Real Cost of NM Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Services Compared to the Nation
(Information obtained from: National Residential Information Systems Project. University of Minnesota 2011)

Setting for care of people with Developmental Disabilities	Institutional/State Residential. (See #1) Costs	ICF-ID/MR Costs	Nursing homes (Using Institutional Rates See #1 &# 2)	Home and Community Based Services (similar to DD waiver)	Totals
National number of people X Average Cost = National Cost	39,622 People in Services Nationally X $226,106 Avg cost = $8,958,771,932	84,870 People in Services Nationally X $148,146 Avg Cost = $12,573,151,020	33,661 People in Services Nationally X $226,106 Avg Cost = $7,610,954,066	616,491 People in Services Nationally X $46,209 Avg Cost = $28,487,432,619	Total Cost Nationally $57,630,309,637 / Total People in services Nationally 774,644 = Avg cost: **$74,395**

National Average Cost to Take care of Person with Developmental Disability	**$74,395**
New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Waiver average cost to take care of person.	**$70,639**
How much cheaper the NM Developmental Disabilities is than the National Average	**$3,756**

1) NM has one of the lowest number of institutional settings or nursing homes that are now commonly used in other States to house the most expensive (highest need) people with Developmental Disabilities. New Mexico has chosen to let these higher need people live as valued members of the community through the DD waiver and not put them in nursing homes and institutions. When these highest need people housed in institutions and nursing homes in other States are accurately included in financial comparisons to the NM DD Waiver, the DD Waiver can be seen as a bargain (see above). Whenever anyone presents information about DD waiver costs, I would think the first question we should ask is "Are the costs of institutions, ICF-ID's /MR's and Nursing homes used in other States part of this analysis?" If not I think we should questions the accurateness of what is being presented. (Please note: these figures are from 2011 before the drastic cuts that are being implemented now were introduced).
2) Average nursing home rates could not be obtained for my analysis. It appears that the individuals in nursing homes would have similar impairments (Care Costs) for those in Institutions/State Residential Settings had they not been dumped into nursing homes. And these Institutional based numbers were used to create a more accurate representation of the costs States are facing.
3) As a percentage of population NM has the 49th longest waiting list in the nation for DD services. **NM waiting list is 900% higher** than the average States waiting list. Resulting in NM having one of the most elderly and highest need populations in the Nation. If the current DD waiting list was eliminated by the Legislature the average cost per person would likely drop between $4000 to $10,000 as a result of the less severe needs of the younger recipients on the waiting list. **Making the NM DD Waiver one of the lowest cost service models in the Nation**. Please contact me at dtsdanny@gmail.com if you would like to comment or if you feel my analysis could be improved. Please feel free to share this document.