



Report to the
Legislative Health and Human
Services Committee

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Mission

On behalf of the State Purchasing Council From Persons With Disabilities, New Mexico Abilities, a central nonprofit agency, promotes and secures employment for individuals with disabilities; negotiates contracts; educates and trains non-profit Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP) and individuals; promotes the program to individuals, CRPs, and government agencies; and ensures that all members operate in an ethical manner.



Authorization

The New Mexico State Use Act, 13-1C-1 NMSA 1978, is an outgrowth of the state's continuing efforts to expand opportunities for its citizens with disabilities. The Act opens state service contracts, including contracts to provide services to the state, county, city and educational institutions as business owners and entrepreneurs, to persons with disabilities without their having to competitively bid for the contract - so long as the services are provided at fair market pricing.



How do We Work

- ~ New Mexico Abilities operates under State Use Act to broker service contracts between public agencies and qualified members with disabilities or community rehabilitation programs that hire individuals with disabilities.
- ~ New Mexico Abilities membership is free and provides members an opportunity for contracts with public agencies for their services.
- ~ New Mexico Abilities identifies contracts that are sought by the public sector and matches them with their members' skills.
- ~ Qualified members of New Mexico Abilities have a preference under the State Use Act to provide their services for needed public contracting if they can tool up within the timeframe of the proposed contract.



Statistics

The last US Census showed that, for New Mexico residents between the ages of 16 and 64, approximately 38% of the state's men with a disability and 31% of its women with a disability were employed, compared with employment rates of 80% and 71% for men and women who do not have a disability of the same age group.



Accomplishments

- ❖ New Mexico Abilities starting it's 4th year
- ❖ Membership = 105 (includes individuals, non profits and for profit companies)
- ❖ Employment for 397 individuals with disabilities
- ❖ \$6,638,688.04 from 85 current contracts

