

EngAGEMENT Initiative

The EngAGEMENT Initiative is designed to address the needs of New Mexico's aging population through increased awareness and funding support. EngAGEMENT is an initiative of Grantmakers in Aging, an international membership organization made up of world-wide funders of every type dedicated to serving our aging population.

Con Alma Health Foundation, in partnership with the New Mexico Association of Grantmakers, the Nirvana Mañana Institute and the Daniels Fund, is leading New Mexico's EngAGEMENT Initiative – a Grantmakers in Aging project funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies.

Please visit www.conalma.org for the full report and/or Executive Summary: New Mexico's EngAGEMENT Project.



*The Heart & Soul of
Health in New Mexico*

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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE,
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The New Mexico EngAGEMENT Initiative

2010 – 2012

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New Mexico is projected to experience a rapid growth in the percent of its population over 65, moving from a state with one of the lowest percentages of elders to having one of the highest by the year 2030.

In only a decade since the 2000 census, New Mexico has already moved from 39th in the nation to 16th. The 2010 census projects, by 2030, the state will move from 16th in the nation to 4th in the percentage of people over the age of 65.



Current State of Aging in New Mexico

We have always valued our elders in New Mexico, but their health and well-being is at stake. Our local and statewide system of health care and long-term care services and supports is inadequate and fragmented. Data suggests we will be incapable of serving the growing population of culturally and ethnically diverse elderly whose preferences and needs are different from the generation before them.

The good news is New Mexico has a strong history of supporting older adults. State government recognizes the needs of this growing population. State agencies have developed a comprehensive, one-stop resource center for aging New Mexicans and are partnering with communities to help older people stay healthy. However, we need to do more. At least 50 percent of grandparents in New Mexico are raising grandchildren. One in eight older New Mexicans do not know where their next meal is coming from and close to a third of New Mexicans are living on Social Security income alone.

Looking Ahead

From 2000 to 2030, New Mexico's population of people age 65 and older will double. Factors contributing to the aging of the state include an increasing life expectancy; the aging baby-boomer generation; the out-migration of young people, especially in rural areas; a depressed economy; and an in-migration of older adults who find New Mexico to be a warm, less expensive place to retire than other southern states.

The Project

The project goal is to increase funders' awareness of aging issues and build a coalition that would enhance the impact of grantmaking to better support New Mexico's aging population. The project is also interested in identifying ways to increase partnerships between public and private sectors to make New Mexico a model aging-friendly state, including developing advocacy positions and pushing for reform on behalf of the senior population.

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“Regardless of your funding interests, older adults are increasingly relevant to your work as funders. The ‘graying’ of America promises dramatic change in every aspect of American life and across the spectrum of your funding interests, whether it be the arts, environment, health, neighborhoods, social services, education, or children, youth and families.”

—GRANTMAKERS IN AGING

Partnerships to Develop Solutions

The state's existing array of health and long-term services are unevenly located, with large areas of rural New Mexico having no services at all. Compounding this issue, New Mexico's young people, many of whom are the only caregivers, are moving out of rural areas, leaving their elders behind.

Despite family support systems, New Mexico is not currently prepared for the aging of the state nor the associated health and social impact. However, with a renewed commitment to funding and rebuilding a long-term care service system with both public and private support, we can strengthen communities and our elders. Together, we can learn about the trends and needs of our elders, develop innovative solutions and strategies, expand a network of partnerships between the public and the private sector, and strengthen New Mexico's communities of elders.

