

Governor's Commission on Disability

FY22 Budget Request

Presentation to LFC on November 16, 2020

Mission

- The mission of the Governor's Commission on Disability is to improve the quality of life of all New Mexicans with disabilities by addressing social integration, economic self-sufficiency, political resolve, physical and program accessibility, and full participation in the benefits of life and rights of all individuals.

Programs:
Disability
Awareness and
Advocacy

- **GCD provides a range of programs to support individuals with disabilities:**
 - Trainings on disability awareness for community members, and more recently for the hospitality industry and medical settings.
 - Quality of Life grants
 - Service Animal Trainings
 - Emergency Preparedness Trainings
- **Current Initiatives:**
 - ADA Certification and Trainings tailored to certain professions (e.g., HR, Facilities Management, IT/PIOs)
 - New Mexico Disability Emergency Planning Advisory Council
 - Hosting a Business Engagement Summit to address the need to hire people with disabilities.

Programs:
Residential
Accessibility
Modification
Program (RAMP)

- **Residential Accessibility and Modification Program (RAMP)** is a statewide program to provide home modifications so people can stay in their homes and in their communities. This program is available to low-income individuals who have no other way to pay for a ramp, accessible bathroom, or other needed modification to their home.
- **RAMP also reviews architectural plans and conducts site visits to advise on ADA compliance.**
- **This program grew from 35 completed home modifications in FY19, to 62 completed projects in FY20.** We would have completed more projects, but the pandemic significantly limited our access to people's homes.

Programs:

Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC)

- **The Brain Injury Advisory Council** conducts studies on the impact of brain injury, improves coordination in the state, and advises the Governor, the legislature, state agencies, and private organizations on the services and supports needed by individuals with brain injuries and their families.
- **Current Initiatives:**
 - Protecting Young Brains: Bike helmet distribution and TBI & Concussion Studies
 - Domestic Violence and Brain Injury Risk: Trainings to DV service providers and healthcare workers
 - Rural Education Initiative: Partnering with UNM and Health Extension offices to outreach to health care providers in rural areas and develop educational videos and trainings about brain injuries and stroke that are culturally relevant and understandable by a broad audience.

Programs:
New Mexico
Technology
Assistance
Program
(NMTAP)

- **New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP)** is a federally funded program to support individuals with disabilities with access to education, employment, and civic participation through Assistive Technology.
- **NMTAP statewide services include:**
 - Device Loans
 - Device Demonstrations
 - Assistive Technology Trainings

COVID-19 Challenges

- **Safely providing services that require in-person contact,** and postponing projects when someone did not want us to enter their home.
- **Cancellation of in-person outreach and education events,** and large conferences that usually bring people from all over the state.
- **School Closures**
- **Due to the pandemic we saw a significant drop in our services during FY20 (March-June), resulting in:**
 - Decrease in the number of individuals who received technical assistance on brain injury from 3560 in FY19 to 1862 in FY20.
 - Decrease in the number of assistive technology equipment loaned out statewide from 580 in FY19 to 328 in FY20
 - Decrease NMTAP outreach presentations, trainings, and events from 354 in FY19 to 80 in FY20.

COVID-19
Solutions:
Adapt
Innovate
Collaborate

- **RAMP**

- Prioritized outdoor ramps
- To minimize contact, asking clients to send pictures and measurements we need to complete technical drawings
- Reaching out to the Aging Network and to Long-Term Care facilities to identify clients who need a home modification to help them stay out of a congregate care setting.

- **BIAC**

- Moved training events on-line
- Partnering with CYFD on a media and outreach campaign for the Protecting Young Brains initiative, emphasizing the importance of physical activity especially now as kids are remote learning.

COVID-19
Solutions:
Adapt
Innovate
Collaborate
(cont.)

- **NMTAP**
 - Offering on-line training events and device demonstrations
 - Utilizing curbside pick-up and mail for device loans
 - Creating a new training series on virtual accessibility in partnership with CDHH, CFB, and CYFD
 - Raising awareness about mental health apps
- **Disability Awareness and Advocacy:**
 - Participation in the *Disability, Access, and Functional Needs Coalition*, created at the beginning of the pandemic to facilitate communication and problem-solving.
 - Development of an After Action Report with input from people with lived experience in the Disability Community to assess challenges and successes during the pandemic.

**FY22
5%
Reduction in
General Fund
Request**

Revenue	FY21 GF Operating	5% Reduction	FY22 GF Request
General Fund	\$1,359,400	\$67,900	\$1,291,500

IMPACT of \$67,900 Reduction:

Uses	GCD Disability Programs and RAMP	Brain Injury Advisory Council
200's	(\$38,100)	\$0.00
300's	\$0.00	(\$7,700)
400's	(\$20,100)	(\$2,000)

Impact of Budget Cuts

- **GCD Disability Programs and RAMP**
 - **\$38,100 in 200's category**, covered by 3.6% vacancy rate. GCD covers a lot of ground with a small staff. We have 5 disability program and RAMP staff positions, and 4 administrative/management staff positions to run the whole agency. Maintaining a larger vacancy rate will negatively impact our ability to meet the needs of our constituents.
 - **\$20,100 cut in 400's category**, resulting in a reduction in environmental modification projects (3 projects at \$6,000/project).
- **Brain Injury Advisory Council**
 - **\$7,700 cut in 300's and \$2,000 in 400's**, resulting in a reduction in funds for research and bike helmets (250 helmets at \$8/helmet)
- **New Mexico Technology Assistance Program**
 - Federally funded program. No budget impact.

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