



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2008-027

ESTABLISHING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE AND CREATING *ENGAGE NEW MEXICO!*

WHEREAS, within the next fifteen years, New Mexico is projected to move from 39th to 4th in the nation in the percent of population over the age of sixty-five;

WHEREAS, future generations of New Mexicans age 50 plus and adults living with disabilities are expected to be healthier, have higher levels of education and higher incomes, on average, than preceding generations;

WHEREAS, these demographic changes create additional opportunities for New Mexicans to continue to be vital, productive and contributing members of society;

WHEREAS, New Mexicans who are engaged in their communities enjoy increased longevity and improved mental and physical health;

WHEREAS, this population has a desire to contribute to the identification of and solutions for problems and concerns facing communities and counties statewide and can serve as a powerful resource in addressing these difficult problems at the local level;

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico has an interest in encouraging and promoting the access of this population to continued employment, volunteerism and lifelong learning opportunities which may be collectively identified as civic engagement;

WHEREAS, civic engagement opportunities for this population may be significantly enhanced by the efforts of state government in cooperation with the private sector;

WHEREAS, state agencies have been instrumental in fostering civic engagement opportunities in New Mexico. In a collaborative effort, and with the assistance of a grant from the National Governors Association, the Departments of Aging and Long-Term Services, Children, Youth and Families, Human Services, Higher Education, and Workforce Solutions and the Health Policy Commission have formed a Civic Engagement Steering Committee for the purpose of developing a strategy to create and promote these opportunities;

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a leader in honoring and encouraging the contributions of our elders, and can be a model for other states for promoting civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, meaningful employment, as well as volunteer and learning opportunities, will enable New Mexicans to come together to address social problems, promote health, and sustain personal independence.

NOW THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby order the Civic Engagement Steering Committee to:

1. Develop and promote a systematic, statewide initiative to create and improve employment, volunteer and learning opportunities for New Mexicans age 50 plus and adults living with disabilities. This initiative shall be called *Engage New Mexico!* and shall include the development of local grass-roots programs to identify and implement sustainable solutions to serious community concerns in such areas as education, hunger, and health promotion.
2. Plan and conduct an Executive Summit to bring together leaders in business, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and government to develop strategies for fostering employment, volunteer, and learning opportunities.
3. Work with the Aging and Long-Term Services Department and the planning committee of the annual Conference on Aging to collaboratively align the goals and objectives of the 2008 conference with civic engagement opportunities, and shall include a job and volunteer fair called the *Engage New Mexico! Fiesta*.
4. Promote public communications that showcase this population as an asset to the communities in which they live, work, volunteer, and learn.
5. Work with the State Personnel Office and other appropriate state agencies to review benefits for active employees, and regulations and policies to identify ways in which state government can expand civic engagement opportunities.

I FURTHER DIRECT the Steering Committee to report to the Office of the Governor on the activities, plans, recommendations, and successes achieved in this area by October 1, 2008.

THIS ORDER supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it is rescinded by the Governor.

ATTEST:


MARY HERRERA
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS 5th
DAY OF JUNE, 2008

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO


BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

