



Bill Richardson, Governor
Cindy Padilla, Secretary

Patsy Trujillo, Deputy Secretary
Michael Spanier, Deputy Secretary

GOVERNOR RICHARDSON SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR *ENGAGE NEW MEXICO!*



SEATED (left to right): Robert Stark, Executive Director of the New Mexico Community Foundation, Secretary Betty Doris, Department of Workforce Solutions; Governor Bill Richardson; Secretary Cindy Padilla; Joie Glenn, Chair, Policy Advisory Committee, ALTSD. STANDING (left to right): Nancy Pope of Governor Richardson's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives; Beth Velasquez, AARP; Karen Wells, ALTSD; Deputy Secretary Patsy Trujillo; Kathy Black, Bear Canyon Senior Center, City of Albuquerque; Dolores Roybal, Executive Director, Con Alma Foundation; Deputy Secretary Michael Spanier; Dolores Haley, Department of Workforce Solutions; Doug Calderwood, ALTSD; Lala Garcia, Department of Workforce Solutions.

On June 5, 2008, Gov. Bill Richardson signed an Executive Order that creates *Engage New Mexico!*, a program designed to foster civic engagement opportunities for New Mexicans age 50 and older and adults living with a disability.

The Executive Order forms a Civic Engagement Steering Committee and charges that Committee with developing and promoting local grass-roots programs to identify and implement sustainable solutions to serious community concerns in areas such as education, hunger, and health promotion. It also calls for 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.

"New Mexico has an invaluable wealth of seniors and individuals living with a disability who can share their

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personal experiences and wisdom to benefit society as a whole," Governor Richardson said. "*Engage New Mexico!* is an opportunity to call on these living treasures to help move our state forward while enriching their own lives even more through employment opportunities, volunteer efforts, and taking advantage of continuing education."

New Mexico's Civic Engagement effort will engage leaders in business, not-for-profits, government, and—most importantly—communities throughout the state to create opportunities for employment, volunteerism, and lifelong learning.

"The vision of *Engage New Mexico!* is that through meaningful and purposeful employment, volunteer, and learning opportunities, New Mexicans will come together to address social problems, promote health, and sustain personal independence," said Aging and Long-Term Services Department Secretary Cindy Padilla. "In a society where the citizenry is fully engaged, people come together to solve problems and support each other."

To help promote *Engage New Mexico!*, the Aging and Long-Term Services Department is working with the planning committee for the Department's annual Conference on Aging to collaboratively align the goals and objectives of the 2008 conference with civic engagement opportunities, and include a job and volunteer fair called the Engage New Mexico! Fiesta. The 2008 Conference on Aging is scheduled at the Sandia Resort and Casino in Albuquerque from August 26-29.



New Mexico is one of eight states that have joined forces with the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices in an effort to ensure states are providing employment and volunteer options to new and future retirees. Other states are Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Ohio, and Wyoming.

Governmental agencies and non-profit organizations currently involved (it is expected that others will be added as the initiative progresses) with *Engage New Mexico!* include:

- Aging and Long-Term Services Department
- AARP
- Children, Youth and Families Department
- Con Alma Foundation
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- Department of Workforce Solutions
- Governor Richardson's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
- Higher Education Department
- Human Services Department
- New Mexico Community Foundation
- San Juan College Encore Program
- The Office of Governor Bill Richardson

Gov. Richardson's Executive Order also requires 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.

Photos by Kate Dauber, ALTSD.