

# New Mexico Grown Golden Chile Awards

CELEBRATING NEW MEXICO GROWN CHAMPIONS  
IN PRESCHOOLS, SCHOOLS, AND SENIOR CENTERS

## What Is the Golden Chile Award Program?

The New Mexico (NM) Grown Golden Chile Awards are a fantastic opportunity to recognize and celebrate the innovative NM Grown programming taking place at preschools, K-12 schools, and senior centers across the state.

New Mexico  
GROWN

## Who Can Apply?

Anyone serving locally grown foods in their nutrition program is encouraged to apply!

- Preschools, K-12 schools, and senior centers implementing programming in one or more of the five core areas described below (note, you **DO NOT** have to be a recipient of NM Grown grant funding to apply)
- Local farmers and food producers participating in NM Grown

## How Do the Awards Work?

The Golden Chile Awards are intended to uplift and celebrate the hard work of all nutrition providers. Every applicant will receive an award, even if you are just getting started with NM Grown-related activities!

## The Golden Chile Awards Inspire Innovation!

Expanding NM Grown implementation and encouraging innovation are program priorities moving forward. As such, there are multiple tiers for providers to be recognized:



**Golden Chile** – program is mature and fruitful



**Blossom** – program is reaching maturity



**Sprout** – program is growing strong



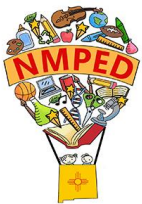
**Seed** – program has potential



## How Are Applications Scored?

The Golden Chile Awards application evaluates NM Grown implementation and innovation in preschools, schools, and senior centers based on five core areas:

- 1. NM Grown Items Available on Menus**
  - This includes purchasing fruits, vegetables, grains, meats, and other products from NM farms, food hubs, and producers. Support your local farmers and serve fresh and tasty foods in your program!
- 2. NM Grown Cafeteria Promotions and Culturally Aligned Materials**
  - Highlighting NM Grown products and producers you are bringing into the cafeteria is important! Eaters have an opportunity to know their farmer and learn more about the foods you are serving.
- 3. Edible Gardens and Outdoor Environments**
  - Making the connection between the foods we eat and the land we live on supports health. Plant a garden at your site so eaters can gain experience growing local food!
- 4. NM Grown Eaters' Choice Activities**
  - Taste tests, culinary challenges, and special events are great ways to inspire innovation and investment in your program!
- 5. Sustainability of Your NM Grown Program**
  - Involving kids and community in your program will make it stronger! Integrating NM Grown into staff trainings and policies and advocating to leadership will help ensure your good work is celebrated and sustained.



## What Do Awardees Receive?

All Golden Chile awardees will be recognized at a statewide virtual awards ceremony in September. In addition, awardees will receive two certificates to promote their hard work among colleagues and students: 1) a beautiful poster-sized award certificate printed with their award tier (e.g., Golden Chile, Blossom, Sprout, or Seed); and 2) a certificate of recognition signed by the Governor!

## Who Runs the Program?

The Golden Chile Award Program is managed and organized by the **NM Grown Coalition**, a network of public institutions, community-based organizations, and individuals working together to strengthen community food systems across New Mexico.

## Golden Chile Awards Timeline

- Application released: **May 23, 2022**
- Applications due: **June 9, 2022**
- Applications reviewed and scored: July
- Award announcements: August
- Awards ceremony: **September 14th**



For questions about the Golden Chile Awards, please contact: **Gabriel Garden**  
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