

New Mexico Bioscience Authority

Request for Proposals (RFP)

BIO International Convention 2026 Travel Grant Program

San Diego, California | June 2026

I. Purpose of the RFP

The New Mexico Bioscience Authority (the “Authority”) is soliciting proposals from New Mexico-based small bioscience businesses for **travel grant support to attend the 2026 BIO International Convention** in San Diego, California. This competitive grant program is designed to increase the national and international visibility of New Mexico bioscience companies, facilitate investor and partner engagement, and strengthen the state’s bioscience ecosystem.

A total of **\$90,000** is available under this RFP, supporting participation through two distinct tracks:

- **Pitch Competition Track**
- **New Mexico Pavilion Staffing Track**

II. Program Overview

A. Total Program Funding

- **Total available funding:** \$90,000
- **RFP open period:** 60 days from the official release date
- **Final awards announced:** April 2026

B. Grant Tracks & Award Amounts

1. Pitch Competition Track

- **Number of awards:** Up to 6
- **Maximum award per company:** \$9,000
- **Participants supported:** Up to two (2) representatives per company

This track is intended for companies selected to present in a BIO-affiliated pitch competition or investor forum during the 2026 convention.

2. *Pavilion Staffing Track*

- **Number of awards:** Up to 8
- **Maximum award per company:** \$4,500
- **Participants supported:** One (1) representative per company

This track supports companies that commit to staffing and representing the New Mexico Pavilion on the BIO exhibition floor for designated periods.

III. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet **all** of the following criteria:

1. Be a **New Mexico-based bioscience company**, with primary operations, R&D, or headquarters located in the state.
2. Qualify as a **small business**, as defined by applicable SBA size standards or Authority guidance.
3. Operate within the bioscience sector, including but not limited to:
 - Ag Tech, Biological Processes, and Sustainability
 - Biotechnology
 - Therapeutics and diagnostics
 - Medical devices
 - Synthetic biology
 - Biomanufacturing
4. Commit to full participation in **one** of the two grant tracks.
5. Agree to all reporting and deliverable requirements outlined in this RFP.

IV. Allowable Use of Funds

Grant funds may be used for eligible BIO 2026 participation expenses, including:

- Conference registration (full-access badge)
- Airfare
- Lodging
- Ground transportation
- Per diem for meals and incidental expenses

Funds may be disbursed as advance payments, reimbursements, or a combination thereof, subject to Authority policies and grant agreements.

V. Application Requirements

Applicants must submit a complete proposal that includes the following components:

1. Company Overview

- Company description, technology focus, and stage of development
- Description of how participation at BIO 2026 supports company growth

2. **Track Selection**
 - Indicate either Pitch Competition Track or Pavilion Staffing Track
 - Describe planned activities and commitments under the selected track
3. **Pitch Deck (Required for All Applicants)**
 - A concise investor-ready pitch deck (PDF format)
 - Deck should clearly articulate the problem, solution, market opportunity, technology, team, and traction
4. **Anticipated Outcomes**
 - Expected benefits to the company
 - Potential economic or ecosystem impact for New Mexico
5. **Budget Summary**
 - High-level budget aligned with the maximum award amount for the selected track

VI. Review, Selection, and Finalist Process

A. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated competitively based on:

- Strength and clarity of the pitch deck
- Commercial and scientific merit of the technology
- Readiness to engage investors, partners, or customers
- Potential economic impact and visibility for New Mexico
- Alignment with the goals of the Authority

B. Finalist Presentations

At the discretion of the Authority, **finalists may be required to participate in an oral pitch presentation** (virtual or in-person) as part of final award deliberations. Pitch presentations will be evaluated by a panel of Bioscience Authority judges and subject-matter experts.

VII. Deliverables & Reporting Requirements

A. Pitch Competition Track

Awardees must:

1. Participate in the designated pitch competition at BIO 2026.
2. Submit a post-convention report summarizing:
 - Investor and partner meetings
 - Outcomes and next steps
3. Provide a short (approximately two-minute) recorded pitch summary for Authority communications and promotional use.

B. Pavilion Staffing Track

Awardees must:

1. Staff the New Mexico Pavilion for assigned hours during the convention.
2. Collect and submit a list of contacts and leads generated.
3. Provide a post-convention report detailing:
 - o Key interactions and outcomes
 - o Lessons learned and recommendations for future participation

Reports will be due within **60 days after the conclusion of BIO 2026**.

VIII. RFP Timeline (Anticipated)

Milestone	Date
RFP Opens	January 30, 2026
RFP Closes (45 days)	March 16, 2026, 5:00pm
Finalist Notifications	March 20, 2026
Final Awards Announced	March 25, 2026
BIO International Convention	June 22-25, 2026

IX. Terms & Conditions

- The Authority reserves the right to fund fewer than the maximum number of awards.
- Awards are contingent upon availability of funds and successful execution of a grant agreement.
- Failure to meet deliverables may result in partial or full repayment of grant funds.
- Participation in the program does not guarantee future funding.

X. Submission Instructions

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the application portal designated by the Authority. Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.