



**NEW MEXICO FIRST**  
*People. Ideas. Progress.*

## **New Mexico First and Project SHARE NM Newsletter**

Stay Informed and Engaged

**June 22, 2020**

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## Expanding Health Care

COVID-19 has affected people's health in more ways than one. To help stop the spread of the virus, healthcare providers have been restricting services and minimizing in-person contact with patients. While telehealth is growing as an effective alternative, it can't provide for all essential healthcare services, and broadband access is not consistent across New Mexico. Rural, frontier, and tribal communities often have the most significant barriers to access. These means that some healthcare services are not readily delivered, such as routine immunizations, treatment for chronic conditions, and treatment and support for substance abuse disorder. It's time to expand health care safely.

The New Mexico Medical Advisory Team has developed [guidelines](#) for safe

practices for medical and healthcare services and providers, including primary and specialty care, dental care, chiropractors, and Doctors of Oriental Medicine.

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## Youth Healthcare

**Immunizations.** The diseases we vaccinate against have declined, but they haven't disappeared. While the statistics aren't yet available for New Mexico, other states are reporting that [vaccination rates for children have plummeted](#). This is raising fears of a resurgence of preventable serious diseases like measles, whooping cough and even polio.

NM's annual "[Got Shots?](#)" provides opportunities for children to stay up-to-date on their immunizations. From July 25 - August 15, 2020, participating providers

will open their doors for any child who needs immunizations, regardless of whether they are a patient or whether they have insurance. Providers, [register to participate](#) by June 29th. Find a [map and posters](#). Many sites will provide Medicaid Eligibility services during the event. The [New Mexico Primary Care Association](#) can help arrange for onsite Medicaid application.

**School-Based Health Care.** Many children and teens depend on NM's school-based health centers for primary and behavioral health care. With schools closed, the status of school-based health centers (SBHCs) is a shifting issue. Some SBHCs are open, some SBHCs are providing telehealthcare, and some SBHCs are referring their patients (existing and new) to see the providers at their sponsoring medical center ([Federally Qualified Health Centers](#)) in the community. The [New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care](#) is updating a spreadsheet with this information, currently hosted on the [NMASBHC COVID page](#). NMASBHC welcomes any questions from organizations or families about school-based health care. Details about which schools have SBHCs are located can be found at the organization's website, or you can reach the NMASBHC Executive Director, Nancy Rodriguez, at [nancy@nmasbhc.org](mailto:nancy@nmasbhc.org) or the NMASBHC Program Manager, Wilma John, at [wilma@nmasbhc.org](mailto:wilma@nmasbhc.org).

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## **Mental Health Resources**

Mental Health Resources. Everyone is feeling some degree of stress from this situation. If you need someone to talk to, the NM Crisis and Access Line is there to listen and help. Professional counselors are available 24/7, and the Peer-to-Peer Warmline provides a friendly voice to listen to and advise.

### **New Mexico Crisis and Access Line**

Toll-Free: 1-855-NMCRISIS (662-7474)

TTY 1-855-227-5485

711 for relay (hearing/speech impaired)

Open 24/7, every day

### **New Mexico Peer to Peer Warmline**

Toll-Free: 1-855-4NM-7100 (466-7100)

711 for relay (hearing/speech impaired)

Call 3:30pm – 11:30pm

Text 6 pm – 11 pm every day

### **New Mexico Connect App**

Directly connects callers to counselors or peer support workers. The *App* is available for both [Apple IOS](#) and [Android](#).

**Stay in Recovery.** It's been a challenge for many in recovery to know where to find help during the COVID-19 emergency. The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency has a comprehensive list of online and phone supports that are available now. This includes a long list of online groups for those in recovery and their family members as well as tips on how to set up a 12-step virtual group using various online platforms. [Check it out here](#).

**Rural Resilience: Farm Stress Training.** Farmers and ranchers in New Mexico have been essential in keeping food on our tables during this emergency. Facing challenges as supply chains have been disrupted and markets have disappeared, New Mexico's agricultural community has partnered with the community in innovative ways. Yet the stress is real. What is farm stress and how can you help? Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of stress and suicide, effectively communicate with people under stress, reduce stigma and connect farmers and ranchers with resources. [Sign up](#) for this FREE online, self-paced course. Support our farmers and ranchers.

**More Resources.** If you're looking for services, everyone can access SHARE New Mexico's comprehensive, statewide [online resource directory](#), created by, with and for New Mexicans. For specific resources for support during the coronavirus, please check out [SHARE New Mexico's COVID-19 resource page](#). Download our list of [Crisis Hotlines and Helplines](#).

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## COVID-19 Emergency Grants

**Funding for Collaborative Food Projects.** The second round of grant funding is now available from the [NM Farmers Marketing Association's](#) COVID-19 Local Food Supply Chain Response Fund (The Fund). This round is dedicated to New Mexico collaborative projects that support New Mexico farmers, CSAs, food distribution groups, and underserved individuals and communities who have been impacted by market disruptions brought on by COVID-19. For detailed information, visit these links in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Organizations working with or in tribal communities are especially encouraged to apply. **The deadline for applications is Sunday, June 28, at midnight.**

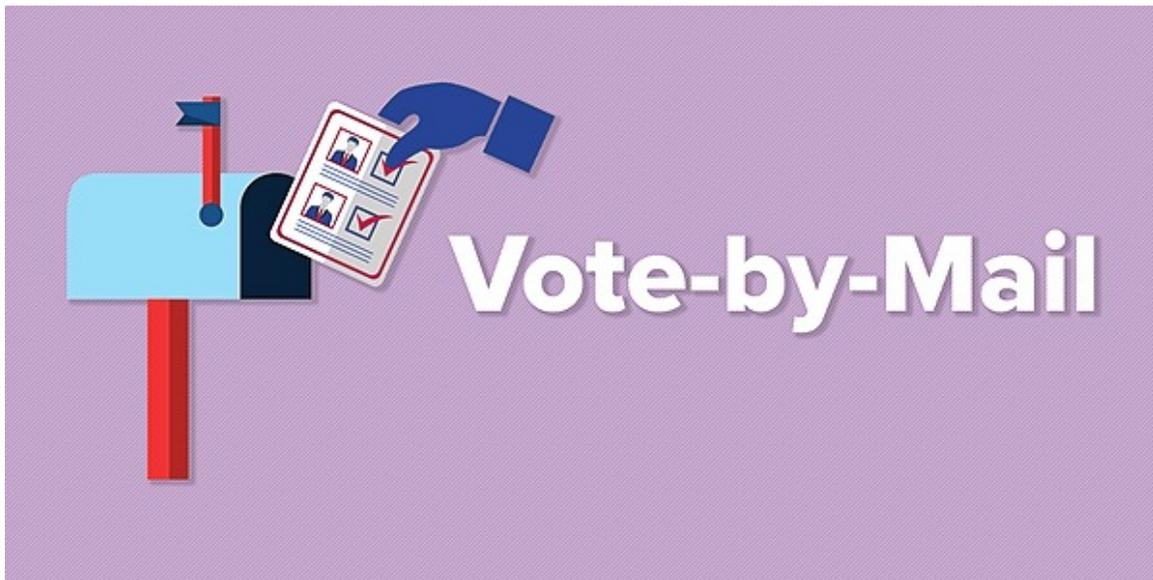
**Con Alma's COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Project.** [Con Alma Health Foundation](#) will distribute funds to New Mexico nonprofits that are providing basic needs, including health care, food distribution, emergency housing and financial aid, to people most impacted by COVID-19. Grants are awarded on an expedited,

rolling basis starting Tuesday, June 2 for approximately 9 months. For the application and guidelines, visit the [COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Opportunities](#) page. Grants will range from \$7,500 to \$20,000.

"Some of our populations in New Mexico have been disproportionately harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Dolores E. Roybal, Con Alma's executive director. "We hope our grants will address short-term needs for communities facing daunting health challenges as well as strategies for an equitable recovery."

**Vecino – Neighbor Helping Neighbor Fund.** The [New Mexico Community Foundation](#) will make emergency grants to nonprofits that support those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. If you want to support this fund or need support in your community, there are options to participate. As a supporter, your gift will provide funding for food, water, and other emergency needs to some of the hardest-hit areas in New Mexico. [To donate, go here](#). If you are a nonprofit organization or tribal community seeking grant funds, [click here to download our grant request form](#).

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## **New NCSL Report Compares New Mexico Absentee and Mail Voting to Other States**

Given our members' interest in safe and trusted elections, New Mexico First is sharing this newly released analysis of absentee and vote-by-mail options, comparing practices in our state with other states around the nation. The report was produced by the nonpartisan National Conference of State Legislatures. The report is attached and you can also access it online by clicking on the button below.

**For Immediate Release: June 17, 2020**

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Denver—At a time when lawmakers are faced with challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, states are addressing myriad concerns from budgeting to healthcare to voting. Many states have addressed these concerns through

executive action, while legislators are playing an increasingly large role in making these policy decisions.

The new report, “Absentee and Mail Voting: New Mexico in Comparison to Other States,” highlights New Mexico’s election code by comparing the Land of Enchantment’s systems to those of its peers. The report provides insight into the decisions policymakers must answer when designing a system which allows safe and effective voting during a time of social distancing.

The report is divided into two parts:

- Addressing pros and cons of the various policy options for New Mexico legislators,
- Comparing New Mexico’s current policies with those in the other 49 states.
- This report was made possible by generous support from the Thornburg Foundation.

[Read the Report](#)



## Civic Engagement: Volunteers Needed

**Storehouse New Mexico Needs Volunteers.** The [Storehouse New Mexico](#) food pantry is desperate for volunteers to sort and pack food boxes for distribution. Any amount of time is welcome. Bring your mask; gloves are provided. [Register to volunteer](#). Volunteer at YOUR local food pantry. Enter your location in [this search](#).



### Tip for Civility: Diverse Points of View

New Mexico First's civic engagement and consensus-building work are grounded in several organizational values. One of those core values is pursuing and respecting diverse points of view. For diversity to be meaningful, people from communities across New Mexico need confidence that their involvement is respected and valued both in terms of engagement processes as well as recommended outcomes that are grounded in a commitment to equity. Not only is diversity vital because it demonstrates a commitment to justice, but it's also

essential in terms of the durability and strength of public policy recommendations and outcomes. Policy recommendations that fail to consider a variety of needs, perspectives, and lived experiences inevitably must be addressed at a later date as they are rife with unintended consequences. The Tip for Civility section is authored by Lilly Irvin-Vitela, President and Executive Director of New Mexico First. She invites you to connect! Email her at [lilly@nmfirst.org](mailto:lilly@nmfirst.org).

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## **Our Mission. Our Values.**

### **Our Mission**

To be a catalyst for positive change by engaging citizens in policy and enabling action.

### **Our Core Values**

Meaningfully engaging New Mexicans in public policy; Striving for and respecting consensus; Pursuing and respecting diverse points of views; Ensuring inclusion and transparency; Rising above partisan politics; Changing policy to improve people's lives; Creating an informed citizenry that is powerfully motivated; Reaching out statewide including rural and tribal communities; Partnering with others; Promoting civility and Democracy at its best!

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