NEW MEXICO AGING & LONG-TERM SERVICES DEPARTMENT

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

November 16, 2026

Emily Kaltenbach
Cabinet Secretary

NEW MEXICO AGING SERVICES

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**: Helping elders, people with disabilities, and caregivers 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

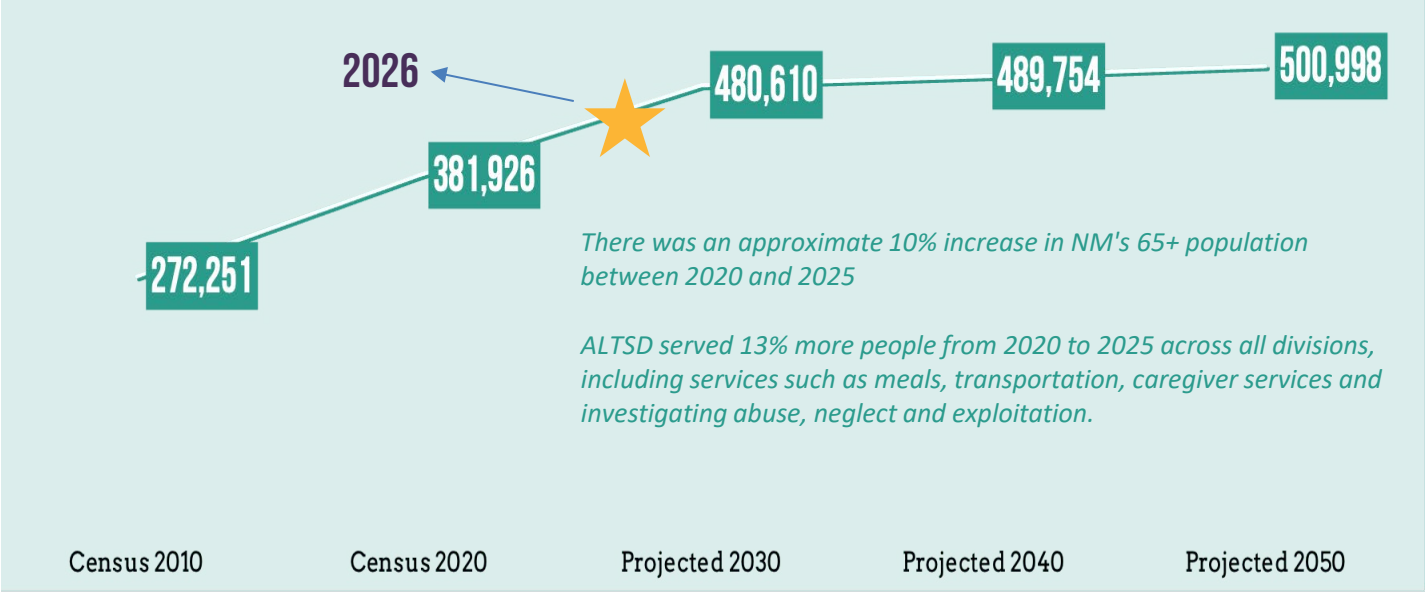
To provide accessible, integrated services to older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers, to assist in maintaining their independence, dignity, health, safety, and economic well-being, thereby empowering them to live independently in their own communities as productively as possible.

NEW MEXICO 65+ POPULATION PROJECTIONS

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).



Source: Produced by Geospatial and Population Studies (UNM-GPS). Vintage: Spring 2024

FY28 ALTSD Budget Request at a Glance



Category	FY28 ALTSD Budget Request
RECURRING	
Program Support	$1,009,900
Consumer and Elder Rights Division	$373,900
Adult Protective Services	$1,500,000
Aging Network Division	$6,366,100
Long-Term Care Division	$9,325,000
Fixed Cost Increase (health, DoIT,etc)	$847,700
RECURRING TOTAL	**$19,422,600**
NON-RECURRING	
Emergency Services	$600,000
Adult Day Care Support	$5,000,000
Outreach and Education	$1,691,700
Emergency Placements (APS)	$250,000
IT Modernization	$250,000
Aging Permanent Fund	$50,000,000
Aging Network Performance Based Model (GRO ask)	$30,000,000
NON-RECURRING TOTAL	**$87,791,700**

BUDGET REQUEST: RECURRING

TOTAL: $19,422,600

ADULT PROTECTION SERVICES DIVISION

$1,500,000 (200)

Fund 10-13 unfunded full-time APS positions. Demand has outgrown APS field capacity; reports have increased +50.1% from FY23 to 12,560 in FY26.

AGING NETWORK DIVISION

$366,100 (400)
$6,000,000 (400)

An additional 20-25 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.

CONSUMER AND ELDER RIGHTS DIVISION

$171,000 (400)
$202,900 (200)

Convert 2 Term FTE to Perm in the ADRC. Current workload exceeds sustainable staffing capacity, while calls are becoming more complex.

Convert 2 Term FTE to Perm in the Ombudsman Program. Ombudsman Program has seen significant growth (FY25-FY26).

PROGRAM SUPPORT

$200,000 (400)
$450,000 (400)
$359,900 (200)

Program evaluation and grant writing support, modernization of our case management systems as part of HHS2020, and transition from the legacy Wellsky platform to Mon Ami.

Additional 4 FTE for IT support, lease/contract specialist, and admin assistants.

LONG TERM CARE DIVISION

$9,325,000 (400)

To replace $3.125 in GRO funding (ends FY27) and make recurring the FY27 $6.2 million one-time funds. These funds will allow New MexiCare to sustain support of 1,000 participants but does not allow for growth beyond 1,000.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

BECAUSE EVERY ADULT DESERVES TO FEEL SAFE

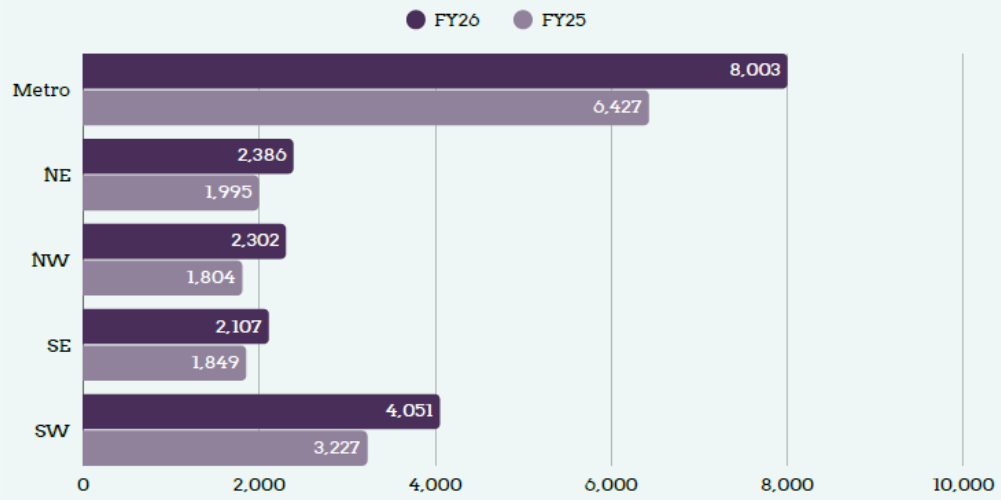


Figure 1: APS reports by region in FY25 and FY26

- **Reports increased in every APS region**
- **APS Reports**: **FY23:** 12,560 **FY24**: 14,386 **FY25:** 15,302 **FY26:** 18,852

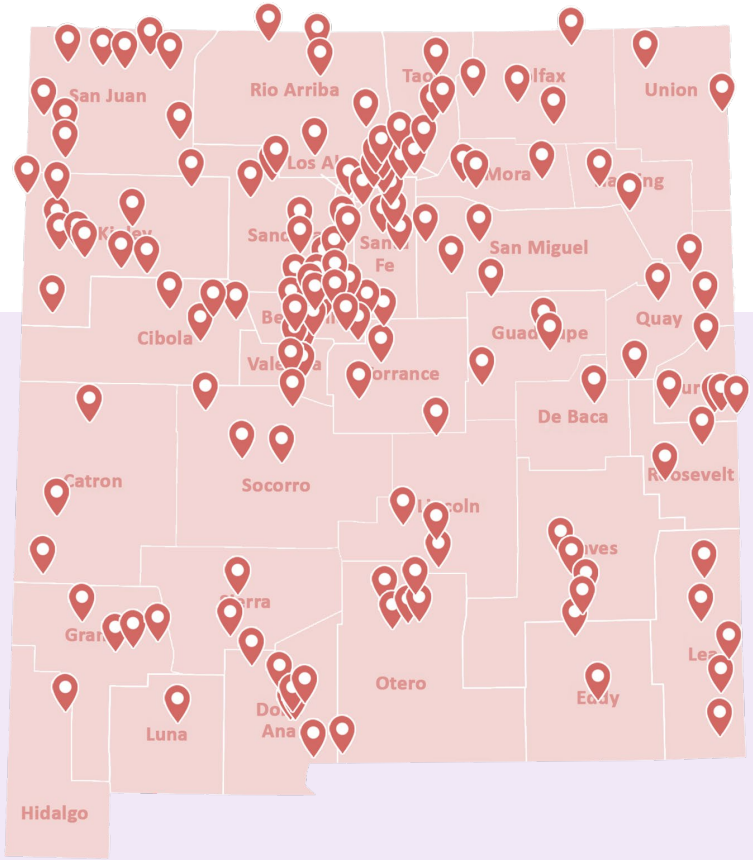
- Increasing reports across the state year by year
- Increased recidivism of cases
- Increased complexity of client needs:
  - Behavioral Health – Homelessness – Co-Occurring Disorders
- No. 1 investigated report for NM is Self-Neglect
- Approximately 50% of reports related to dementia/Alzheimer's

*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.

**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.



307,194

Transportation Services
7.2 % increase from FY25

4,299,913

Nutrition Services
2.6% increase from FY25

589,761

Volunteer Hours
by 3,685 volunteers

156

Senior Service Sites in all 33 counties

60

Tribe, Pueblo or Nation Senior Centers across 10 counties

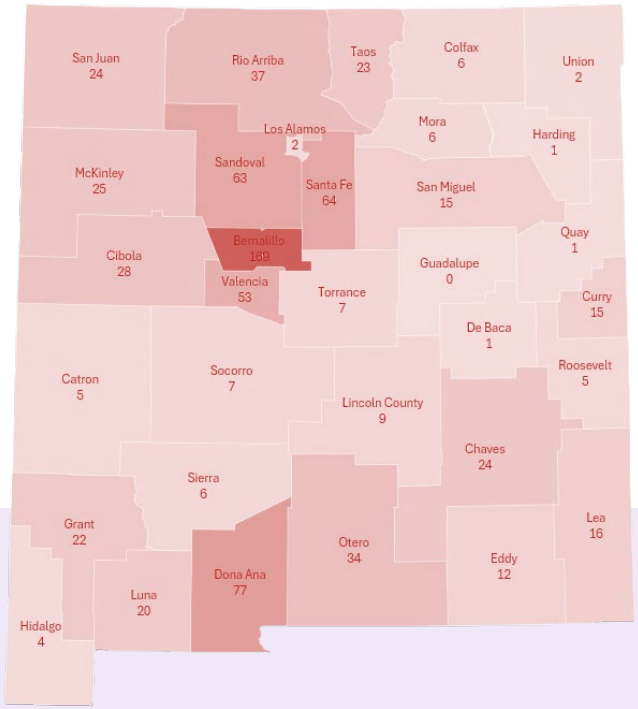
277,059

Caregiver Hours
4.6 % increase from FY25

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.



800

Care recipients enrolled

33

Counties being served

713,232

Estimated caregiver hours annually

216

Applications in progress

$12,080

Average annual budget direct to caregiver

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

> We are barely making ends meet with our Social Security checks. New MexiCare has allowed me to care for my wife following her stroke while also helping us manage the cost of over-the-counter medications and the copays that continue to add up."
>
> —New MexiCare Caregivers

SPECIALS BUDGET REQUEST

TOTAL: $87,791,700.00

PERMANENT AGING FUND

$50,000,000

Initial seed investment for a permanent fund for aging services.

AGING NETWORK INITIATIVE

$30,000,000

GRO fund initiative that supports a performance-based funding model that rewards measurable improvements in participation, service access, quality, and outcomes

ADULT DAY SERVICES

$5,000,000

New Mexico has limited Adult Day Service providers relative to demand. Funds would support new sites, expanded slots, transportation, dementia programming, and caregiver support. $3,000,000 to metro $2,000,000 to tribal and rural areas.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

$1,691,700

For department campaigns to educate New Mexicans on department services, support access, and educational outreach to connect the aging population and their caregivers to available resources.

EMERGENCY PLACEMENTS

$250,000

APS emergency placements costs and utilization of incapacitated adults with immediate safety needs are increasing. In past years, relied on ARPA and federal funds that are no longer available.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

$600,000

Emergencies, disaster preparedness and urgent supplemental programmatic needs.

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.





AGING PERMANENT FUND

$50,000,000

Initial seed investment for a permanent fund for aging services

A dedicated investment that generates ongoing resources for aging services, helping New Mexico prepare for demographic changes while supporting the independence, dignity, and well-being of older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers.

INVESTING IN NEW MEXICO'S AGING FUTURE

Make the Kiki Saavedra Senior Dignity Fund a permanent endowment fund. A $50 million initial investment will establish the foundation for a permanent funding source that supports New Mexico's growing older adult population, strengthens the Aging Network, and helps ensure that older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers can access the services they need to remain independent and supported in their communities.

The fund's return on investment could be invested back into community support services that help people remain in their homes and communities, including:

- Adult Day Care Services.
- Home-delivered and congregate meals.
- Transportation and access to health care.
- Caregiver support and respite.
- Dementia services and supports.
- Tribal and rural aging services.
- Adult Protective Services & Consumer & Elder Rights

GRO FUNDING REQUEST

MODERNIZING THE AGING NETWORK: PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY INITIATIVE

Transition from traditional units-of-service reporting to a statewide performance-based funding model that rewards measurable improvements in participation, service access, quality, and outcomes.

FY28

$2 million
Design & Develop

Establish baseline data, engage stakeholders, develop statewide performance measures, and funding methodology.

FY29

$11 million
Pilot & Test

Implement tiered funding pilots across Metro, Non-Metro, and Indian AAAs: evaluate participating and comparison sites.

FY30

$17 million
Expand & Evaluate

Expand statewide, evaluate results, and allocate performance-based funding based on demonstrated improvements.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased senior center participation and utilization.
- Improved access to meals, transportation, caregiver support, and health promotion.
- Expanded evidence-based programming, partnerships and innovation.
- Improved service quality, cost efficiency, and accountability.
- Greater reach among underserved, isolated, rural, frontier, and Tribal older adults.

WHY GRO FUNDING?

GRO funding provides the opportunity to develop, test, and evaluate a statewide performance model before committing to recurring expenditures. Future recurring funding will be considered only if evaluation demonstrates improvements in quality, participation, equity, and cost efficiency.

BUILDING MOMENTUM AND ADVANCING OUR MISSION

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 42% increase in core OAA services

Expanding Support for Kinship Families

- Implemented the Kinship Caregiver Program to provide financial assistance and support to grandparents and other relatives raising children
- 87 families served in 3 counties

Elevating Tribal Voices and Priorities

- 2026 Tribal Aging Summit
- Strengthened collaboration with Tribal leadership and aging service providers to identify community needs and advance culturally responsive supports for Native elders

Advancing Aging Priorities

- Started in early 2026, the Longevity Ready New Mexico Plan is a 10-Year aging framework designed to elevate New Mexico's aging services and prepare for the needs of a rapidly growing older adult population over the next decade.
- Expected completion in December

Protecting Elder Rights

- Ombudsman complaints increased by 70% - 34% are for Care, 12% are for autonomy, choice, and rights.
- Ombudsman volunteer program grew by 82%
- APS reports increased by 23% - self-neglect and exploitation are the highest number of reports received

Commitment to Caregiving

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







NEW MEXICO AGING SERVICES

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THANK YOU

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