

NEW MEXICO AGING & LONG-TERM SERVICES DEPARTMENT

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

November 17, 2025

Emily Kaltenbach
Cabinet Secretary



AGENCY OVERVIEW

Programmatic Areas

- 1 Adult Protective Services:** Investigating abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation for adults eighteen and over.
- 2 Aging Network:** Contracting of direct services through AAA's for employment, healthy aging, meals & nutrition, and transportation.
- 3 Office of Indian Elder Affairs:** Leading efforts to support Native elders by managing tribal relationships, administering state contracts, and providing outreach and technical services.
- 4 Consumer & Elder Rights:** Assisting elders, persons with disabilities and caregivers to find the services and resources they need.
- 5 Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program:** Advocating for long-term care residents' rights and ensuring they receive the care they deserve.
- 6 Long-Term Care Services:** Providing caregiver, care transition, Alzheimer's & dementia, and veteran's services.

Agency Mission

To provide accessible, integrated services to older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers, to assist in maintaining their independence, dignity, health, safety, and economic well-being, thereby empowering them to live independently in their own communities as productively as possible.

GAINING MORE OLDER ADULTS WHO ARE LIVING LONGER

New Mexico's 65+ age category is projected to have **the greatest growth of any age group**, increasing by more than 80,000 between 2020 – 2040.

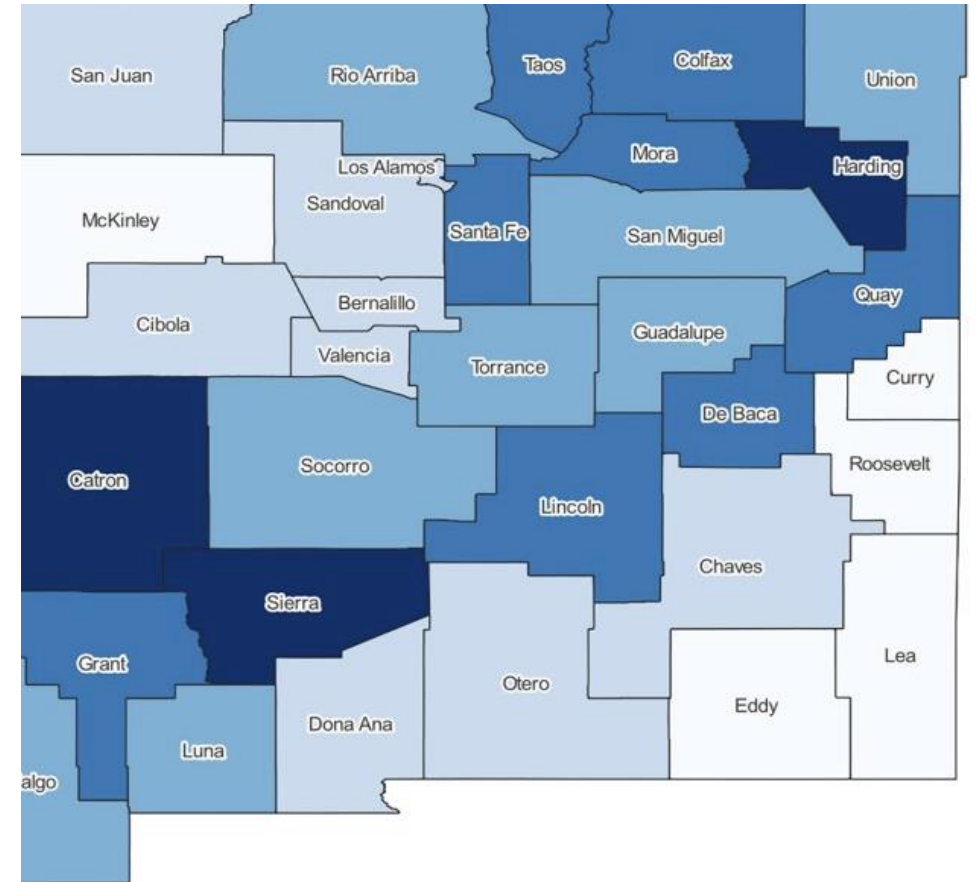
Catron, Harding, and Sierra Counties have the highest percentages of adults 60+.

An estimated **525 centenarians live here**, a **28% increase** from 2020 (410 centenarians).

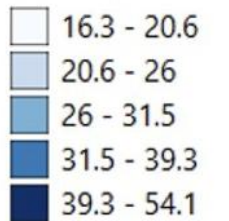
42% of New Mexico seniors have an annual income of **less than \$40k**.

9% of New Mexico seniors have an annual income of **less than \$10k**

A 2024 Older Adults Needs Assessment by UNM showed that **78%** of aging service providers reported challenges in recruiting direct service employees.



Percent 60+



STEPS FORWARD FROM FY25



Internal Strategic Alignment

To ensure continuity of care for our elders and adults with disabilities
– Prevention, Intervention, and Long-term services and supports.
Re-launched the Long-Term Care Division in July 2025



Elevating the Aging Lens

across state agencies.
NM Conference on Aging had participation from 14 state departments
Development of an NM Aging Roadmap



Expansion of Senior Services

Setting the goal to serve 30% of eligible seniors across divisions
Currently serving 22% of eligible seniors
Aging Network saw an overall 46% increase in core OAA services



Protecting Elder Rights

Ombudsman volunteer program grew by 80%
APS reports increased by 6.4%



Increased Investment for Elders of Tribes, Pueblos & Nations

12% increase in investments in TPN operated senior services



Commitment to Caregiving

Increased enrollment by over 200% from the previous year
3-year Lifespan Respite Care federal grant awarded



NEW MEXICARE

Providing financial assistance and training to caregivers who are assisting friends or family members (non-Medicaid; ages 60+) with daily activities as a result of physical or cognitive limitations.

The goal of the program is to allow older adults to thrive in their homes and communities and reduce nursing home placements and emergency department visits.

322

Participants currently being served

31

NM counties

11,456

Estimated caregiver hours

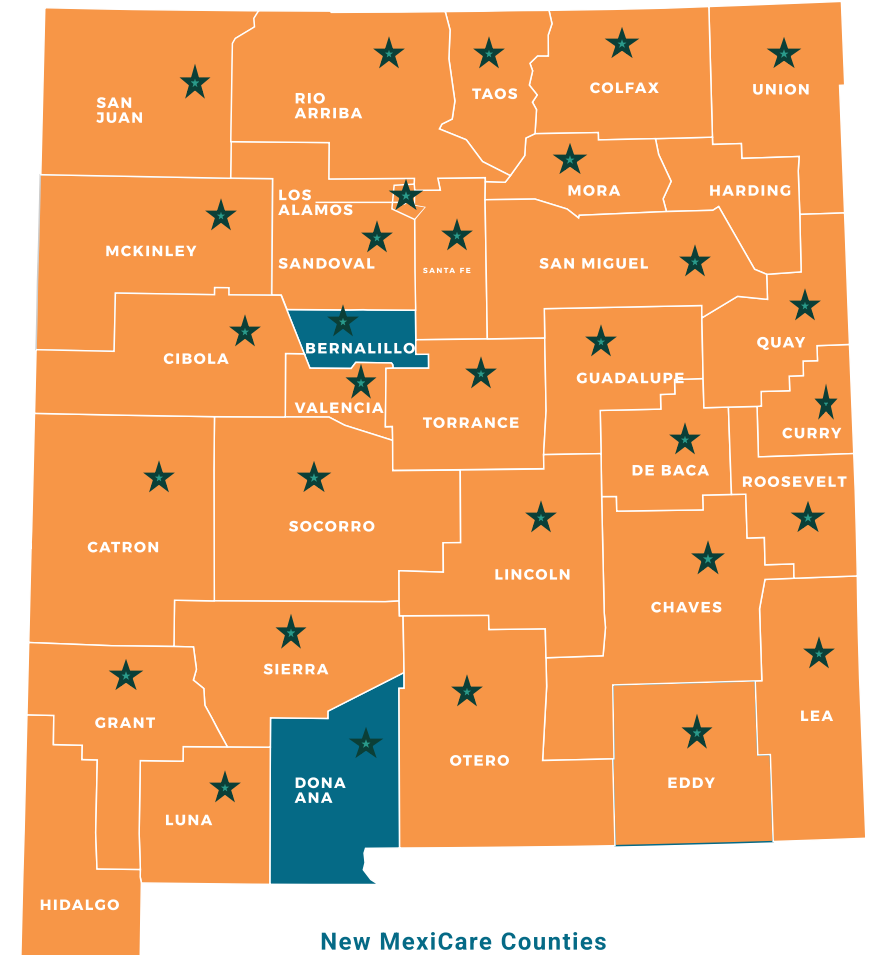
304

Applications in progress

\$14,370

Average annual budget direct to participant

New MexiCare program was rated **GREEN** on the LFC GRO dashboard



New MexiCare Counties
● New MexiCare

BUDGET REQUEST

TOTAL: \$8,202,700 (11%+)



ADULT PROTECTION SERVICES DIVISION

\$1,500,000 (200)

Fund 10-13 unfunded full-time Investigative Caseworkers, and Supervisors for APS, permanently.



AGING NETWORK DIVISION

\$500,000 (400)

\$5,000,000 (400)

An additional 30-35 employment slots for the Senior Employment Program.

To strengthen direct services to Aging Network and to increase participation & attendance at senior centers, including a targeted investment for elders of Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations.



OPERATIONAL

\$519,500 (400)

\$683,200 (200)

Fixed cost increases in: audit, vehicle leases, DoIT expenses, GSD increases, and increases in fringe health benefits.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES – BECAUSE EVERY ADULT DESERVES TO FEEL SAFE

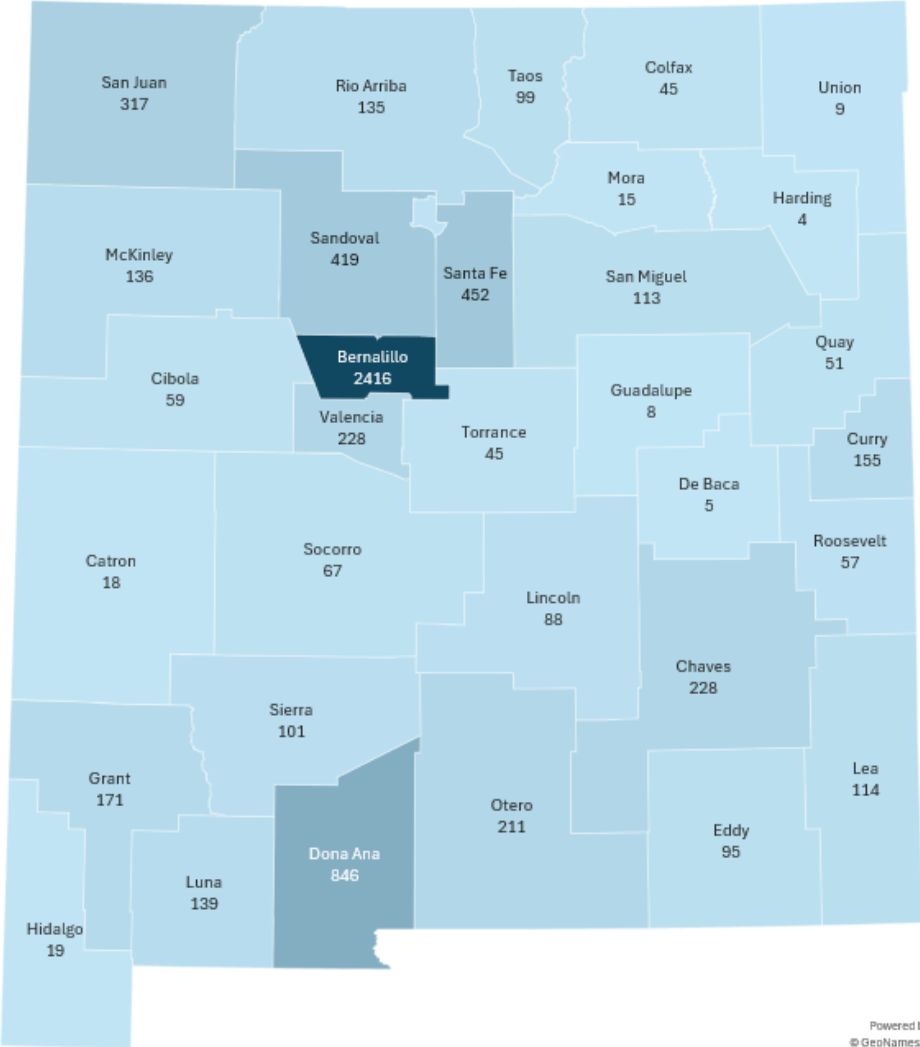
APS Reports

FY23: 12,560 FY24: 14,386 FY25: 15,302 FY26 (to date): 6,908

- Increasing reports across the state year by year
- Increased recidivism of cases
- Increased complexity of client needs:
 - Behavioral Health – Homelessness – Co-Occurring Disorders
- No. 1 investigated report for NM is Self-Neglect
- Approximately 50% of reports related to dementia/Alzheimer's

*National trends show an increase in Adult Protective Services (APS) referrals, with a significant rise from 2016 to 2018 (15.2%) and a 19% increase in referrals between 2019/20 and 2021/22. This growth is linked to increasing awareness of elder mistreatment and a growing elderly population, with self-neglect often being the most common type of maltreatment investigated.

FY26 Reports by County (to date)



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*Adult Protective Services: Background and Funding: Congressional reports or explanatory statements from annual LHHs Appropriations Acts for FY2020-2024 (congress.gov)

AGING NETWORK - SUPPORT AND PROGRAMS

The Aging Network Division oversees several OAA funded programs that provide support and services to older adults across New Mexico. ALTSD contracts with the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to provide services within each of the planning and service areas (PSAs) to older New Mexicans through nutrition education, meals (including in-center, grab-n-go, and home-delivered), transportation, social services and health promotion. The Office of Indian Elder Affairs operates the Indian Area Agency on Aging division within AND.

286,470

Transportation Services
7.5 % increase from FY24

4,191,156

Nutrition Services
4% increase from FY24

156

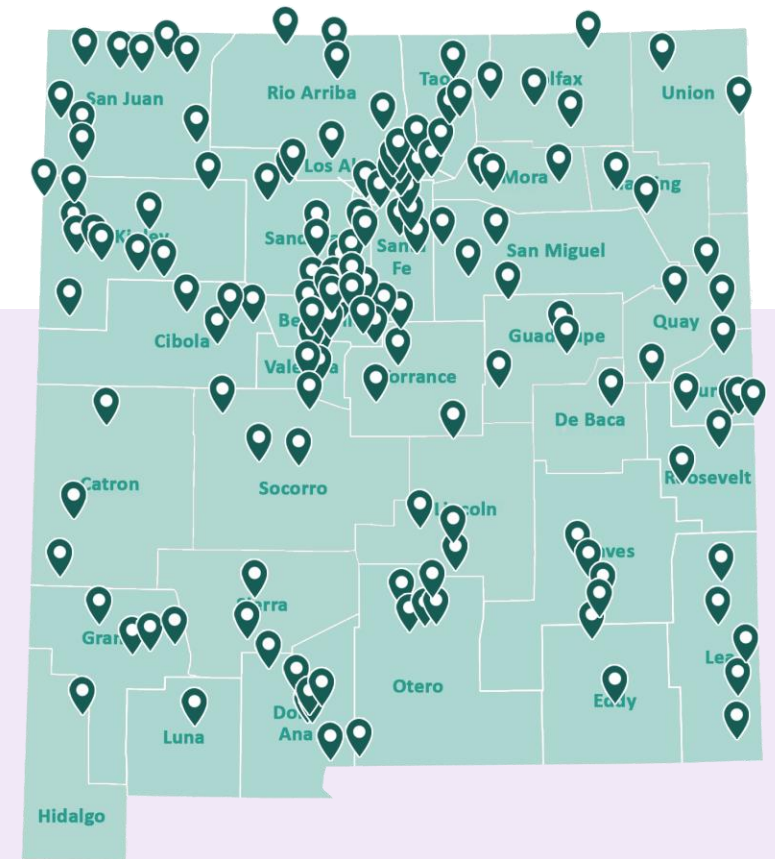
Senior Service Sites in all
33 counties

58

Tribe, Pueblo or Nation
Senior Centers across 10
counties

602,852

Volunteer Hours
32% increase from FY24



SPECIALS BUDGET REQUEST

TOTAL: \$2,600.00



CONFERENCE ON AGING

\$1,000,000

The New Mexico Conference on Aging is the state's premier annual free and low-cost event celebrating, educating, and empowering older adults, caregivers, advocates, and professionals.



OUTREACH AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

\$1,000,000

For the promotion of department services, supports access, and educational outreach to connect the aging population and their caregivers to available resources.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

\$600,000

Emergencies, disaster preparedness and urgent supplemental programmatic needs.

CONFERENCE ON AGING 2025

A three-day conference featuring interactive workshops, engaging activities, and valuable resources.

The conference forges meaningful connections, educates seniors and Native elders, providers, and caregivers from around the state.

1,445

Total Registered

27

Counties represented

121

Volunteers

105

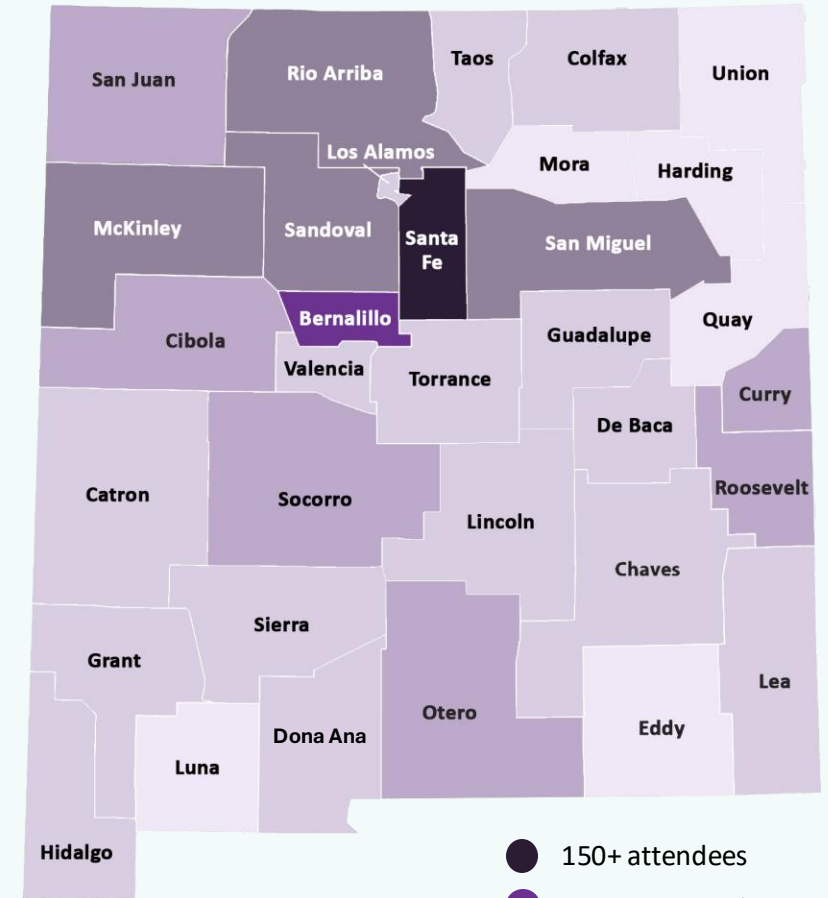
Sponsor tables

76

Speakers/
Breakouts



Conference Attendees by County



- 150+ attendees
- 101-150 attendees
- 36-100 attendees
- 11-35 attendees
- 1-10 attendees
- No attendees

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Outreach and public communication is the bridge between the agency and the public, including the media, legislators, stakeholders, and the communities the agency serves.

Awareness gap: Many older adults, caregivers, and rural residents remain unaware of ALTSD's programs, especially the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Adult Protective Services (APS), and the Aging Network.

Limited marketing budget: ALTSD currently operates outreach with minimal general fund support, relying on aging network partnerships and earned media.

Growing demand: New Mexico's 60+ population is one of the fastest-growing in the nation, with one in three New Mexicans projected to be over the age of 60.

Digital divide: Many seniors are not reached through digital channels, requiring targeted local radio, print, and community-based outreach that costs more but ensures equity.



The graphic features the New Mexico Aging Services logo in the top left. A hand holds a red mobile phone. A red speech bubble points to the phone with the text: "If a caller: asks for your Social Security number, wants your bank account information, or needs an answer now, the answer is". Below this, a large black speech bubble contains the word "NO." in white. At the bottom, a dark blue banner reads "FRAUD can happen to anyone!" followed by a red banner with a telephone icon and the text: "Protect your personal information. Hang up the phone. Report fraud if you become a victim." The URL "aging.nm.gov/fraud" is displayed in large yellow letters at the bottom.



The graphic features the New Mexico Aging Services logo in the top left. A woman with long dark hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a black and white patterned top. To her right, the text reads: "Ombudsmen are **ADVOCATES** who solve problems and represent resident rights in assisted living facilities." At the bottom, a yellow arrow-shaped banner contains the text: "JOIN US. aging.nm.gov/volunteer".

KIKI SAAVEDRA SENIOR DIGNITY FUND – LIFELINE FUNDING FOR NM AGING POPULATION

The Kiki Saavedra Senior Dignity Fund provides vital resources to address the most pressing needs of older adults, such as transportation, nutrition, health care, and caregiving.

Amount ALTSD is authorized to spend \$2,275,000/fiscal year in base budget.

Remaining Fund Balance: \$11,591,366

FY27 – Section 10 & 5 Request:

\$10,000,000 to Kiki Fund

FY27 Priorities:

Behavioral Health

Food Access/Quality, including NM Grown

Caregiving Support

Care Transition/Navigation Support



FEDERAL APPROVAL OF 2025-2029 STATE PLAN ON AGING

GOAL 1:

Administer and expand core programs that enable older New Mexicans to remain in their residence and community through the availability of and access to **high-quality home and community services and supports, including supports for families and caregivers.**

GOAL 2:

Promote equity and well-being for older adults with greatest economic and social need across New Mexico by **responding to social determinants of health, including food and housing security, social support and connection, employment and meaningful engagement, and access to information and health services.**

GOAL 3:

Reduce occurrences of abuse, neglect and exploitation while improving outcomes in communities and long-term care settings and preserving the rights and autonomy of older New Mexicans.

GOAL 4:

Assist Tribes, Pueblos and Nations in accessing Title III funding and enhance coordination between Title III and Title VI programs



THANK YOU

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