

*State of New Mexico*

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New Mexico  
Indian Affairs  
Department

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**REQUEST FOR QUOTE (RFQ)**

**Strong Spirits, Strong Bodies: Advancing Teen Health Equity for  
Native Youth**

**Release Date: 2/17/2026**

**Due Date: 2/27/2026**

Indian Affairs Department  
Program Services Division  
1220 S. St. Francis Drive, Suite 251, Santa Fe, NM 87505

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### I. PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST FOR QUOTE (RFQ)

During the 2025 New Mexico Legislative Session, the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) received a general fund appropriation to support special projects in Fiscal Year 2026 that benefit Native Citizens in New Mexico. IAD has designated a portion of this funding for Strong Spirits, Strong Bodies: Advancing Teen Health Equity for Native Youth.

This RFQ announces funding availability to support projects that promote puberty education, hygiene, and period equity for Native youth.

IAD strongly encourages proposals that demonstrate collaboration with urban Native populations, Tribal-serving organizations and school systems, where appropriate. Projects that expand access to culturally relevant adolescent health education for Native youth living both in Tribal communities and in urban settings are prioritized.

### II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

IAD seeks to support activities and projects that promote the holistic health and development of Native youth through culturally relevant education on puberty, hygiene, and wellness for adolescents.

The intent of this funding is to:

- Foster self-awareness and positive identity development;
- Reduce stigma surrounding male development and menstruation;
- Improve overall health literacy;
- Ensure access to essential hygiene and menstrual products; and
- Integrate culturally relevant and traditional teachings that support youth wellness

Through this effort, IAD aims to equip Native youth with the knowledge, tools, and dignity needed to thrive and to strengthen community-led approaches to adolescent health and well-being across New Mexico.

IAD recognizes that Native youth reside in a wide range of settings, including Tribal communities, rural areas, and urban centers. Applicants are encouraged to consider partnerships with school districts, tribal education departments, urban Native organizations, and youth-serving programs to expand reach and ensure culturally responsive delivery.

IAD anticipates making one award through this RFQ. The maximum award amount is \$60,000.

### III. SCOPE

Eligible projects must clearly describe how funding will be used to support one or more of the following allowable activities:

- Provide culturally relevant and age-appropriate education on puberty, hygiene, and adolescent wellness;
- Offer hygiene products (e.g., pads, tampons, menstrual cups, underwear, deodorant, body/foot powder, etc.);
- Integrate traditional teachings or Native wellness models into programming or curriculum;
- Reduce stigma and promote intergenerational learning around puberty and menstruation; and
- Collaborate with urban Native organizations and/or school systems to expand access to education and resources for Native youth

Additional requirements:

- Offerors must specify how awarded funds will be fully expended by **June 30, 2026**
- Capital projects will **not** be considered

### IV. POINT OF CONTACT

Direct all inquiries and communications concerning this RFQ to:

New Mexico Indian Affairs Department

Karmela Martinez, Director

(505) 469-7057

[Karmela.martinez@iad.nm.gov](mailto:Karmela.martinez@iad.nm.gov)

### V. RESPONSE TIMELINE

*Only electronic proposal submissions are allowed. All proposals must be submitted to the following web address: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/L2JTcf1AkaaYikBa5ehB>*

*The deadline to apply is February 27, 2026 by 5:00 PM.*

## VI. NEW MEXICO/NATIVE AMERICAN RESIDENT PREFERENCES

To ensure adequate consideration and application of NMSA 1978, §§ 13-1-21 and -22, Offeror must submit a copy of its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Preference Certificate or its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Veteran Preference with its proposal. Certificates for preferences must be obtained through the New Mexico Department of Taxation and Revenue at <http://www.tax.newmexico.gov/Businesses/in-state-veteran-preference-certification.aspx>.

In accordance with NMSA 1978, § 13-1-21(H), an agency shall not award any combination of New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences. The New Mexico/Native American Resident Preference shall not apply if/because the expenditures for this RFQ includes federal funds (NMSA 1978, § 13-1-21(J)).

## VII. DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK

Offerors should respond in the form of a thorough narrative to each specification, unless otherwise instructed. The narratives, including required supporting materials, will be evaluated accordingly.

### 1. Applications

Applications must demonstrate how the proposed project will directly benefit Native Citizens in New Mexico and include:

- A. A clear understanding of the Native population to be served and the identified needs supported by data or community input
- B. Integration of both product access and educational programming
- C. A detailed budget with justification aligned to the project plan
- D. A project timeline that aligns with the period of performance and expenditure requirements
- E. Consideration of how the project will reach Native youth in both Tribal and urban settings, including partnerships where appropriate with schools, youth programs, and community-based organizations.

### 2. Deliverables

Upon award, the selected Offeror will be required to complete the following deliverables:

- A. **Project Coordination and Monitoring**  
Participate in at least one site visit and quarterly progress calls with an IAD program monitor to review implementation, progress, and technical assistance needs.
- B. **Timely Expenditure of Funds**  
Ensure all project funds are fully expended by June 30, 2026, in accordance with the approved scope of work and budget.
- C. **Progress Reporting**  
Submit regular progress reports detailing project activities, milestones, outcomes, and

any barriers to implementation. Reports should also identify areas where IAD support may be needed to ensure successful completion and full expenditure of funds.

**D. Reimbursement Documentation**

Submit requests for reimbursement with detailed invoices, receipts, and supporting documentation. Purchases or expenditures made prior to the issuance of an official IAD Purchase Order will not be reimbursed.

**E. Culturally Responsive Educational Resource**

Develop at least one culturally respectful informational resource (e.g., guide, toolkit, handout, or curriculum-support material) that can be reproduced and shared broadly. The resource must:

- Be adaptable for use across Tribal and urban Native communities
- Acknowledge the diversity of traditions and practices among Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes related to puberty and coming-of-age milestones
- Be appropriate for use in community, school, and family settings
- Support continued education and awareness beyond the grant period

**F. Partnership Documentation**

Document collaboration efforts with Tribal communities, urban Native organizations, school systems, or youth-serving programs, where applicable, including the role of each partner and outcomes of the collaboration.

**G. Final Report**

Submit a final report that includes:

- Assessment of the need addressed by the project
- Description of activities completed and populations served
- Impact of grant-funded efforts
- Educational materials produced and dissemination efforts
- Community and school partnerships established
- Challenges encountered and lessons learned
- Recommendations for sustaining or expanding the work beyond the grant period