



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

## 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 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

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

### Comprehensive Resource Lists



Check out this [comprehensive list](#) of New Mexico resources as of April 16, 2020. Here is another [comprehensive resource list](#) from the State of New Mexico specifically for people with disabilities before, during and after emergency situations.

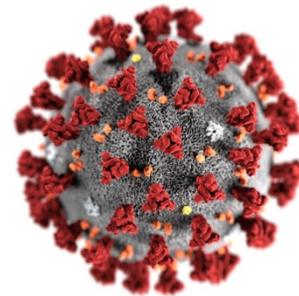
### COVID-19 Overview Resources

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

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](#).

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



### List of Financial and Other Resource Assistance



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

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

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

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.

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.

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

**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](#).



## 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](#).

## Resources for Native American Communities in New Mexico

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](#).



## Resources for Abuse or Domestic Violence



[Advocacy Center](#).

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

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

Visit the [Domestic Violence Resource Center](#) in Albuquerque.

Read about the [Albuquerque Family](#)

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## 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](#).

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)

STAY CONNECTED



New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council | 625 Silver Av. SW, Suite 100, Albuquerque, NM 87102

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