



For Immediate Release

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**NMELC RECEIVES \$2 MILLION GRANT FROM
YIELD GIVING OPEN CALL
NMELC is One of 10 Nonprofits in the
State to be Selected**



ALBUQUERQUE—Mackenzie Scott's charity, Yield Giving, announced this week that New Mexico Environmental Law Center was selected among thousands of organizations across the nation to receive a gift of \$2 million from the Yield Giving Open Call.

"Receiving this transformative gift is a testament to the power of movement lawyering – lawyering focused on systemic change and in collaboration with our frontline clients and

communities most impacted by environmental injustices,” said **NMELC Executive Director Dr. Virginia Necochea**. “It is a testament to our organization’s steadfast commitment to working alongside our clients and their families in our collective fight for clean air, land, and water and in advancing environmental justice across the state of New Mexico.”

“This beautiful gift will allow our organization to take a collective breath for the first time in years and spend much needed time reflecting on how we will continue to advance our work in a manner that reflects our commitment to equity, social justice, to New Mexico, and to the strong protection of our sacred Mother Earth,” Necochea continued.

“We could not be more grateful to MacKenzie Scott’s Yield Giving for this incredibly generous award. I am deeply proud of our Executive Director, Virginia Necochea, and the rest of the NMELC team for their dedication to environmental justice and working hand in hand with New Mexicans to protect our sacred lands,” said **Johana Bencomo, NMELC’s Board President**. “This gift will go a long way towards our fight for clean air, land, and water.”

“Mackenzie Scotts’ very generous award to the New Mexico Environment Law Center (NMELC) underscores the critically important role that NMELC has played in working with overburdened communities to address environmental injustices,” said **NMELC Board Vice President Kristine Suozzi**. “This award will enable NMELC to continue and expand this work to address the increasing demands to make New Mexico a safer and more environmentally healthy state for all.”

“As the only environmental justice law center in New Mexico partnering with communities directly impacted by the devastation of toxic soil, water, and air pollution, this generous award from MacKenzie Scott’s Yield Giving will allow us to keep up this work led by our fearless Executive Director, Dr. Virginia Necochea,” said **Dr. Divana Olivas, NMELC Board Secretary**.

Our sincerest thanks to every single person who has supported and continued to believe in our organization over the years. It is only through the support of our clients, community, allies, donors, and funders that our critical work continues strong and that we are able to provide free and low-cost legal services to clients who are the true heroes fighting for our fundamental human right to a clean, healthy, and thriving environment.

The New Mexico Environmental Law Center has been defending environmental justice since 1987. It is our mission to work with New Mexico’s communities to protect our air, land and water in the fight for environmental justice. At the Law Center, we are working hard with under-resourced communities in New Mexico to ensure that everyone has the same clean air, land and water that every New Mexican is entitled to.

More information about the **Yield Giving Open Call** is below.

Yield Giving has announced the Yield Giving Open Call’s awards working with people and in places experiencing the greatest need in the United States.

In March 2023, Yield Giving launched an Open Call for community-led, community-focused organizations whose explicit purpose is to enable individuals and families to achieve substantive improvement in their well-being through foundational resources.

The Open Call received 6,353 applications and initially planned for 250 awards of \$1 million each. In light of the incredible work of these organizations, the donor team decided to expand the awardee pool and the award amount.

The Open Call was managed in partnership with Lever for Change, a nonprofit affiliate of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation that connects donors with bold solutions to the world's biggest problems—including issues like racial inequity, gender inequality, access to economic opportunity and climate change.

More information about Yield Giving can be found at <https://www.leverforchange.org/challenges/explorechallenges/yieldgivingopencall>

More information about New Mexico Environmental Law Center can be found on our website, www.nmelc.org, on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)/X, and [Instagram](#). Stay connected to NMELC's work by signing up for our biweekly eblasts [here](#).

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