



Visit our website at [nmddpc.com](http://nmddpc.com) for news stories and information on Office of Guardianship, Center for Self Advocacy, and Federal Programs

## DDPC Partnering with Aging and Long-Term Services Department and Roadrunner Food Bank to Prepare and Deliver Food Boxes



DDPC is teaming up with Aging and Long-Term Services Department and Roadrunner Food Bank to put together food boxes and organize deliveries. DDPC will also be delivering some of the food boxes directly to residences. If you live in the Albuquerque metro area please call DDPC (505) 841-4519 or APS at 1-866-654-3219. For those outside the metro area, please call APS.

Here are the designated distribution sites for food boxes:

<https://www.rafb.org/find-help/find-food/>

Here is more information on COVID-19 assistance:

<https://www.newmexico.gov/i-need-assistance/>

We will provide more updated information on distribution centers as we receive it. Please do not hesitate to call us if you have additional questions.

Alice Liu McCoy  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council



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**In order to foster a more connected community during this time of social distancing, the DDPC has begun a campaign called [#SmilesAcrossMiles](#)**

# #SmilesAcrossMiles

*Social distancing does not mean we are alone.*

At NMDDPC, we are helping people who feel isolated or lonely by connecting them with other people, especially with people living in nursing homes, group homes, and places where people are separated from their families and friends.

Let's tell each other about our lives! Do you have a story to tell? What are you doing differently during social distancing? What are your best ideas and favorite activities?

Here's what you can do:

- Write a letter
- Make an art project
- Record a video

Send it to:

New Mexico Developmental Disabilities  
Planning Council  
625 Silver Avenue SW, Suite #100  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

OR

[newmexicoddplanningcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:newmexicoddplanningcouncil@gmail.com)



## #NMDDPC

STAY TUNED!

We will be rolling out weekly themes and posting about the communities we are connecting.

Questions? Ideas? Email us at [newmexicoddplanningcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:newmexicoddplanningcouncil@gmail.com)

Instagram: @nmddpc505

Facebook: @nmddpc505

Twitter: @newmexicoddpc

## Watch the latest briefing from Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham on COVID-19



To view the latest COVID-19 briefing from Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, go to <https://www.newmexicopbs.org/michelle-lujan-grisham-covid-19-update/>

## Willing to help a family find a place to live? Read below and contact the Albuquerque Police Department if you can help.

DDPC has learned of a family in Albuquerque who is in need of a 3 to 4 bedroom rental for \$1,300 to \$1,500 a month. They can afford the move-in fees. They have struggled with tragedy during COVID-19, including the death of family members, and are currently quarantined in a motel. Two of the children in the family



have special needs. If you can offer help, contact Lisa Chavez, APD Outreach Support Specialist at 505-768-2112.

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**Urgent need for volunteers and donations at  
New Mexico Food Banks**

NMDOH

LOOKING FOR

# VOLUNTEERS

## *Help Out Your Local Food Banks*

The demand for food in our state has increased substantially.

Widespread layoffs triggered by COVID-19 have led to an unprecedented number of New Mexicans turning to food banks. As the demand grows, food banks are receiving fewer donations. Food banks help vulnerable communities including the elderly, disabled, low income and unemployed. Most regular volunteers are senior citizens who are at high risk of contracting COVID-19.

**To volunteer or make a donation  
please visit [nmfoodbanks.org](https://nmfoodbanks.org)**

*Thank you for helping those in need during this difficult time.  
We are all in this together.*



## Here is a list of important COVID-19 Resources

### Comprehensive Resource Lists



Here is another [comprehensive resource list](#) from the State of New Mexico specifically for people with disabilities before, during and after emergency situations.

Read the list of [community resources during COVID](#) from the City of Albuquerque.

### COVID-19 Overview Resources

Visit the New Mexico [Medicaid COVID-19 page](#) for New Mexico Medicaid Program and Provider Inquiries.

Read the [Social Security Administration's Coronavirus Website](#).

Read the plain language resources on COVID-19 from Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center at <https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/>.

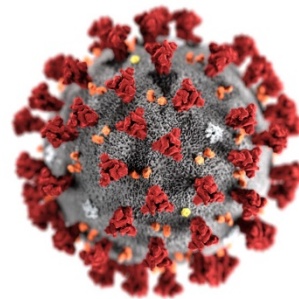
Read the Green Mountain Self-Advocate's Guide [COVID-19 By and For People with Disabilities](#).

View the [COVID-19 Response Series](#) published by business disability inclusion nonprofit Disability:In

Read about [New Mexico Resources for Those Impacted by Genetic Conditions](#).

Take a look at [COVID-19 Resources from the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living](#).

Check out the resources provided by the [National Association of the Deaf on the Coronavirus](#).



Explore [COVID-19 Resources from the National Federation of the Blind](#).

Explore a wide range of documents from the United Nations on the [COVID-19 Outbreak and Persons with Disabilities](#).

## Food-Related Resources



Read about what's available at [The Storehouse New Mexico](#)

Find food assistance from [HELP New Mexico](#).

See how you can use your SNAP EBT Card to [Double Up Food Bucks](#) and get more fruits and vegetables.

Read about the City of Albuquerque [Food to Car](#) initiative and get information on local food vendors offering safe shopping and pick-up.

Read about [Supplemental SNAP Payments in March and April](#).

Find out more information about the [New Mexico Commodity Supplemental Food Program for Seniors](#).

Read about [pickup](#) and [delivery](#) from Smith's Grocery Store.

## List of Financial Assistance, Communications and Work Resources





Read this handout about [Promoting Financial Health and Resiliency for People with Disabilities and Their Families During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

The City of Albuquerque has expanded its free WiFi during this time. Find out the [network locations and access information](#).

If you need affordable communication options, look at [Lifeline Support for Affordable Communications](#).

Find out about [PNM Good Neighbor Fund](#) for low-income individuals and families.

Looking for work? See the [US 2020 Census website](#) for job information.

Read the [ABLE NM newsletter](#), which includes information on STABLE Accounts and the COVID Stimulus Checks.

## Grant Resources

Read the New Mexico Foundation's [Press Release on their Native American Relief Fund](#)

Read information from the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department on [COVID-19 Relief and Support: Grant Funding for Tribes](#).

Read about [The National Farm to School Network COVID-19 Relief Fund](#)

Check out the City of Albuquerque's [Coronavirus Community Support and Recovery Fund](#)

The New Mexico Caregiver's Coalition is offering caregivers grants of up to \$100 to pay for childcare. [Learn more and fill out the application here](#).



## Disaster Preparedness Resources



Read the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA's) [FAQ about non-congregate sheltering](#).

Check out the [Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies](#).

## COVID-19 Policy Resources

Read the Family First [Summary of the First Coronavirus Act](#), also known as House Resolution 6201. Read this flyer on equity and inclusion in healthcare services for COVID-19 from

Think Equity called [Mitigating Discrimination on the basis of Disability](#) in the Healthcare Response to COVID-19.

Study the guidance from the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities interpreting the [US Department of Health and Human Services Guidelines Prohibiting Discrimination on the Basis of Disability](#).

Explore a range of resources from the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund [COVID-19 Advocacy and Resources Page](#).

Read the COVID-19 [Communication Rights Toolkit](#) provided by Communication First.

Explore the [COVID-19 Resources provided by the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty](#).



## Health-Related COVID-19 Resources



Find out more about which [health insurance has you covered](#).

Use this [COVID-19 Disability Form](#) to help physicians provide the proper treatment. Take a look at this useful [COVID-19 visual tool](#).

Call the [New Mexico Healthcare Worker and First Responder Support Line](#).

Read an article from the American Psychiatric Association's Center for Workplace Mental Health entitled [Working Remotely During COVID-19: Your Mental Health and Well-Being](#).

## Resources for Native American Communities in New Mexico

Visit the [Navajo Nation Division of Social Services website](#).



## Resources for Abuse or Domestic Violence



Visit the website of the [New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#).

Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233

Call the Albuquerque Women's Resource Center at 505-242-7033.

Visit the [Domestic Violence Resource Center](#) in Albuquerque.  
Read about the [Albuquerque Family Advocacy Center](#).  
The Child Abuse Hotline can be reached at 505-841-6100  
To reach Adult Protective Services, call 505-476-4912  
The Agora Center is available at 505-277-3013.

## Transportation Information



Check the following websites for information on local public transportation services

Albuquerque: ABQ Ride (<http://www.cabq.gov/transit>)

Las Cruces: RoadRUNNER Transit (<http://roadrunner.las-cruces.org/1314/RoadRUNNER-Transit/>)

Rio Rancho: Dial-A-Ride Rio Transit (Door-to-door) for people with disabilities and seniors ([www.nmrailrunner.com/243/Rio-Rancho](http://www.nmrailrunner.com/243/Rio-Rancho))

Santa Fe: Santa Fe Trails at (<https://www.santafenm.gov/transit>)

Roswell: Pecos Trails Transit at (<http://www.roswell-nm.gov/287/Pecos-Trails-Transit>)

Farmington: Red Apple Transit at (<http://www.fmtn.org/279/Red-Apple-Transit>)

New Mexico Park and Ride:

([https://www.dot.state.nm.us/content/nmdot/en/Park\\_and\\_Ride.html](https://www.dot.state.nm.us/content/nmdot/en/Park_and_Ride.html))

New Mexico Railrunner: (<https://www.riometro.org/>)

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## Important Information for SSI Recipients with dependent children age 16 or younger from the Disability Coalition



**SSI recipients who have dependent children age 16 or younger need to act by next Tuesday, May 5, to request the \$500 per child CARES Act rebate payment for them and get it right away.** If that applies to you, go to <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/VBAEC1wnZmFn3vBpiL9mV7?domain=irs.gov> and click on the link “Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here” (scroll down to find the blue box that says “Enter your information” or, to get the form in Spanish, click on “Ingrese su informacion”). This will take you to Free File Fillable Forms, where you’ll create an account and follow the instructions to enter information. The IRS is imposing very short deadlines to get the kids’ rebates right away, along with your own \$1,200/adult payment, and has announced that **those who don’t meet the deadlines will have to wait until next year and file a return to get the children’s payments.**

**An Important Message from Ellen Pinnes and the Disability Coalition about Payments from CARES Act**



**Good news! People who get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will get their \$1,200 pandemic response payments automatically and won't have to file a special tax return or take any other action to get them. The only SSI recipients who need to take action are those who have dependent children under age 17, so they can get the additional \$500 per child payment for the kids. See later in this message for how to submit that information to the IRS.**

Background: The CARES Act that Congress passed last month to address the economic disruption caused by the corona virus pandemic calls for **\$1,200 payments for adults and \$500 for children under age 17**, to help them through the tough economic times we're experiencing. These payments will be made as refundable tax rebates, which means they'll be sent out by the IRS and **people are eligible for the full amount even if they don't owe any taxes.**

Initially, the IRS was going to make the payments right away only to people who file annual tax returns and had provided direct deposit information for the 2018 or 2019 tax years. Everybody else would have had to file a special return with the IRS to get the payment. Under fire for creating a barrier for low-income Social Security recipients, the Trump administration announced it would use the information IRS gets through 1099 forms for people who get Social Security retirement or disability benefits to make payments to them. Unfortunately, that still didn't help people who get SSI or veterans' benefits and don't need to file tax returns, because they don't get 1099 forms. The Disability Coalition, along with other local and national advocates and New Mexico's Congressional delegation, pushed for the IRS and Social Security to match the information they have on these individuals and make direct payments to them as well without filing a tax return. **SSA and IRS have now agreed to this, so if you get SSI, you don't have to do anything; the \$1,200 rebate will be sent to you automatically.** Those payments are expected to go out by early May.

The only SSI recipients who **should** file with the IRS, if they haven't already, are those who have dependent children age 16 or younger and want to get the \$500 per child rebate for them as well. If that applies to you, you should go to <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/JIUdCpYqAOfQXmI2sPqly8?domain=irs.gov> and click on the link "Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here" (look for the blue box in the middle of the page). This will take you to Free File Fillable Forms, where you'll create an account and follow the instructions to enter information.

**It's important to note that the rebate payment does not count as income in determining eligibility for benefits programs like SSI, and it won't be counted as a resource for twelve months. So getting it won't cause people to lose their benefits.**

When we make the voice of the disability community heard, we can make good things happen!

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## NM Connect for 24-Hour Behavioral Health Support

The New Mexico Crisis and Access Line (NMCAL) has created the NM Connect App to provide free 24-hour crisis and non-crisis support, and access to behavioral health professionals who can text or talk via phone with individuals in need of a listening ear or referrals to long-term support. The app is available for [ios](#) and [Android](#) phones. For more information on this new service, click [here](#).

**Are you noticing a lot of Zoom events, but don't know how to use Zoom? Please read below...**

For instructions on how to join a Zoom meeting, click [here](#).

For instructions on how to setup video and sound in a Zoom meeting, click [here](#).

To learn about zoom meetings controls and buttons, click [here](#).





To learn about social rules for a video meeting, click [here](#).

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## Looking for something to do during this time? Find online meetups and gatherings like the ones listed below...

- To join People First on Albuquerque weekly meetings on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:15 am, click [here](#).



- To join the Retrain Your Brain, Brain Injury Support Group meetings on Wednesday at 11 am, click [here](#).
- To find out more about Netflix Party Wednesdays with Best Buddies every Wednesday, click [here](#).
- To sign up for Citizen's Weekly Meetings hosted by Best Buddies every Thursday at 4 pm, click [here](#).
- To find out more about Forum Fridays hosted by Best Buddies every Friday on Instagram Live, click [here](#).
- To join weekly New Mexico Allies for Advocacy meetings on Thursdays at 6 pm, click [here](#).
- To join Safe Place, hosted by the DDPC CSA on Fridays from 1-2 pm on GoToTraining, click [here](#).

## Looking for something to watch?



For the week of May 4 only, PBS is streaming the documentary The Swim Team. [Click here to watch it.](#) Watch the [Kids Town Hall](#) with Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller. Watch the [Telephone Town Hall](#) with Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller discussing

the city's response to the Coronavirus.

Every Monday from 3:30-4:30 pm, an ECHO webinar is held on Special Education Supports. [Click here to register.](#)

Every Wednesday from 9-10 am, an ECHO webinar is held on Tools for English Language Learners. [Click here to register.](#)

Every week on Mondays from 12-1, Division Chief of Infectious Disease at UNM Hospital Nestor Sosa MD, FACP will answer questions during his [COVID-19 Infectious Disease Office Hours/Q&A.](#)

The English and Spanish sessions of Coronavirus 101 for Community Health Workers will now be held on alternating Fridays from 2:30-3:30 pm (MDT). The next English session will be Friday, May 8th followed by the next Spanish session on May 15th. Email [CHWECHO@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CHWECHO@salud.unm.edu) to register.

## Looking for Learning Opportunities During This Time?

Contact [Csalazar@parentsreachingout.org](mailto:Csalazar@parentsreachingout.org) to register for the following webinars from Parents Reaching Out.

- **Receive information on the different Home and Community Based Waivers available in New Mexico. Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11am – 12 pm**

- **Learn about Healthcare Transition and Supported Decision Making Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11am - 12pm**



**Save the Date:  
Wednesday May 27 for  
Reaching New Heights  
in Supported  
Employment Virtual Conference. For more  
information or to sign-up, [click here.](#)**

Need to reach out to the DDPC? Visit our contact page at [www.nmddpc.com/contact](http://www.nmddpc.com/contact)

New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council  
625 Silver Av. SW Suite 100  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
505-841-4519  
[www.nmddpc.com](http://www.nmddpc.com)

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