Community College students complete 12 Student Credit Hours; Summer semester students complete 3-9 Student Credit Hours. Waives the last-semester-before-graduation Student Credit Hour limits for Lottery & Opportunity Scholarships. Allows Opportunity students to take 3-9 Student Credit Hours in Summer. Exempts previously completed dual credit courses from counting toward Opportunity Scholarships.