

Land Grant-Merced Institute

C. Arturo Archuleta, Jr.

Director

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Review of Category 3 Research Centers/Institutes | 6-9-26

Mission

The mission of the Land Grant-Merced Institute is to serve as a resource for Spanish and Mexican Land Grant Merced communities in New Mexico by way of research, technical assistance and programmatic support.

FY 2024-2025 Goals and Status

GOAL 1. Enhance collaborative relationship with UNM School of Law and the New Mexico Department of Justice to advance social justice for land grant communities by providing mutually beneficial learning opportunities between land grant communities and practitioners of the law, including clinical law students, attorneys, judges and lawmakers.

Status: In FY 2024/2025 the Land Grant-Merced Institute (LGMI) in conjunction with the New Mexico Land Grant Council provided research and support to the UNM Natural Resources Environmental Law Clinic, the New Mexico Department of Justice and the New Mexico Legal Aid Land and Water Program with active litigation relating to land grants. LGMI has worked with the School of Law and DOJ staff attorney to plan for Land Grant and Acequia semester long course that will be taught in the Spring of 2027.

GOAL 2. Enhance collaborations with UNM School of Architecture and Planning to provide planning, zoning, community and economic development, and design assistance to land grant-mercedes while providing practical learning opportunities for undergrad and graduate students.

Status: In FY2024/2025 the LGMI attempted to co-hire a undergraduate planning student with the School of Architecture and Planning (SAAP) but due to funding issues SAAP was unable to co-fund a position. The LGMI instead hired the undergraduate student independently and the student has been able to provide limited planning and design assistance to land grant-mercedes.

FY 2024-2025 Goals and Status

GOAL 3. Continue development of land grant related research, education opportunities and publications, youth development activities, student fellowships and employment opportunities and publication of peer reviewed articles.

Status: In FY 2024/2025 the Land Grant-Merced Institute (LGMI) provided land grant related research services to a variety of land grants including the Abiquiu, Torreon, Cristobal de La Serna and San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grants. Institute staff also participated in development of Acequia and Land Grant educational curriculum in partnership with New Mexico Highlands University. The LGMI through the NM Land Grant Council Intergovernmental Services Agreement also assisted with coordination and presentations at two Tribal and Hispanic youth fly-fishing leadership development camps.

GOAL 4. Continue to partner with land grant-merced communities on development of community and economic development projects in land grant-merced communities.

Status: In FY2024/2025 the LGMI supported through the New Mexico Land Grant Council Intergovernmental Services Agreement supported multiple land grants with community and economic development projects including the acquisition of common lands, renovation of community facilities.

Membership of Advisory Committee

- Membership List
- *Advisory Committee for the Land Grant-Merced Institute is in the process of being formed, targeted Advisory Committee Members will include Faculty/Staff from the School of Law, School of Architecture and Planning and Southwest Hispanic Research Institute as well members of the Land Grant Council and Outside Community Partners.*
- No FY2024/FY2025 Annual Review Held.

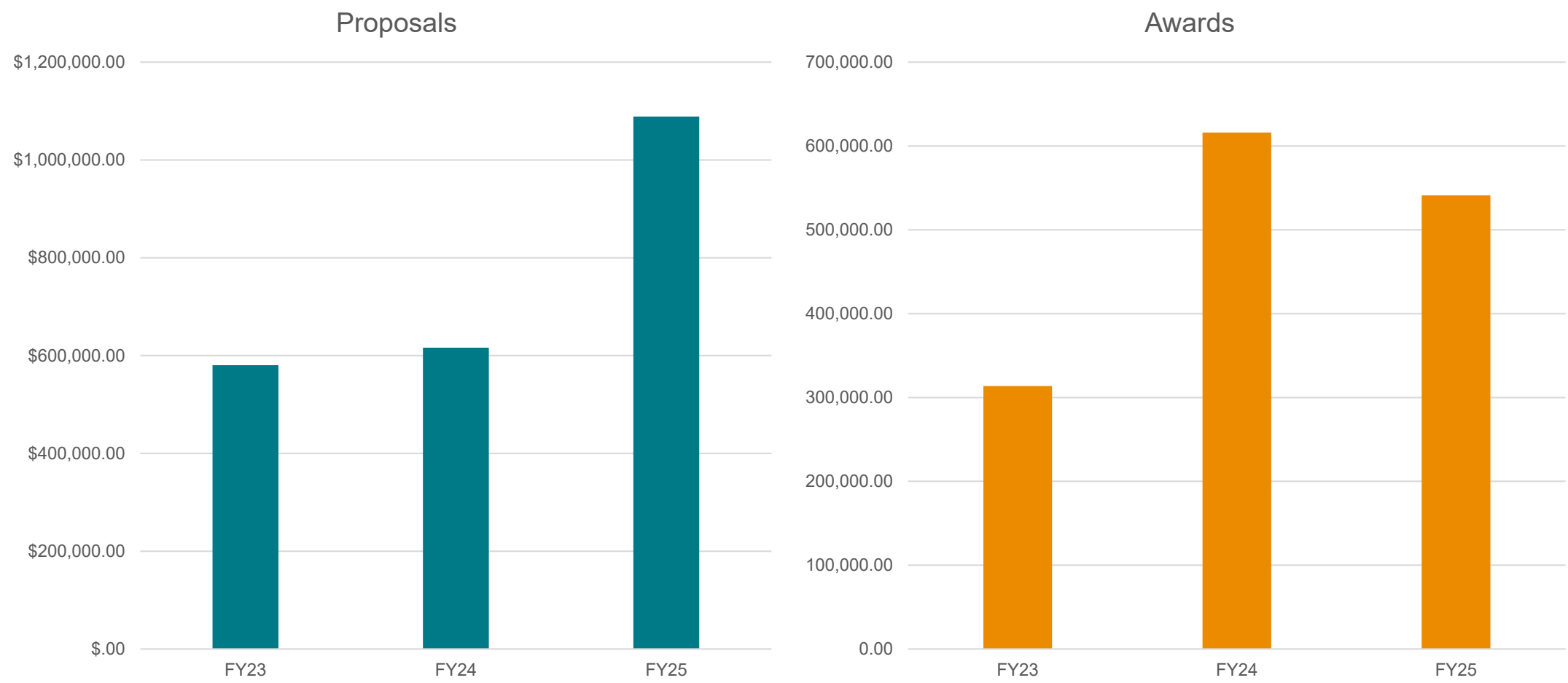
FY 2024-2025 Highlights

- Through the New Mexico Land Grant Council Intergovernmental Services Agreement the Land Grant-Merced Institute oversaw the review and evaluation process for the distribution of approximately \$3.5 million in operating dollars to 19 Land Grant-Mercedes around the State from the Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund, which provides support for their general operating budget allowing them to invest in facilities maintenance, youth programing, natural resources protection, and historical and cultural preservation.
- Through the New Mexico Land Grant Council Intergovernmental Services Agreement, Land Grant-Merced Institute Director Arturo Archuleta, testified before the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Natural Resources - Subcommittee on Federal Lands at the request of Congresswoman Teresa Ledger-Fernandez in support of House Resolution 4284, the “Small Cemetery Conveyance Act”, a bill aimed at creating a mechanism for returning, at no cost, community cemeteries located on federal lands back to their communities of origin.

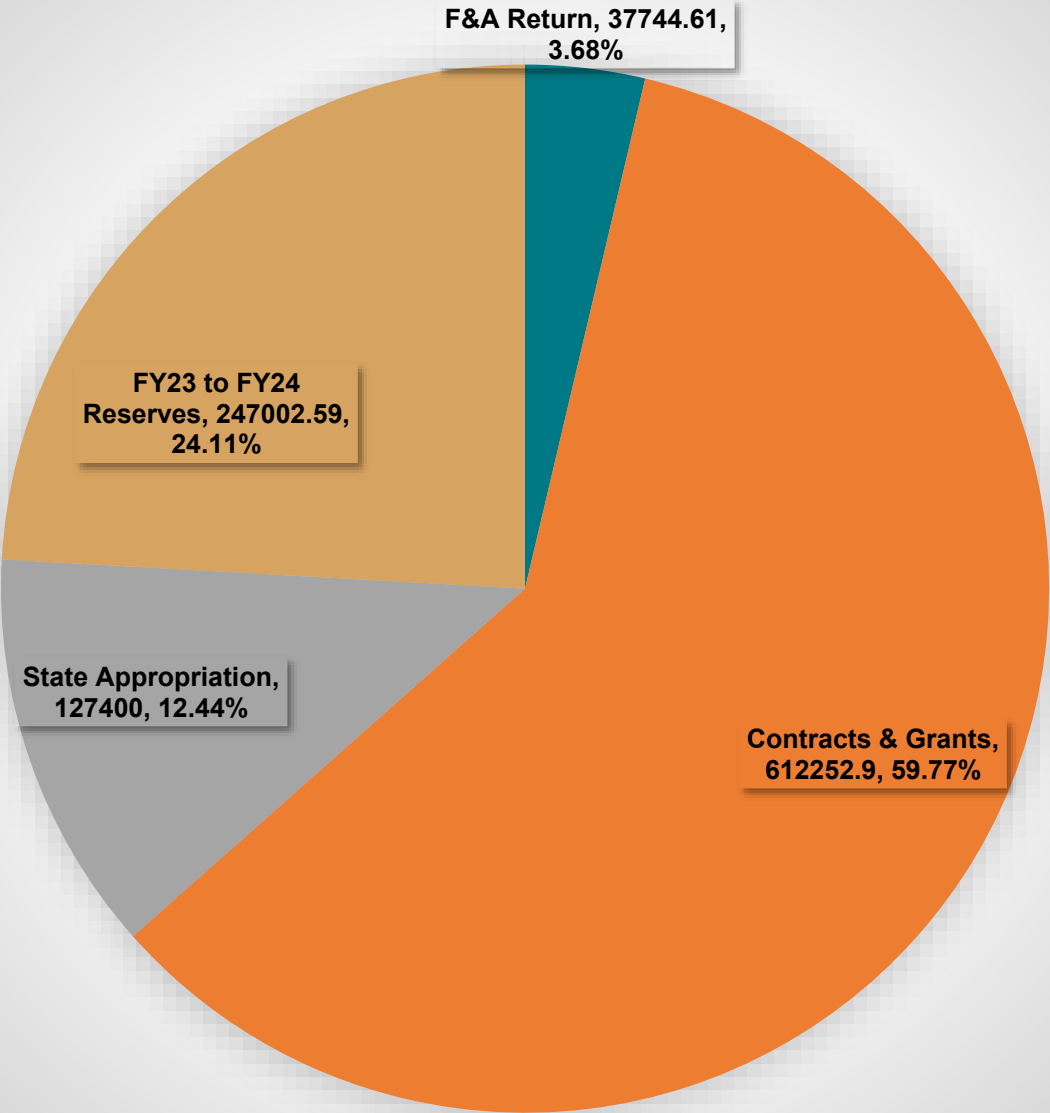
FY 2024-2025 Highlights

- Through the New Mexico Land Grant Council Intergovernmental Services Agreement and in partnership with the UNM School of Law Clinical Program, the New Mexico Department of Justice and New Mexico Legal Aid, the Land Grant-Merced Institute was able to provide legal services and assistance to 7 land grant-mercedes helping them to protect their communities, property and natural resources.
- Through the Land Grant Studies Program, Land Grant-Merced Institute Staff conducted research for 11 land grants including oral histories, historical, archival and genealogical research that helped support historic and cultural preservation, expert witness testimony, and development of baseline data for recognition of land grant-merced heirship.
- Partnered with the Uncivilized Outdoorsman and Trout Unlimited to co-sponsor several youth leadership development fly-fishing camps that targeted Native American and Hispanic youth.

Proposals and Awards



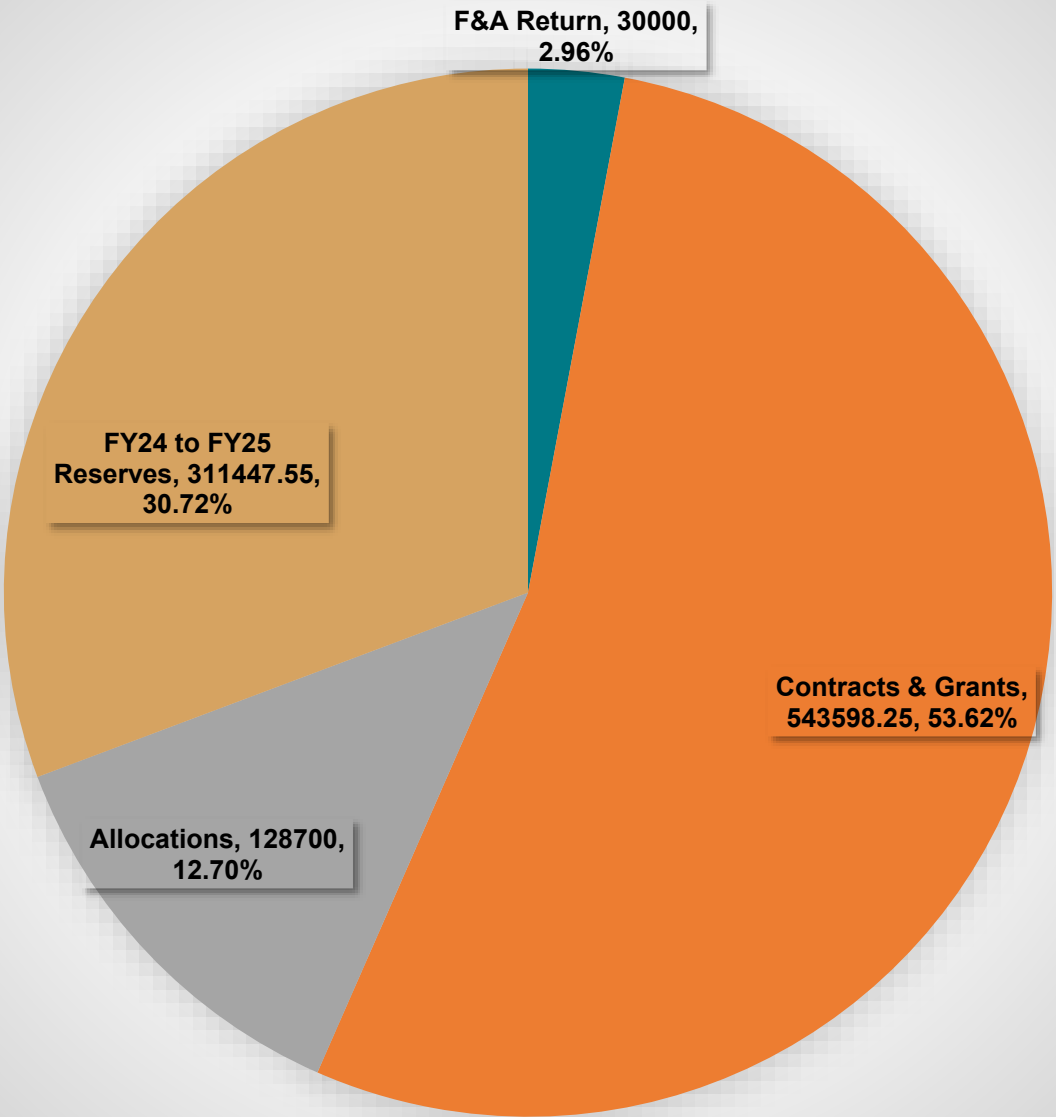
LGMI Revenue Details FY24



FY24 Sources of Revenue

F&A Return	37,744.61
Contracts & Grants	612,252.90
State Appropriation	127,400.00
FY23 to FY24 Reserves	247,002.59
Total	1,024,400.10

LGMI Revenue Details FY25



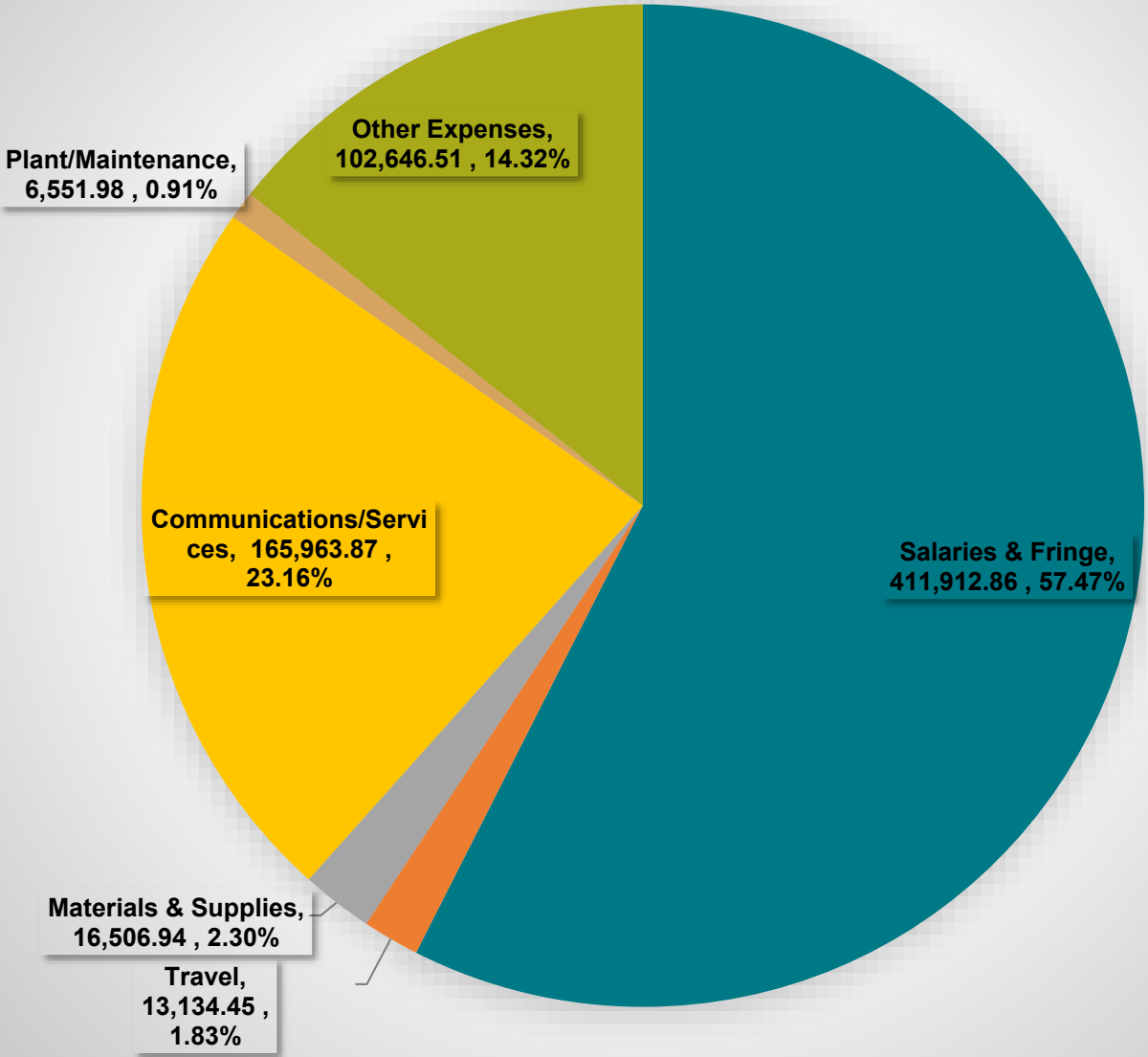
FY25 Sources of Revenue

F&A Return	30,000.00
Contracts & Grants	543,598.25
Allocations	128,700.00
FY24 to FY25 Reserves	311,447.55
Total	1,013,745.80

Research Expenditures and F&A



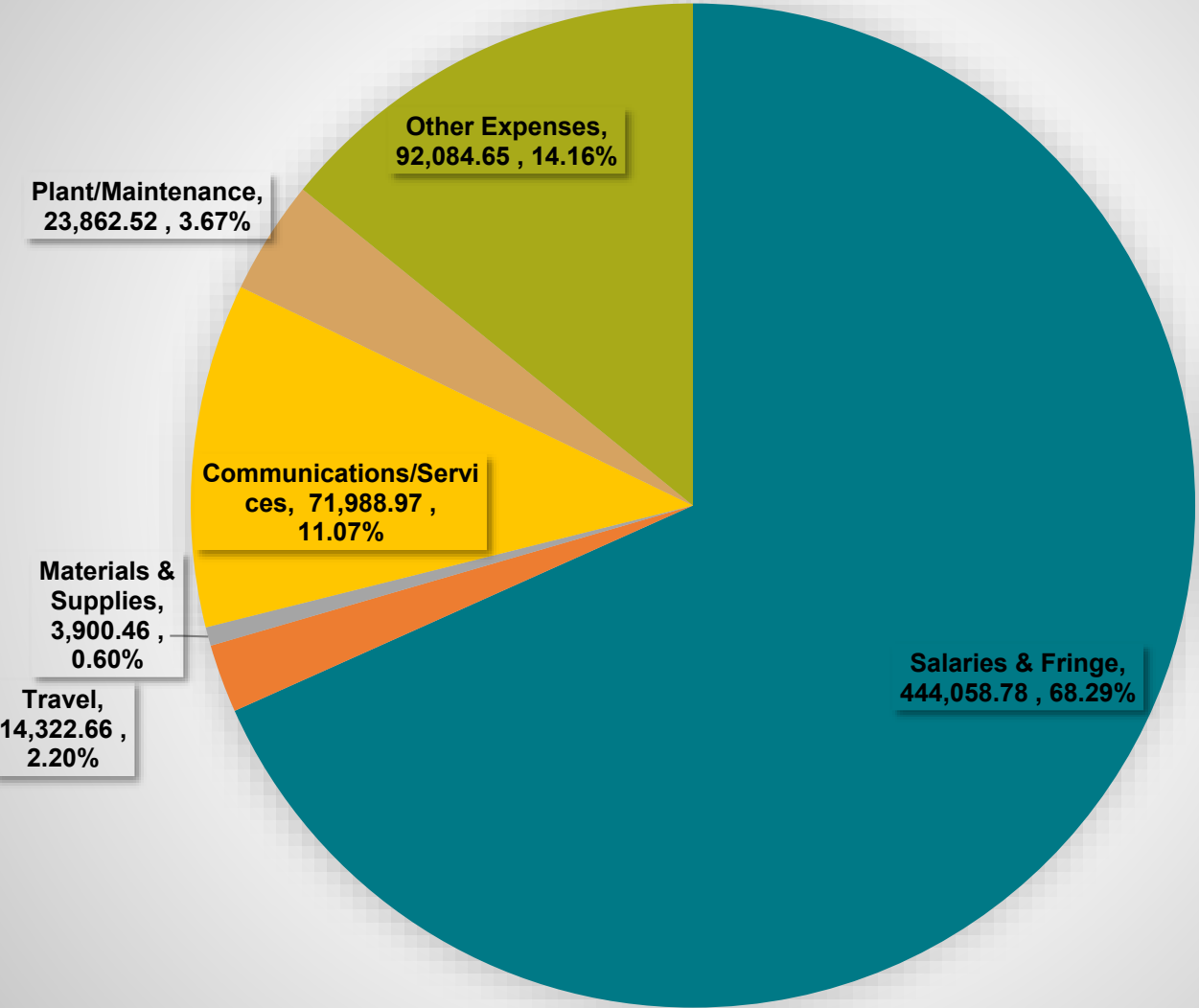
LGMI Expenditure Details FY24



FY24 Expenditures:

Salaries & Fringe	411,912.86
Travel	13,134.45
Materials & Supplies	16,506.94
Communications/Services	165,963.87
Plant/Maintenance	6,551.98
Other Expenses	102,646.51
Total	716,716.61

LGMI Expenditure Details FY25



FY25 Expenditures:	
Salaries & Fringe	444,058.78
Travel	14,322.66
Materials & Supplies	3,900.46
Communications/Services	71,988.97
Plant/Maintenance	23,862.52
Other Expenses	92,084.65
Total	650,218.04

Research Center Impacts

- In FY24 and FY25 combined the LGMI generated approximately \$193,000 in Facilities and Administration Fees for UNM and funded 4.5 FTE at UNM.
- The LGMI provided outreach to rural land grant-merced communities throughout Northern and Central New Mexico, including community development and youth leadership development programming.
- The LGMI provided legal, land surveying, and technical governance capacity support to at least 19 Land Grant-Mercedes.
- LGMI serves as a resource for land grant-merced communities in areas of historical and genealogical research.
- LGMI serves as an authoritative resource for information on land grants to the State Legislature, New Mexico Congressional Delegation, local, state and federal government agencies, and the general public.

Return on Investment

In FY24 & FY25:

- Assisted Land Grant-Mercedes with obtaining and expending approximately \$5.3 million in Capital Outlay Projects funded through New Mexico Legislative Appropriations.
- Digitized over 80 reels of microfilm from the Spanish and Mexican Archives of New Mexico.
- Acquired articles, reports and research materials produced by the Malcolm Ebright and the Center for Land Grant Studies.
- Compiled over 280 state and federal court cases pertaining to land grants
- Made 4 public presentations on land grants
- Assisted with development and introduction of 3 federal bill relating to land grants.
- Employed one undergraduate student.

Community-minded and knowledgeable staff with over 50 years of combined experience relating to land grants-mercedes, state and federal public policy development and analysis, historical and legal research, and program management and development.

STRENGTHS

Funding constraints have hampered the Institute's ability to grow staffing to increase capacity to provide additional services to land grant communities.

WEAKNESSES

Opportunity to pull Community Governance Attorney Program & Commission under the umbrella of the Land Grant-Merced Institute. The program provides loan for service opportunities for third year law students in exchange for services for land grants, acequias and colonias.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Increasing work loads without adequate resources to add staff could lead to burnout for existing staff.
- If able to increase Institute personnel additional office space will be necessary, creating additional space rental costs.

THREATS

Looking Ahead to Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027

Include future aspirations or opportunities for the center/institute.

Examples include:

- LGMI, ARID, SHRI and the Resource Center for Raza Planning are forming partnership to seek research funding opportunities for disaster resilience and recovery for traditional land-based communities.
- Taking over administrative role for Community Governance Attorney Program & Commission will enhance the LGMI partnership with the School of Law and Legal Services Providers
- Potential creation of a Land Grant and Acequia Infrastructure Fund will increase community and economic development opportunities for Land Grants requiring additional supports from the LGMI programs.
- If successful at obtaining increase in legislative funding additional space for future staff needs may be required.

Summary

- **Supported New Mexico land grant-merced communities** through legal assistance, research, technical support, community development projects, and youth leadership programming, while strengthening partnerships with UNM School of Law, the Department of Justice, and other organizations.
- **Managed and leveraged significant funding**, including overseeing the distribution of approximately **\$3.5 million** to 19 land grant-mercedes and generating over **\$1 million annually** through contracts, state allocations, and reserves.
- **Delivered measurable community impact** by assisting with **\$5.3 million in capital outlay projects**, providing legal and governance support to at least **19 land grant communities**, and advocating for land grant interests at the state and federal level.
- **Advanced preservation and research efforts** through historical, genealogical, and archival research, digitizing more than **80 reels of archival microfilm**, compiling **280+ land grant court cases**, and supporting educational curriculum development.
- **Positioned LGMI for future growth** through new research partnerships, potential expansion of legal service programs, and increased community infrastructure opportunities, while recognizing staffing and funding limitations as ongoing challenges.