State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-019

AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR THE AGING AND LONG-TERM SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST IN RELIEF EFFORTS DURING THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19

On March 11, 2020, I issued an Order declaring a public health emergency due to the spread of the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") in New Mexico and invoked gubernatorial powers under the All Hazard Emergency Management Act. See Order Declaring A State of Public Health Emergency and Invoking the Powers Provided by the All Hazard Emergency Management Act and the Emergency Licensing Act, Executive Order 2020-004.

Older adults and those with preexisting health conditions have been identified as populations that are particularly vulnerable to negative outcomes when they are infected with COVID-19. Additionally, in other states, outbreaks of COVID-19 in long-term congregate care facilities such as nursing homes have had devasting impacts on residents, employees, and visitors to those facilities. That is why the New Mexico Department of Health has advised older New Mexicans to practice strident social distancing measures and severely restricted visitation to nursing homes and other congregate facilities housing populations that are particularly vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19.

The Aging and Long-Term Services Department exercises and administers all State government functions "that relate to aging, adults with disabilities or long-term care services." NMSA 1978, § 9-23-2. Because of the significant vulnerabilities and disproportionate impacts of

COVID-19 on the populations served by the Department, it is charged with providing emergency assistance and support to those New Mexicans and to congregate care facilities under the Department's ambit during the statewide public health emergency. Emergency funding will help ensure that the vulnerable populations served by the Department will receive needed services while being protected from the spread of COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible.

Pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 12-11-25, emergency funds shall be expended by the Governor or any agent or agency designated by her either as a State project or for securing matching funds when a disaster is beyond local control and requires State resources to avoid or minimize economic or physical harm and to take action necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Executive Order 2020-004 has already declared the continuing public health emergency described in that Order as a disaster that is of such magnitude as to be beyond local control and requiring the resources of the State. That continuing public health emergency necessitates the provision of emergency funding to the Aging and Long-Term Services Department so that it can assist in providing emergency assistance and support relating to older New Mexicans, New Mexicans with disabilities, and New Mexicans in long-term care services.

Now, therefore, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, 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, hereby declare that an emergency situation exists, as described in Executive Order 2020-004.

I direct the Department of Finance and Administration to make available emergency and disaster relief funds in an amount not to exceed seventy hundred fifty thousand dollars ($750,000) to the Aging and Long-Term Services Department in accordance with NMSA 1978, Section 12-11-23 through 12-11-25, funds shall be expended for the purposes of avoiding or minimizing

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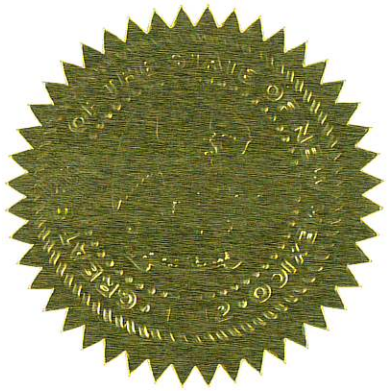
economic and physical harm; protecting the public health, safety, welfare; and providing emergency and disaster relief, including but not limited to providing emergency assistance and support relating to older New Mexicans, New Mexicans with disabilities, and New Mexicans in long-term care services. Funds shall be paid out upon warrants drawn by the Secretary of Finance and Administration upon vouchers approved by the Governor or an agent or agency designated by her for that purpose.

This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until the Governor rescinds it.

ATTEST:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE



DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 2ND DAY OF APRIL 2020

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

Michelle Lujan Grisham

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

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