

2019 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

Anthony Alarid
Interim Director

Susan O. Gray
Chairperson

January 2020

Dear Honorable Governor Lujan Grisham,

On behalf of the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability, it is my honor to submit our 2019 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, our work focuses on providing technical assistance and training in areas of physical, communication, services and technology accessibility to citizens of all ages.

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

In Fiscal Year 2019, we performed 167 physical accessibility plan reviews and site inspections, provided 35 home modifications, responded to 5,627 inquiries for disability information and technical assistance, and distributed 3,630 bicycle helmets and helmet safety activity books to children and teachers. We also contracted with University of New Mexico to conduct a concussion study related to domestic violence, provided 147 disability trainings state-wide, and distributed 597 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 "Anthony Alarid".

Anthony Alarid
Agency Interim Director

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New Mexico

Governor's Commission on Disability

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

Commission 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, Katrina Hotrum-Lopez,
Cabinet Secretary (Anthony Romero, proxy)
Children Youth and Family, Brian Blalock,
Cabinet Secretary (Elizabeth Hamilton, proxy)
Department of Health, Kathy Kunkel,
Cabinet Secretary (Marc Kolman, proxy)
Department of Workforce Solutions, Bill McCamley,
Cabinet Secretary (Chris Zafra, proxy)
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation,
Executive Director Diane Mourning Brown
Human Services Department, David Scrase, MD
Cabinet Secretary (Shari Roanhorse, proxy)

Staff

Karen Peterson, Director
Anthony Alarid, Interim Director/Deputy Director
Tom Graham, Access Specialist
Dominic Gonzales, Access Specialist
Stan Ross, Access Specialist
Guy Surdi, Disability Specialist
Lisa McNiven, Disability Specialist
Crystal Benavidez, Financial Specialist
Antoinette Chaves, Administrative Assistant

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
Maurice Alvarez, Technology Coordinator
New Mexico Technology Assistance Program
Deborah Wieclaw, AgrAbility Specialist
New Mexico Technology Assistance Program
Monica Montoya, Program Coordinator
Brain Injury Advisory Council

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 the elimination of barriers that limit physical, sensory, programmatic, attitudinal and communication access
- 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

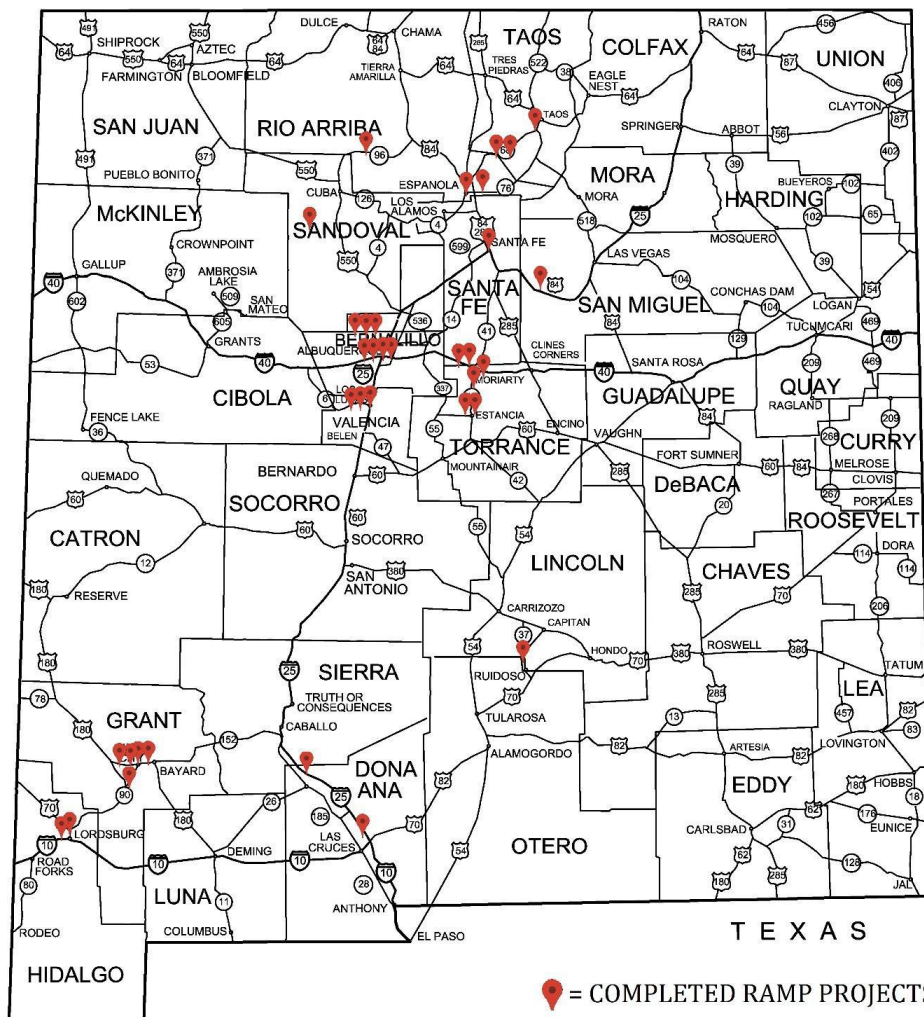
ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM

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 fourth year, the demand for the RAMP has significantly increase. The number of projects completed continues to rise. A total of thirty-five projects were completed throughout the state during Fiscal Year 2019. This is an increase from twenty-three completions during the previous year. This program is available to low income individuals with a disability who are residents 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 Physical Accessibility Unit developed and provided twelve technical trainings related to Physical Accessibility and how it relates to current codes and standards. Presentations were provided to Municipalities, State Agencies, Architects, and Building Code Officials.



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 in regards to all disabilities across the lifespan. Staff reviews architectural plans for accessibility on new construction 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 making revisions to 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

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 program staff connecting New Mexicans to resources and improving the quality of their lives.

Trainings

The Disability Program staff developed and presented a total of 48 technical trainings related to various disability topics including Americans with Disabilities Act Title I and II, Disability Awareness, Service Animals and Emergency Preparedness and Access to Healthcare Facilities. Presentations were provided to municipalities, professional associations, state agencies, counties and business organizations.

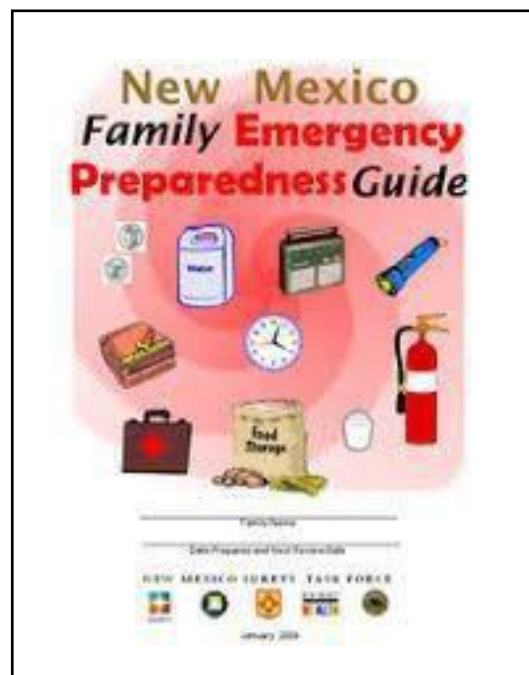
Disability Awareness Training

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.

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, we have provided emergency preparedness presentations to the Disability Community on emergency preparedness issues. Presentations are developed from the perspective of people with disabilities to inform the Emergency Management/First Responder communities statewide.



The Governor's Commission on Disability has participated in forming the New Mexico Disability Emergency Planning Advisory Council (NMDEPAC). This was done in conjunction with the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, New Mexico Department of Health, and the U.S. Office of Disability Integration and Coordination under FEMA. The Governor's Commission on Disability has included individuals with disabilities who are interested in emergency preparedness policies and procedures to have a seat on the NMDEPAC.



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.

PROJECTS

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 of all ages 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 2019 recipients were:

- **Healing America's Heroes:** Provide recreational camps for veterans with disabilities. Activities include fly-fishing, fly-tying, equine therapy and life skills facilitation.
- **The Ability Center:** Provide opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in community events. A list of events is distributed monthly to the public. Free bus tickets are provided in addition to movie passes to further social integration.
- **Carrie Tingley Hospital Foundation:** Increase the availability and participation in adaptive sports activities through recreation camps and clinics. These camps and clinics continue to be made available to children with disabilities in San Juan and Dona Ana counties.

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, together with the University of Missouri and the Great Plains ADA Center, available to governmental agencies in New Mexico. The Governor's Commission on Disability funds a scholarship program that covers forty-one credit hours required for certification. To date, through this program, twenty-three individuals have become nationally certified as an ADA Coordinator.

NEW MEXICO TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The New Mexico Technology Assistance Program's (NMTAP) mission is to assist individuals with disabilities to achieve their life goals through the use of Assistive Technology (AT). 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 AT devices/software prior to purchase. The short-term AT device loan program provides trial of equipment for real life application by the user. This year, 597 devices were loaned to 217 individuals statewide, with most of them deciding to purchase the devices.



Device Demonstrations

NMTAP provides individuals with disabilities, along with their advocates, demonstrations on AT devices and software. This hands-on experience allows the individual with a disability to identify the most practical and efficient technology solutions that will assist them in meeting their goals. This year, 237 individuals with disabilities benefitted from a demonstration, with the support of NMTAP staff along with 54 advocates.

Re-utilization

The Equipment Re-Use program refurbishes gently used durable medical equipment and computers that have been donated. These AT 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 DiverselT program. This year, 1548 pieces of durable medical equipment and 244 computers were provided to 1117 individuals with disabilities.

Financial Loans

NMTAP, through San Juan Independence Center, offers low interest financial loans to individuals with disabilities statewide through two loan programs: The ACCESS Loan program is for anyone that has no other options of obtaining needed AT. The SEED Loan program is for Self-Employment of Entrepreneurs with Disabilities to purchase equipment when starting or expanding their personal business. This year, 21 individuals with disabilities received loans through these programs combined.

Trainings and Events

NMTAP provides groups of professionals and individuals with disabilities training on AT equipment, software and applicable services. A two-day conference in Albuquerque and several one-day conferences in rural areas are conducted annually. During fiscal year 2019, NMTAP trained 1365 people at 83 conferences. We also participated in 35 additional events statewide and provided direct assistance to 2439 individuals.

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.

AgrAbility Project

NMTAP, as a grant partner with New Mexico State University Extension Services, now provides AT assessments to farmers or ranchers with disabilities in order to allow them to continue or to increase food production statewide. Trainings in agricultural AT and adapted processes are also offered statewide.

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 procures 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 continues to manage a children's bicycle helmet distribution program promoting safety, the law and brain injury prevention. In fiscal year 2019 a total of 3536 bicycle helmets were distributed to children ages 3-17.



Brain Injury Studies

The Brain Injury Advisory Council engages in research needs assessments related to concussions. It utilizes this information to make recommendations regarding activities and services for people with brain injuries. Data pertaining to the incidence of brain injuries within New Mexico was recently updated. This data analyzed the incidence, causes and impact of brain injury death, hospitalization and emergency department visits. It indicates that the mortality rate due to traumatic brain injury (TBI) has increased along with the number of hospitalizations due to TBI. The data also showed that Medicare and Medicaid were the primary payees for the majority of hospitalization costs. Emergency room visits due to TBI varied in number. One significant limitation with this report is that the data does not include head injuries that lead to provider office visits.

Brain Injury Education and Prevention Outreach

The Brain Injury Advisory Council promotes education, prevention and increased public awareness for the purpose of decreasing the incidence of preventable brain injuries. A training on brain injury was administered to domestic violence providers. The training included the basics of brain injury, the connection of brain injury with domestic violence and strangulation, how to screen for brain injury and the connection between depression and brain injury. A post training evaluation included recommendation to: lengthen the training, include strategies to support people with brain injuries, include assessments for co-occurring conditions, expand the training to reach more stakeholders and work on the capacity to treat victims of domestic violence with co-occurring brain injury.

The BIAC sponsored an educational exhibit about the brain at the Museum of Natural History and Science that was featured for an eight month period. The BIAC also participated in work groups to secure additional funding for brain injury services during the 2019 legislative session. Throughout the session the BIAC provided extensive technical support along with testimony in support of increasing funding for services for people with brain injuries in New Mexico. As a result, \$50,000 was allocated to the Brain Injury Service Fund.

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019**

Expenses	
General government	\$1,699,839
Depreciation	<u>\$ 4,658</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,704,524</u>
Revenues	
Federal Grants	\$ 432,368
Miscellaneous	-
Total Program Expenses	<u>\$1,272,156</u>
General Revenues and Transfers	
State general fund appropriation	\$1,218,000
Reversions to state general fund	\$ (1,392)
Other Financing Sources	<u>\$ 12,800</u>
Total General Revenues and Transfers	<u>\$1,229,408</u>
Changes in net position	<u>\$ (42,748)</u>
Net position, beginning of year	<u>\$ 343,916</u>
Net position, end of year	<u>\$ 301,168</u>

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
BALANCE SHEET-GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
June 30, 2019

Assets

Investment in SGFIP	\$ 319,453
Accounts receivable	<u>\$ 152,835</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 472,288</u>

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Liabilities

Cash overdraft	\$ 36,041
Account payable	\$ 68,507
Accrued payroll	\$ 39,938
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 144,486</u>

Fund Balances

Restricted for NMTAP	\$ 86,686
Special Appropriation	\$ 50,000
Unassigned	\$ 191,116
Total Fund Balance	\$ 327,802

Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 472,288</u>
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www.gcd.state.nm.us 877-696-1470