

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - 101

**A RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING SANTA FE COUNTY 2025 LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES RELATED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the legislative pre-filing for the 2025 Regular Legislative Session will occur between January 2, 2025, through January 17, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe County (County) Board of County Commissioners (Board) discusses and approves support for legislative priorities as an important step in assuring the preservation and provision of exemplary services and policies; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the Board take action to maintain revenues, programs, and services at the current or higher level; and

WHEREAS, the Board would like to demonstrate strong support to the state legislature for legislation with respect to increased and/or enhanced public health and social services; and

WHEREAS, the Senior population continues to grow both nationally and at the local level, resulting in a much greater demand for essential services, such as food, nutrition, wellness, and transportation especially for Seniors who are home-bound; and

WHEREAS, the CONNECT program, implemented by Santa Fe County in 2018 in partnership with the City of Sant Fe and United Way, is a nationally recognized program that provide residents with the resources they need for health and wellbeing, including housing, food, transportation and utilities, often referred to as the social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program, known as **engage**, which was initially funded through the State of New Mexico's Behavioral Health Services Division through a United States Department of Justice grant, and which has superlative relations with and the support of the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office, the First Judicial District Attorney's Office, and the Office of the Public Defender, and has shown positive outcomes for individuals who come into contract with law enforcement and who have substance use and behavioral health issues; and

WHEREAS, New Mexicans are dying of alcohol-related harms at nearly three times the national average, and one in five deaths of working age New Mexicans is attributable to alcohol, and increased alcohol taxes have been shown to decrease drinking, including underage drinkers, as well as to decrease many alcohol-related harms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby supports the legislative priorities related to public health and social services as set forth above and specifically requests that the Legislature appropriate the following funding and enact the following legislation during its 2025 Regular session:

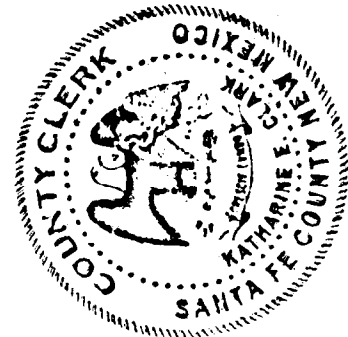
SFC CLERK RECORDED 11/27/2024

1. **\$400,000** for **Senior Services** to help increase food security and nutrition, wellness outreach, and transportation services for Santa Fe County Seniors.
2. **\$400,000** for the **CONNECT** program to be used as flexible funds to contract with providers within the **CONNECT** network to assist underserved residents with essential resources, such as food, clothing, shelter, and other social determinants of health.
3. **\$400,000** for **engage**, Santa Fe County's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program, to continue to provide long-term, intensive mobile case management to people with substance use and/or mental health challenges who are also justice-involved.
4. **\$250,000** for the County's costs in participating in the **Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)** pilot program in partnership with the First Judicial District Court and Administrative Office of the Courts.
5. Support the initiative to **increase the Alcohol Excise Tax in New Mexico** to help reduce alcohol-related harms while providing funding for more prevention efforts.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 26TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: *Hank Hughes*
Hank Hughes, Chair



ATTESTATION:
Katharine E. Clark
Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 11/20/24

Approved as to form:
Jeff Young
Jeff Young
Santa Fe County Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 27TH Day Of November, 2024 at 03:15:03 PM And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **2047762** Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy *[Signature]* Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

