

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 015

Introduced by: Commissioner Lisa Cacari Stone

**A RESOLUTION UPHOLDING THE DIGNITY, SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELL-
BEING OF ALL SANTA FE COUNTY RESIDENTS**

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County (County) is a unique blend of immigrant families, with deep roots in both indigenous and Mexican heritage, reflecting its rich history as a former territory of Mexico. The region's cultural identity is shaped by centuries of interaction between Native American communities, Spanish settlers, and more recent immigrant groups, creating a diverse and dynamic social fabric. Santa Fe is also home to diverse immigrants from Central America, (Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras), other Latin American Countries (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Cuba), and other international locations. While smaller in numbers, Santa Fe is also home to immigrants from Asia and Africa; and

WHEREAS, immigrants make up to 11% of Santa Fe County's population and play a vital role in enriching the culture and social fabric of Santa Fe County, New Mexico. Their diverse backgrounds bring a wealth of traditions, customs, and perspectives that shape the region's identity. Through their contributions, immigrants help preserve and celebrate Santa Fe's unique cultural heritage, while also introducing new ideas and creativity that keep the community dynamic and evolving; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the economic contributions that immigrants bring to Santa Fe County. In 2019: 1) Immigrants contributed \$1.1 billion to the County's GDP; 2) Immigrants represented 15.2% of business owners; and 3) Immigrants contributed \$49.7 million to Social Security and \$13.2 million to Medicare; and

WHEREAS, many immigrant residents of Santa Fe County, including those who are undocumented, have uncertain citizenship status, and/or live in mixed-status families, may be fearful for their lives due to federal anti-immigrant laws. They are especially vulnerable to discrimination, hate crimes, racial profiling, and deportation; and

WHEREAS, one of the responsibilities of Santa Fe County leaders, elected officials and employees is to equally protect and serve all County residents, regardless of immigration status, language spoken, income, disability, LGBTQI status, gender/sex, age, or religion; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County is committed to its primary mission and goals: the protection of public safety, dedication to sustainability and equity, improvement of community health, and the development of a highly-skilled, collaborative, transparent, and accessible government for ALL people residing in the county; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County is dedicated to earning the public's trust of all residents by implementing policies and practices rooted in four core values:

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Integrity. We do the right thing, even if it is difficult. We are accountable by following through on our commitments, being direct, honest, and transparent in our communication, and we always maintain ethical standards of public service.

Respect. We treat everyone with dignity, act fairly and impartially without favoritism or discrimination, and maintain an inclusive, safe environment. We listen well and treat others as we would like to be treated.

Innovation. We envision what is possible and cultivate creativity and flexibility to take intelligent risks. We are open to new ideas, technologies and methods, and encourage and value the contributions of each person.

Excellence We strive to exceed customer service and performance expectations and consistently give our personal and professional best. We commit to continuous improvement of our programs and services and support one another to bring out the best in everyone.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners hereby resolves that all employees of Santa Fe County shall act toward all residents in a manner that is respectful of human rights, promotes the conditions necessary to create "Safe Communities" and enables all residents to pursue a healthy, productive life, free of fear.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners, in consultation with the County Sheriff, confirms the following County policies and/or directs the County Manager to implement this resolution in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Santa Fe County Adult Detention Facility does NOT honor administrative warrants or hold requests from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) directed toward inmates in our Adult Detention Facility.
2. Santa Fe County Adult Detention Facility shall NOT house immigrants on behalf of ICE for civil violations of immigration laws.
3. Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office does NOT participate in ICE's 287(g) Delegation of Immigration Authority Program or otherwise directly enforce immigration laws.
4. The safety and well-being of every resident of Santa Fe County is our paramount concern. The Sheriff's Office is dedicated to protecting all members of our community equally, does not condone discriminatory practices that profile residents based on perceived race, immigration, and/or other protected status, and will take decisive action within the bounds of the law to defend against any imminent threat.
5. No department, agency, commission, officer or employee of Santa Fe County under the management and supervision of the County Manager shall use any County funds or resources to independently gather the immigration status of individuals in Santa Fe County unless expressly required by law.
6. The County Community Services Department provides services to all County residents, regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. This includes through its CONNECT program.

7. To increase access to timely information and diminish disinformation, Santa Fe County will create a centralized County webpage with links to third-party resources for immigrants, including information on civil liberties and constitutional rights and resources in multiple languages, including English and Spanish.
8. Santa Fe County will develop and provide a training program for County employees concerning this resolution and the County's commitment to serve all County residents, regardless of immigration status. The training shall include cultural awareness and sensitivity to ensure County employees understand and respect the diverse backgrounds of immigrant residents.
9. To identify and explore potential solutions to service gaps for immigrant residents and their families, the County shall establish a multi-disciplinary Community Action Team (CAT). CAT participants will be comprised of representatives residing in the County of Santa Fe and diverse representatives from health and social services, hospitals, schools, and faith-based, immigrant advocacy and philanthropic organizations as well as City of Santa Fe officials. The CAT shall be supported by the Community Services Department and other County Departments as necessary. For the avoidance of doubt, the CAT has no delegation of authority from the Board of County Commissioners to take any action or formulate policy on the Board of County Commissioners' behalf; therefore, the CAT is not subject to the Open Meetings Act or County Resolution No. 2024-155 or any successor resolution concerning reasonable notice under the Open Meetings Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution is undertaken for the sole purpose of enhancing public safety and community well-being for ALL residents. The action is not intended to create any new rights for which the County may be liable in equity or law to any person who claims injury due to a breach of such alleged rights. This resolution is not intended to alter any rights or obligations outlined in the County's existing collective bargaining agreements. This section shall not be construed to limit or proscribe any other existing rights or remedies possessed by such a person. Santa Fe County calls upon all its residents to stand together and respect the dignity and rights of ALL.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 11th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

**SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: *Camilla Bustamante*
Camilla Bustamante, Chair

ATTEST:

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

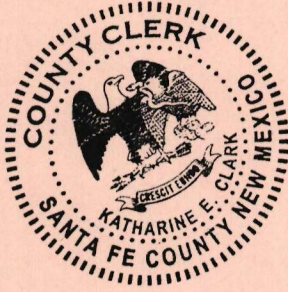


Date: 02/14/2025

SFC CLERK RECORDED 02/14/2025

Approved as to form:

Walker Boyd
Walker Boyd
Santa Fe County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 4

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 14TH Day Of February, 2025 at 01:17:32 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2052793
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

SFC CLERK RECORDED 02/14/2025