

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
491 OLD SANTA FE TRAIL SANTA FE NEW MEXICO 87501



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Karen Courtney Peterson
Agency Director

Susan O. Gray
Chairperson

January 2019

Dear Honorable Governor Lujan Grisham:

On behalf of the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability, it is my privilege to submit our 2018 annual report on the work of the Commission and the staff.

The Commission continues its efforts to educate and inform New Mexico residents and visitors on issues important to people with disabilities. With approximately nineteen percent of our state's population living with disabilities, we work daily to provide technical assistance and training in areas of physical, communication, services and technology accessibility to citizens of all ages.

The Commission is divided into four programs: The Accessibility Program, Information/Referral and Training, The Assistive Technology Program, and The Brain Injury Council.

In Fiscal Year 2018, we performed 136 physical accessibility plan reviews and site inspections, provided 24 home modifications, responded to 3600 inquiries for disability information and technical assistance, distributed 3406 bicycle helmets and helmet safety activity books to children and teachers, conducted concussion studies on domestic violence, provided 253 disability trainings state-wide, and distributed 660 assistive technology devices for use by persons with disabilities.

We thank you for your support of our efforts to serve our citizens with disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Peterson".

Karen Peterson
Agency Director

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New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability

Commission Members

By statute, the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability is comprised of fifteen members: nine Governor-appointed members and six statutory members.

Appointed

Susan O. Gray (Santa Fe) Chair
Curtiss Wilson (Albuquerque) Vice Chair
James Hay (Rio Rancho)
Doris Cherry (Capitan)
Doris Dennison (Yah Ta Hey)
Trudy Luken (Las Cruces)
Trinidad de Jesus Arguello (Taos)
Erlinda Seymour (New Laguna)
Judy Sena (Las Vegas)

Statutory

Aging and Long Term Services, Kyky Knowles,
Cabinet Secretary (Anthony Romero, proxy)
Children Youth and Family, Monique Jacobson,
Cabinet Secretary (Elizabeth Hamilton, proxy)
Department of Health, Lynn Gallagher,
Cabinet Secretary (Marc Kolman, proxy)
Department of Workforce Solutions, Celina Bussey,
Cabinet Secretary (Chris Zafra, proxy)
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Joe Cordova,
Cabinet Secretary (Adrian Apodaca, proxy)
Human Services Department, Brent Earnest,
Cabinet Secretary (Shari Roanhorse, proxy)

Staff

Karen Peterson, Director
Anthony Alarid, Deputy Director
Daniel Fernandez, Access Specialist
Tom Graham, Access Specialist
Dominic Gonzales, Access Specialist
Stan Ross, Access Specialist
Guy Surdi, Disability Specialist
Lisa McNiven, Disability Specialist
Crystal Benavidez, Financial Specialist
Mona Archuleta, Administrative Assistant

Monica Montoya, Brain Injury Advisory Council,
Program Coordinator
Tracy Agiovlasis, Program Manager, New Mexico
Technology Assistance Program
Jesse Armijo, Technology Specialist, New Mexico
Technology Assistance Program
Sophia DeConti, Technology Coordinator, New Mexico
Technology Assistance Program
Erin Gallegos, Technology Coordinator, New Mexico
Technology Assistance Program

New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability

MISSION

The Governor's Commission on Disability is committed to improving the quality of life for 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.



OBJECTIVES

- Increase awareness and knowledge of disability issues among policy-makers and the general public
- Promote access to physical, sensory, programmatic, attitudinal and communication barriers
- Increase opportunities for New Mexicans with disabilities to live successfully in the community with needed services and supports
- Increase collaboration and cooperation among disability related organizations in New Mexico

STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governor's Commission on Disability was created in 1978 under Section 28-10-1 NMSA 1978. Its continuing mandate is to:

- Promote public awareness of disability from a social, political and cultural perspective that focuses on improving the quality of life of people with disabilities
- Educate and encourage public and private action related to community living for people with disabilities on accessibility issues such as employment, housing, transportation, voting, building codes and recreation
- Provide advice and testimony to the Governor and Legislature regarding disability issues
- Focus on disability issues over the life span. The Governor's Commission on Disability advocates for policies and programs that promote inclusion of all people with disabilities into community living in New Mexico.

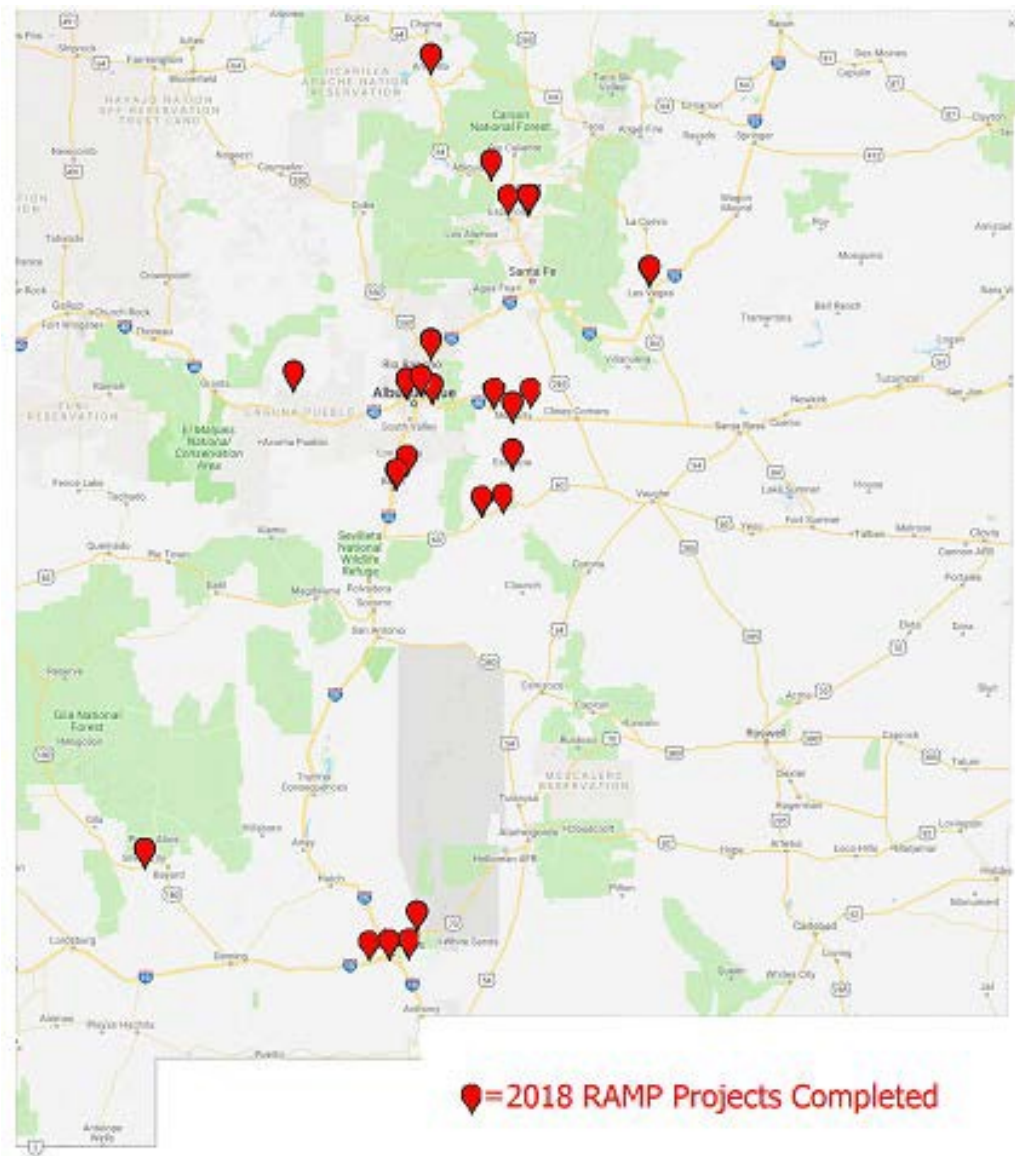
ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM

Physical Accessibility Unit

Physical access is a key factor in providing an equal opportunity for people with disabilities to fully participate in services and programs.

Residential Accessibility Modification Program (RAMP)

In its third year, the RAMP has continued to increase the number of projects completed. A total of twenty-three projects were completed throughout the state during Fiscal Year 2018. This is an increase from fifteen completions during the previous year. This program is available to low income individuals with a disability who are residents of the state of New Mexico. It is a last resort opportunity for those individuals who do not qualify for other home modification programs and have been denied assistance by these programs.



Technical Training

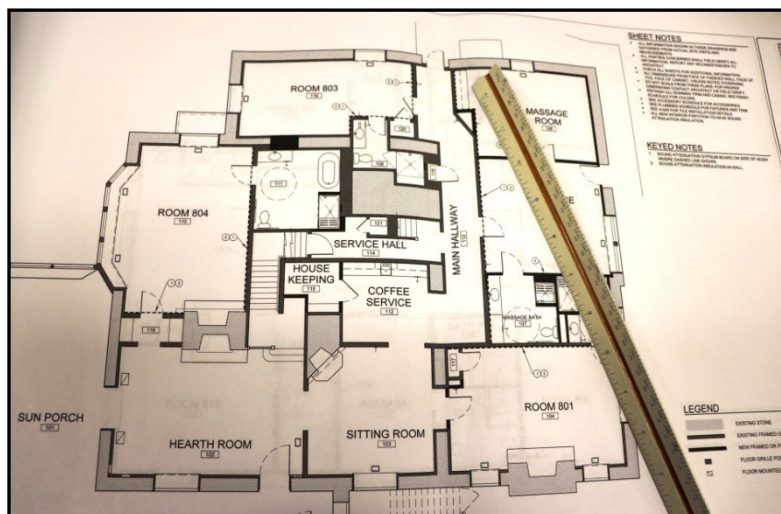
The Governor's Commission on Disability's Physical Accessibility Unit developed and presented 12 technical trainings related to Physical Accessibility and how it relates to current codes and standards. Presentations were provided to Municipalities, State Agencies, Architects & Building Code Officials.

A special Americans with Disabilities Act training was held in early spring which consisted of 2 days of training by a Senior Staff Architect from the International Code Council (ICC).



Technical Assistance

The Governor's Commission on Disability provides disability-related technical assistance to individuals, private businesses and governments in New Mexico. The staff provides information and referrals regarding all disabilities across the lifespan. Staff reviews architectural plans for accessibility on new construction projects as well as renovation projects for all commercial and public works projects submitted to the Governor's Commission on Disability. A review of the plans verifies compliance with current accessibility codes and standards. This is accomplished by redlining preliminary drawings and working closely with the responsible Designer/Architect to correct non-compliant issues. Access Specialists conduct site inspections, when requested, to identify existing access issues in commercial buildings and facilities. Upon completion of any plan review or site inspection, a report is generated documenting all non-compliance items and subsequently submitted to responsible parties.



DISABILITY PROGRAM

Disability Awareness Training

The Governor’s Commission on Disability provides Information on Disability culture, etiquette and effective communication across the person’s lifespan. The training provides information that leads to effective interactions with individuals within the disability community. The inclusion of people with disabilities in facilities, programs and services are also addressed. The training supports a paradigm shift in how people with disabilities are viewed with the use of “People First” language.

Technical Training

The Governor’s Commission on Disability’s Disability Program staff developed and presented a total of 46 technical trainings related to various disability topics including Americans with Disabilities Act Title I & II, Disability Awareness, Service Animals and Emergency Preparedness. Presentations were provided to municipalities, professional associations, state agencies, counties and business organizations.

Outreach, Information and Referral

Information and referral are provided over the phone, in person, by email and through the Governor’s Commission on Disability’s website to New Mexicans all over our state. Presentations and written materials are provided by the Governor’s Commission on Disability’s staff connecting New Mexicans to resources, improving the quality of their lives.

Special Projects

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness is a continuous cycle of planning, organizing and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective response and coordination before, during and after an incident. This applies regardless if one is a person with a disability, a first responder, an emergency manager or an organization serving individuals with access and functional needs.

The Governor’s Commission on Disability has developed and distributed emergency evacuation workbooks and emergency “Go Bags” statewide. In addition, they also participated in full scale exercises called “Vigilant Guard”. These exercises were intended to simulate real life emergencies resulting from disasters, in which individuals with disabilities were involved. As a result, New Mexico is in the forefront, nationally, in its efforts to include people with disabilities in emergency response exercises. In addition, GCD and General Services Department have collaborated on procedures for evacuation of individuals with disabilities from state buildings.



Service Animals

The Governor's Commission on Disability provides trainings to businesses, government agencies and the general public on the Service Animal Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Outreach and education efforts focus on the rights and responsibilities of a service dog owner, public entities and businesses. The Governor's Commission on Disability works with law enforcement agencies, businesses and the public to reduce complaints and conflicts with "fake" service animals or service animals that do not display appropriate behavior in public.



Adaptive Sports

The Governor's Commission on Disability continues to develop an integrated network of support with government agencies, program providers and public/private organizations to sustain, develop and expand adaptive sports and recreation in New Mexico. New Mexicans with disabilities have an opportunity to participate in physical and social activities statewide to improve their health and well-being.

Quality of Life Grants

This small grant program provides limited financial assistance to schools, non-profit (501-c-3) organizations, religious and Tribal-based organizations. The grant's purpose is to expand and enhance services that will improve the quality of community living for New Mexicans with disabilities.

Fiscal Year 2018 recipients included:

- Disability Rights New Mexico: Service animal outreach, education and training were performed in 13 rural and urban locations around the state. Audiences included businesses, government agencies and the general public.
- New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence: Service animal outreach and education training was provided to domestic violence centers, shelters and member organizations.
- New Mexico Direct Caregivers Coalition: High-quality caregiver skills were provided to 100 family caregivers and funding also assisted caregivers in organizing local support groups.
- Parents Reaching Out: Forums were held at 10 locations around the state for individuals with disabilities and their families and friends to participate in a person-centered planning session. These sessions were provided by advocates and individuals who have a disability. These individuals demonstrated the value of living a self-directed life.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Council

The Governor's Commission on Disability chairs the ADA Coordinators Council. The Council provides state and local government with personnel education, technical assistance and policy/procedure development. The Governor's Commission on Disability has made the national Certification Program for ADA Coordinators, with the University of Missouri and the Great Plains ADA Center, available to governmental agencies in New Mexico. The Governor's Commission on Disability provides a scholarship program to cover approximately 40 credits for certification. To date 13 individuals have become certified through this program.

NEW MEXICO TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The New Mexico Technology Assistance Program's (NMTAP) mission is to assist individuals with disabilities achieve their life goals through the use of assistive technology. To fulfill this mission, the NMTAP staff provides many services to individuals with disabilities, their family members and service providers statewide. This support allows individuals access to education, employment, daily living and civic participation. Services include:

Device Loan Program

NMTAP Device Loan Program offers teachers, therapists, case managers, DVR counselors and persons with disabilities the opportunity to sample assistive devices/software prior to purchase. The short-term assistive technology device loan program provides trial of equipment for real life application by the user.

Trainings

NMTAP provides groups of professionals and individuals with disabilities training on assistive technology equipment, software and applicable services. A two-day conference and several one-day conferences are held annually statewide. During fiscal year 2018, NMTAP conducted a total of 178 trainings.

Demonstrations

NMTAP provides both professionals and individuals with disabilities, demonstrations on all types of assistive technology devices and software. This hands-on experience identifies the most practical and efficient technology solutions that match the user's needs.



Re-utilization

The Equipment Re-Use program refurbishes gently used durable medical equipment and computers that have been donated. These assistive technology devices are offered to individuals with disabilities who have no other options. NMTAP disability agency partner, Adelante Development Center provides this service through the Back-In-Use and Diverse IT program.

Financial Loans

NMTAP, through San Juan Independence Center, who provides this service offers low interest financial loans to individuals with disabilities statewide. The ACCESS loan program is for anyone that has no other options of obtaining needed assistive technology. The SEED loan program is for Self-Employment of Entrepreneurs with Disabilities. It can provide equipment to either start or expand their personal business.

Technical Assistance

NMTAP can assist any agency to create a system change that improves inclusion for people with disabilities, including the assistive technology devices or digital accessibility.

The NMTAP Advisory Council advises the Governor's Commission on Disability and its staff on issues related to disabilities and the availability of assistive technology program improvements. It also assists in services outreach across the state. The Advisory Council is made up mostly of individuals living with disabilities who use technology to meet a variety of challenges.



BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC) is composed of between 18 and 24 individuals appointed by the Governor from all areas of the state. The BIAC advises the Governor's Commission on Disability regarding issues concerning individuals living with brain injuries. Members of the council include individuals with brain injuries, family members, healthcare professionals, and other agency professionals.



The council studies and makes recommendations to the Governor's Commission on Disability, and other entities concerning case management, community support systems, long-term services, employment, emergency medical services, rehabilitation, prevention and the improvement and coordination of state activities relative to the concerns of persons with brain injuries and their families or other caregivers.

Children's Helmet Safety Program

The Brain Injury Advisory Council is engaged with a children's bicycle helmet distribution program promoting safety, the law and brain injury prevention. In fiscal year 2018 a total of 3,406 bicycle helmets were distributed to children ages 3-14. Visits and completion of distribution to all 33 counties in New Mexico was completed in FY 18.

Brain Injury Studies

The Brain Injury Advisory Council engages in research needs assessments related to concussions and utilizes this information to make recommendations about the activities and services for people with brain injuries. A survey among the domestic violence service providers throughout New Mexico analyzed the practices addressing concussions, traumatic brain injuries, resources utilized and the need for education and training. Survey results indicated a need for the following: 1) training for domestic violence agencies on the signs and symptoms of Traumatic Brain Injuries 2) education on the connection between Traumatic Brain Injuries/Concussions and choking and 3) the similarities and differences between depression and Traumatic Brain Injuries. Two other recommendations of the survey were to standardize screening tools and, to introduce the HELPs Screening Tool for Traumatic Brain Injury to the domestic violence agencies. A study regarding the availability of neuropsychological testing in New Mexico indicated there is an average wait time of 3.2 months for an appointment for neuropsychological testing and there are a limited number of providers with the majority located in the major cities.



Brain Injury Prevention Outreach

The Brain Injury Advisory Council promotes prevention and increased public awareness for the purpose of decreasing the incidence of preventable brain injuries. The BIAC held workgroup meetings to discuss Health Insurance Coverage for Post-Acute Care Services for people with brain injury. The group collaborated with insurance providers and brain injury groups in New Mexico. The BIAC also hosted a public forum to gather input regarding service needs. Support groups were the number one need identified. In addition, the BIAC collaborated with the University of New Mexico's Brain

Behavioral Health Institute to host a facilitated discussion about the brain injury system of care in New Mexico. The top priority identified was the need to have a one-stop access for resources.

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended June 30, 2018**

EXPENSES

General government:	
Personal services and employee benefits	\$ 968,641
Contractual Services	204,254
Other costs	442,131
Depreciation	<u>9,760</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES 1,624,786

PROGRAM REVENUE

Federal Grants	<u>440,620</u>
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TOTAL PROGRAM REVENUE 440,620

NET PROGRAM EXPENSES (1,184,166)

GENERAL REVENUES AND TRANSFERS

State general fund appropriation	1,167,300
Reversions to state general fund	(1,441)
Miscellaneous revenue	103
Stale dated warrants	<u>277</u>

TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES AND TRANSFERS 1,166,239

CHANGE IN NET POSITION (17,927)

NET POSITION, BEGINNING OF YEAR 361,843

NET POSITION, ENDING OF YEAR 343,916

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
BALANCE SHEET-GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
June 30, 2018**

ASSETS	General Funds
Investment in SGFIP	\$ 433,299
Accounts receivable	<u>7,432</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 440,731</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	
Liabilities	
Account payable	25,011
Accrued payroll	<u>37,224</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 62,235</u>
Fund Balances	
Restricted for NMTAP	96,763
Unassigned	<u>281,733</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>378,496</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 440,731</u>



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www.gcd.state.nm.us 877-696-1470