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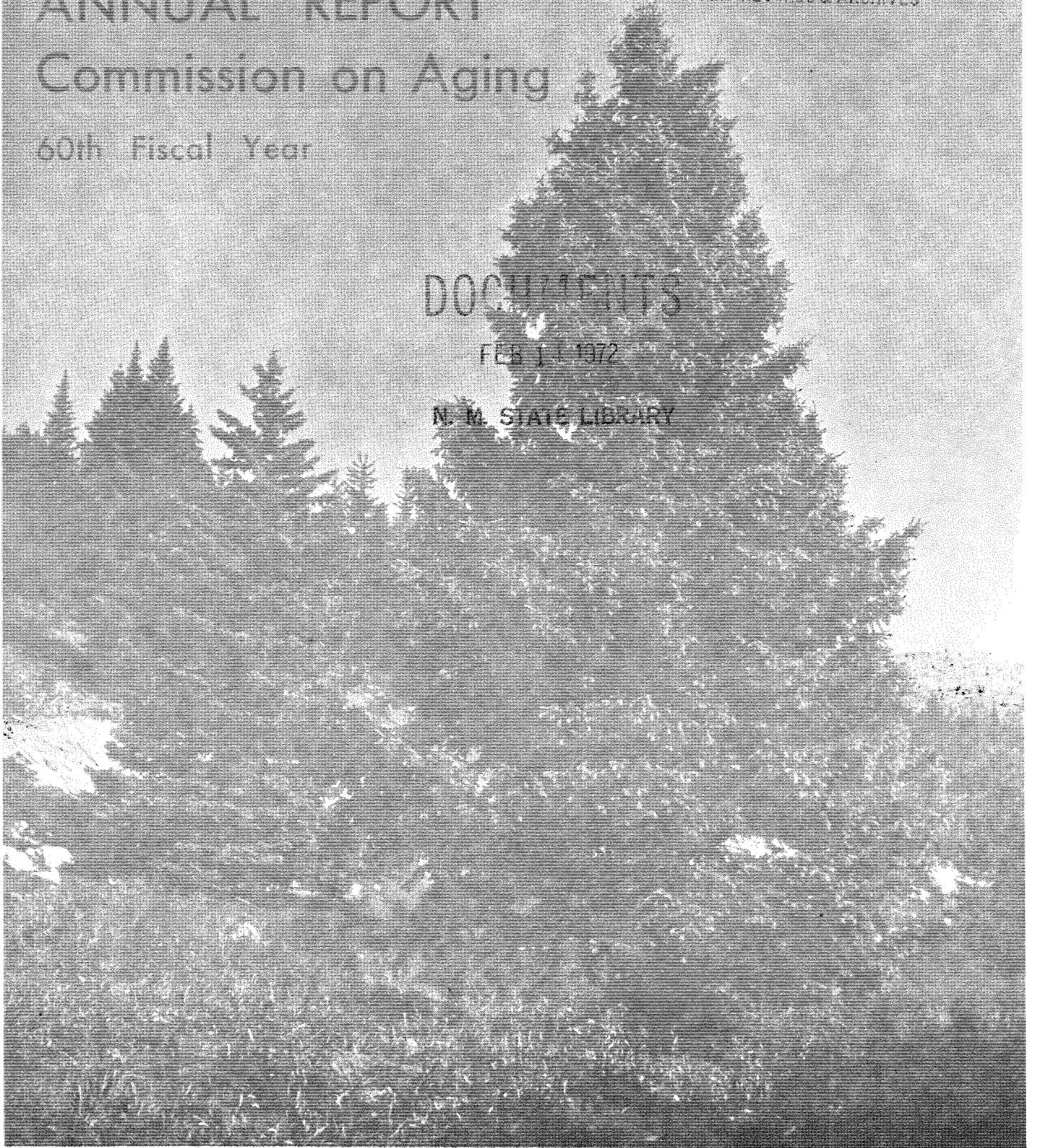
ANNUAL REPORT Commission on Aging

60th Fiscal Year

DOCUMENTS

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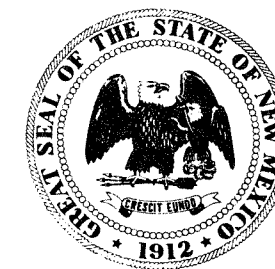
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A N N U A L R E P O R T

for the 60th Fiscal Year
July 1, 1971 -- June 30, 1972

STATE COMMISSION ON AGING
Santa Fe, New Mexico
November, 1972



Cover photograph:
Courtesy, New Mexico
Department of State Forestry

1972
Annual Report
State Commission on Aging
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Annual Report
State Commission on Aging
60th Fiscal Year
July 1, 1971 -- June 30, 1972

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THE COMMISSION ON AGING

PURPOSE

The Commission was created by Statute in 1969. It operates under provisions of Title III of the Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended. The Office served originally as a channel for Federally funded project grants under Title III to enable non-profit State and local organizations to develop community services for senior citizens age 65 and over.

In July, 1969, the State Program was expanded in compliance with amendments to the Older Americans Act to carry out three major functions for program development: (1) Statewide planning, coordination, and evaluation of programs for older people; (2) grants management of Title III funds allotted by the Administration on Aging, HEW, and (3) community development for comprehensive areawide services for the elderly.

Since 1972, State programs funded by the Administration on Aging are responsible for establishing Area Agencies on Aging, and for making provisions to administer the Nutrition Program for the Elderly including supportive social services for persons aged 60 and over and their spouses. This increases the target population in New Mexico from 70,000 to over 106,500 older people.

COMMISSION MEMBERS - (5)

Mr. Clifford Whiting, Albuquerque, Chairman
Miss Alice Converse, Clovis, Secretary
Mr. Troy Newcome, Los Alamos
Mr. Jacobo Bernal, Ranchos de Taos
Mr. Joe D. Luna, Santa Fe

STAFF - (10)

Mrs. K. Rose Wood, Academy of Certified Social Workers, Director
Mrs. Gertrude G. Dodds, Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Edythe M. Pierson, Academy of Certified Social Workers, Field Representative
Mr. William Vigil, Planning Specialist
Mr. Neil Ames, Public Information Officer
Mrs. Rosalie Sisneros, Secretary
Miss Emma Hightower, Stenographer

Commission on Aging
Annual Report - 60th Fiscal Year

Staff

Mrs. Jacqueline Marlin, Typist
Mr. James Michael Jenkinson, RSVP Supervisor
Mrs. Marcella Wheeler, RSVP Secretary

State funds were appropriated by the Legislature and matched on a 75:25 Federal/State basis from the Administration on Aging, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for State Office administration, planning, coordination, and evaluation.

A separate allotment from the Administration on Aging, HEW, was made for Community Services for the Elderly through Title III of the Older Americans Act for Federal project grants matched with local funds on a 75:25 basis. NO STATE FUNDS ARE INVOLVED.

The Commission applied for and received a grant from the new Federal agency, ACTION, to develop Retired Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP) in New Mexico over a two-year period beginning in May, 1972.

EXPENDITURES

Personal Services	67,076.00
Operating Expenses	29,392.00
Sub-total.....	96,467.00
Title III Project Grants to Communities	107,551.00
Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	2,562.00
Total Expenditures.....	206,580.00

SOURCES OF FUNDS

From State appropriation of \$25,000	24,116.75
From Federal Funds for administration, \$75,000	72,350.25
From \$137,344 from AoA for Title III grants	107,551.00
From ACTION for RSVP	2,562.00
Total Expenditures	206,580.00

Balances of Federal allotments for Title III projects, AoA, and from ACTION for RSVP are carried over into next fiscal year. Unused, or unobligated State and Federal funds for administration, because they are co-mingled, are reverted to the State General Fund, and to the U. S. Treasury for application on the next allotment.

SOURCES OF OTHER FUNDS

Under SOURCES OF FUNDS, should be added \$91,110 from local resources contributed by grantees to receive Federal project awards in the amount of \$107,551 in which no State funds are involved, or \$91,110.

Commission on Aging
Annual Report - 60th Fiscal Year

The following list shows agencies receiving grants during 1972, and the amount, with amount of local shares contributed for project costs during 60th Fiscal Year:

Agency (Grantee)	Title III Grant	Local Share	Total Cost
1. City of Gallup	4,467	4,467	8,934
2. Mora County CAA	947	947	1,894
3. City of Santa Fe	49,378	48,388	97,766
4. City of Albuquerque	25,344	24,354	49,698
5. Taos County CAA	8,860	8,316	17,176
6. City of Las Cruces	18,555	4,638	23,193
Totals	107,551	91,110	198,661

NEW MEXICO'S TITLE III PROJECTS

These projects do not happen by themselves! They involve applications, on-site visits, consultation on completion of proposals, invitations to city and county officials to apply; meetings, reports, audits, and field services to enable grantees to comply with stated objectives.

A separate allotment is provided to New Mexico Commission through the Administration on Aging, HEW, to provide for grants for community services for older people. These projects are usually in the form of multi-purpose senior centers, and preferred grantees are city and/or county units of government. Grants are made on a declining matching formula of 75:25 for the first project year; 60:40 for the second year, and 50:50 for the third or other years, if more than three years are required before the grantee can support the program.

Six Title III projects were in operation, with four continuing into the 61st Fiscal Year, and one was pending approval. These are as follows:

(1) Mora County Senior Centers

Grantee: Mora County Community Action Agency.
Project Period: 8/15/68 - 7/31/71
Total Cost: \$63,301; Local, \$21,871; Federal, \$41,430

This project began when it was permissible to give monetary credit for old buildings used as "Centers", and credit for volunteer services. The policy changed in 1969, or Mora would not have been approvable, as local share of costs could not have been met with "in-kind" resources.

The main center was in the Village of Mora with old school houses and churches used as activity spots in Rainsville, Guadalupita, Ocate, Watrous and Wagon Mound.

The value of this Title III project is that for the first time, attention was paid to the old people and they were helped to make better use of their Old Age Assistance checks, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and food stamps. Many old skills in weaving, ceramics, sewing, and native cooking were renewed, and older people enjoyed social gatherings, transportation services, and an improved image as being useful, rather than just "old" and forgotten.

1970 Census shows 11.8% of the population, or 556 aged 65 and over. A survey made by Title III project staff and the Commission on Aging indicated that nearly all of the elderly were known to the Project, and over 300 were personally served in some way.

(2) Gallup Program for Older People

Grantee: City of Gallup.
Project Period: 8/15/69 - 10/25/71.
Total Cost: \$63,625. Local, \$30,287; Federal, \$33,338.
Senior Citizens served through the Senior Center - 200
(exclusive of Indians, who had their own center).

This number has since increased due to the fact that the City established, in 1970, a Division of Older Adults, and since the project closed, opened three centers in Gallup to provide expanded services in arts and crafts, information and referral services, transportation, and opportunities for the elderly poor to participate.

Recreation funds from the Cigarette Tax are utilized in this currently city-wide program, and a volunteer project will be developed when funds are available from ACTION for a Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

(3) Taos County Senior Centers

Grantee: County Community Action Agency
Project Period: 8/1/69 - 12/31/72
Total Estimated Cost: \$92,580 with \$35,296 Local, and \$57,284 Federal.

Due to receipt of non-federal funds from a National Catholic Church Organization, the Senior Citizens League and the Community Action Agency are able to plan a large expansion of services in the third project year. Services include bus transportation, homemaker aides to older people living alone, friendly visiting, senior center activities, home health aides, escort services, and home repair and "handyman" services. The major objective is to keep old people in their own homes and to prevent unnecessary institutionalization.

Both City and County resources are also utilized in this very good project serving the majority of the County's population of 1,624 aged 65 and over.

(4) Santa Fe Multi-purpose Senior Center

Grantee: City of Santa Fe.
Project Period: 8/15/69 - 8/14/72.
Total Cost: \$176,152. Local, \$76,596; Federal, \$99,556.

Through a multi-purpose senior center, supported partially by Title III, Supplemental Model Cities funds, and CAP funds, this project reaches over 1,500 senior citizens and provides mini-bus transportation, congregate meals five days per week to an average of 125 at a public school cafeteria, and home-delivered meals to thirty-five home-bound older people, in addition to social and recreation programs, arts and crafts, trips and tours, friendly home visiting, and courses in English and Spanish.

City Recreation funds are also used, and the project is supervised in part by the City Recreation Department.

As of June 30, 1972, a fourth project year is pending, and tentative plans are that the City and the County might merge resources to develop a more comprehensive Program on Aging.

(5) Albuquerque Model Neighborhood Area Office on Aging

This is the most comprehensive Title III project the State Commission on Aging has started.

Grantee: City of Albuquerque.
Project Period: 8/1/69 - 7/31/73.
Estimated Total Costs: \$533,267, with \$207,584 in City and Model Cities money, and \$325,683 in Federal grants.

Bernalillo County's population aged 65 and over as of the 1970 Census was 19,348 with over 5,000 in the Model Neighborhood Area, of which it is officially reported 3,000 older people are served by the Office on Aging and the staff of fifteen people.

Services provided include transportation, recreation, group meals, Meals-on-Wheels, adult education, home visiting, arts and crafts, kitchen bands, Spanish and English classes, information and referral services, senior centers in the area and around the City, and personal and social services to the elderly blind and handicapped.

(6) Las Cruces Senior Center

Grantee: City of Las Cruces.
Project Period: 1/1/72 - 12/31/72.
Estimated Cost: \$41,520, with \$10,380 Local and \$31,140 Federal.

This project is in its first year, but plans to run for three years.

Recreation funds from the Cigarette Tax are used, and the City Recreation Department supervises the project. Recreation and social activities are major services, and only 200 senior citizens were participating when the project opened, but it should serve about 1,000.

A private Senior Center run by a church group and supported by donations and cash from the Dona Ana Community Action Agency, and the United Fund, serves another 300 older people. This program was initiated with consultation from the Commission on Aging in 1968 when no Title III funds were available for an approved project at that time.

Future plans call for an expanded City Program for older people, a City-owned and operated multi-purpose center, and a nutrition service.

OTHER FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECTS PENDING JUNE 30, 1972

1. Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

A program development grant of \$51,778 for two years was awarded the Commission from the new National Agency, ACTION. On staff, as State employees, are the RSVP Resources Supervisor and the RSVP Secretary-Bookkeeper. The project began in May, 1972 with \$2,562 spent by June 30, 1972.

PURPOSE

The purpose is to develop RSVP projects around the State in which retired people can volunteer their services and be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses. No State funds are involved. Local funds will be used to match Federal grants made directly from ACTION. Projects are pending approval for the City of Gallup and for the Presbyterian Medical Program serving Taos County. Volunteers would work as homemakers, home health aides, escorts, handymen, friendly visitors, and health aides in nursing homes and hospitals, and also in senior centers and public libraries as eligible stations or places for services.

Staff for this program for which the Commission on Aging is the grantee, rather than the grantor, of funds, include the Resources Supervisor and Secretary. Their positions are included in those approved for the Commission.

2. Metropolitan Area Project on Aging, Albuquerque.

Grantee: City of Albuquerque.

Project Period: July, 1972 - June, 1973.

Planning Year Costs: \$91,426 with \$22,851 Local and \$68,575 Federal funds.

Objective: Develop an Area Agency on Aging which will serve as the advocate for the older population in Bernalillo County, and evaluate resources for meeting their needs. Combined City-County resources to be used to implement a comprehensive Program for the Older Population.

Direct Services to be developed as result of careful planning, and will include nutrition services, transportation, social services, adult education, health services, recreation, and services to keep older people in their own homes so long as possible, and to prevent or reduce isolation and institutionalization.

The Albuquerque Project will be the first one in the State to be developed on an AREAWIDE basis in conjunction with an official State planning district or an Areawide Planning Organization such as the Mid Rio Grande Council of Governments referred to as a "COG".

New Mexico has six planning districts including eight Councils of Government located in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Clovis, Roswell, Las Cruces, Silver City, Gallup, and Farmington.

Commission objectives are to continue to cooperate with Council personnel and the State Planning Office to establish "triple A's" (AAA) or Area Agencies on Aging which should become local counterparts of the State Agency to insure statewide programs for the total older population which is increasing.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE 60TH FISCAL YEAR - 1971-72

1. White House Conference on Aging - 1971

Between July 1, 1971 and June 30, 1972, a large proportion of staff time was devoted to efforts to insure an effective voice of New Mexicans in the 1971 White House Conference held November 28 - December 2, 1971.

Four regional conferences were planned with fifty-six Mayors' Committees on Aging to be held during May and June in Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Truth or Consequences, and Roswell. An average of 100 persons attended each one.

The staff Planner coordinated all arrangements to send sixteen delegates and ten observers to the Washington Conference November 28 - December 2 - and provided volumes of study materials which were furnished by the White House staff.

Recommendations from the State Conference held in May, 1971 were included in a 268-page REPORT completed in September, 1971, and widely distributed to hundreds of individuals, task force members, and cooperating agencies.

In October, Governor and Mrs. Bruce King honored the delegates and Commission members at a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion.

Following the 1971 National Conference, the Agency received and distributed reports of action taken and planned a State Conference for May, 1972, but postponed it until May, 1973 because anticipated action at the Federal level did not become realized.

Preparation for the White House Conference on Aging, however, enabled the Commission to achieve increased community concern for older people, and to expand planning and coordination functions and requirements under Title III of the Older Americans Act and policies of the Administration on Aging from which the major portion of funds are received.

2. Inter-Agency Cooperation and Coordination

With increased responsibility for statewide planning and coordination of services for the older population wherever possible, the Commission coordinated efforts with the following public agencies and voluntary organizations:

Public Agencies

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) Arts Commission of New Mexico | (6) Division of Consumer Affairs & Attorney General's Office |
| (2) Bureau of Indian Affairs | (7) Employment Security Commission |
| (3) Cooperative Extension Service | (8) Health & Social Serv. Department |
| (4) Department of Education | |
| (5) Department of Hospitals & Institutions | |

- | | |
|--|--|
| (9) Model Cities (HUD) in Santa Fe and Albuquerque | (13) State Office of Economic Opportunity |
| (10) Navajo Office of Economic Opportunity | (14) State Planning Office |
| (11) (Pueblo) Indian OEO | (15) State Colleges & Universities (especially UNM and ENMU) |
| (12) Social Security Administration | (16) Veterans' Service Comm. |

Voluntary Organizations

1. American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
2. National Retired Teachers' Association (NRTA)
3. Retired Educational Employees Association of New Mexico (REEA)
4. National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE)
5. National Association of Social Workers, New Mexico (NASW-NM)
6. National Association of Retired Railway Veterans & Employees (RRVE)
7. Mayors' or Community Committees on Aging (56)
8. Senior Citizens Organizations such as Golden Age Clubs, Senior Citizens Clubs, etc., of which there are over 100 in New Mexico.

Cooperation is also maintained with the State Municipal League and Association of County Officials.

The State Advisory Council on Aging composed of fifty percent of providers of services to the elderly and fifty percent of consumers including senior citizens was also active during this year, meeting five times in Santa Fe, Albuquerque (2), Las Vegas, and Carlsbad. The twelve members and their agencies or organizations are as follows:

Public Agencies

1. Norbert Bernal, ESC, Albuquerque
2. Phyllis Nye, HSSD, Santa Fe
3. Zene Hemphill, BIA, Albuquerque
4. "Bill" Thomas, SSA, Santa Fe
5. Jerry Ortega, DHI, Las Vegas
6. Lugarda Tafoya, OEO, Gallup

Voluntary Organizations

7. Edith Keller, AARP, Tucumcari
8. Albert Moss, NRTA, Carlsbad
9. R. A. "Bert" Quelle, (Industry) Espanola
10. Hosea Wilson, NARFE, Central
11. Lewis McClelland, RRVE, Albuquerque
12. Samuel Rosenberg, NARFE, Albuquerque

3. Public Information Services

Outstanding is the TV Program, THE AGELESS, produced by the Agency and shown weekly for thirty-nine weeks on Channel 5, KNME, Albuquerque. TV Stations KGGM and KOB have also invited the Agency to appear on their programs to present information about the Commission and the older population. The Commission could not have afforded to purchase these "free" services, as they were offered to the Agency, and did not cost any additional funds aside from administrative expenses for travel and phone services.

Local Radio Stations have also presented programs, and newspapers all over the State publish pertinent stories periodically. Interest in people 100 years of age has been especially high. Certificates of Recognition and local ceremonies have been given to eight Centenarians identified through newspaper publicity and local community celebrations.

The Commission cooperated with the State Fair to provide Senior Citizens' Day at the Fair in September, 1972, and assisted the senior citizens of Albuquerque to win first prize for floats in the Opening Day Parade.

In cooperation with local police departments, the Agency stressed need for older people to mark their personal property and to participate in PROJECT IDENTIFICATION to help cut down on stolen property, and to increase recovery of such articles as TV sets, cameras, watches, etc.

Announced Candidates running for Congress and the State Legislature were provided with requested statistical information about the older population, and the Agency prepared materials for speeches for State officials asked to talk to groups of senior citizens.

The Agency's newsmagazine, SON LOS ANOS was published three times during the year, and a publication on Senior Centers and how to establish them was completed for printing and distribution in 1972.

Clipping services purchased by the Commission indicated increased activity around the State in senior centers and senior citizens' organizations offering programs for older people, and growing concern for the need for better health care, more adequate budgets for Old Age Assistance, and improved nursing home care for the elderly.

In September, 1972, the Agency released a position paper on need for nursing home care for the elderly stressing need to maintain high standards of care regardless of individuals' ability to pay for it.

4. Legislation to Benefit Older New Mexicans

In December, 1971, in preparation for the 1972 Session of the Legislature, the Commission convened a Committee on Legislation to Benefit the Elderly composed of representatives from AARP, NRTA, NARFE, NASW, AFL-CIO, RRVE, HSSD, AAUW, ABC-Co-op, the Education Retirement Board (ERA), Telephone Pioneers, and the Commission on Aging.

Priorities set included: (1) Promotion of a Legislative Committee on Aging; (2) Licensed Boarding Homes for the Elderly with inspections made by HSSD; (3) More adequate State appropriation for public assistance recipients, especially those eligible for Old Age Assistance, and (4) Tax Relief for the Elderly.

Results of 1972 Legislative Action included:

- (1) Creation of Legislative Committee on Aging composed of three Senators and four Representatives.
- (2) Licensed Boarding Homes with inspections and Certification made by HSSD.
- (3) Income Tax Benefits for the Elderly.

5. Community Development and Field Services

With only one Field Representative, located out of Santa Fe in Roswell, field services were given mainly in southeastern counties, but the worker went into other counties, as assigned, as did two other staff members. Another field representative should be located in another district to insure more statewide coverage. The Commission is working with the State Planning Office to help place offices on aging in the six Planning Districts, or in conjunction with the established areawide planning organizations as, ideally, Federal funds must be used to develop area agencies on aging to be responsible for wider area provision of facilities and services for more of the older population. This is the AoA/HEW and Agency strategy for 1972-73.

During the 60th Fiscal Year, field services were given in the following counties: (1) Harding, (2) Union, (3) Socorro, (4) Lincoln, (5) Dona Ana, (6) Sierra, (7) Torrance, (8) Bernalillo, (9) Taos, (10) Santa Fe, (11) Curry, (12) Roosevelt, (13) Eddy, (14) Lea, (15) San Miguel, (16) Rio Arriba, (17) McKinley, (18) Guadalupe, (19) De Baca, and (20) Quay.

Liaison contacts were maintained between the Agency and Chairmen of fifty-six Mayors' Committees on Aging in that many of our ninety-two Municipalities.

Seven (7) meetings of the five-member Commission were held between September, 1971 and June, 1972 with one public hearing held in March in Clovis which was well publicized, but poorly attended by only thirty-five senior citizens in the area, due to a sudden and unexpected snow storm in southeastern New Mexico.

6. The Nutrition Program for the Elderly

The Nutrition Act, (PL92-258) was signed by President Nixon in March, 1972 as Title VII of the Older Americans Act to provide group meals to people aged 60 and over including social services and transportation. Preference is to be given to the elderly poor in minority ethnic groups.

New Mexico's allotment is set at \$500,000 for 1972-1973, and \$750,000 for 1974-1975, with a maximum of ten percent the first year to be used for Administration and matched with State funds.

On June 30, 1972, Governor King designated the Commission on Aging to administer the Nutrition Program. Cooperation was begun with the School Lunch Service, Department of Education, for potential use of school cafeterias and school buses; with State and local OEO Agencies (CAA); HSSD, the Navajo Tribe, all State Indian Pueblo Council, Heads of North Central and Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development Districts, State Council of Churches (State Inter-Faith Agency), the Planning Office, Consumer Issues Committee of the Federal Executive Board, The Mayors' Committees on Aging, and State and local chapters of associations of retired persons.

Guidelines for this program were not available as of June 30, 1972, but preparatory work has been, and is being, done to complete required State Plan Amendments and Agreements so that eligible target areas can be selected and nutrition projects developed. Funds are to be available on a 90:10 matching basis to enable eligible counties, municipalities, private agencies, and voluntary organizations to provide an aggregate of 100 meals per day five days per week to people aged 60 and over and their spouses who qualify for senior meals under this program.

Funds have not been released to the states, as Amendments to the Older Americans Act were not finalized by June 30, 1972, and appropriations to the Administration on Aging, HEW, have not been made.

When funds are available, it will be mandatory for the Commission on Aging to add to the staff a professional Nutritionist, and to set up an Advisory State Committee on Nutrition.

IN SUMMARY, The Commission was busy during the year carrying out required activities and preparing for reorganization in late 1972 and early 1973 to comply with new directives and new demands to meet the needs of the growing population aged 60 and over in the State and in the Country.

A great deal of time was spent, or wasted, in trying to cope with confusing and conflicting instructions from the Parent Federal Agency in its efforts to guide or to follow Congressional and Administrative actions in what promised to be an exciting and frustrating National election year.

NATIONAL AND STATE DEVELOPMENTS
TOWARD THE STATE PROGRAM ON AGING
A CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY -- 1935 - 1972

1935
Social
Security
Act

There has been a program for older New Mexicans since 1935 when the Social Security Act was passed and the Welfare Department provided Old Age Assistance to eligible residents aged 65 and over.

1953
Citizens
Committee
on Aging

In 1953, the Governor's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Problems of the Needy Aged began community services for the elderly by improving existing Nursing Home Care and enlisting the help of volunteers to develop recreation programs for patients at the State Hospital, El Mirador, a State operated Home for the Aged at Alcalde, and in conjunction with existing City Recreation Departments.

1958
State
Agency
Actions

The White House Conference on Aging Act (PL85-908) was passed in 1958. The Governor of New Mexico designated the Department of Public Welfare as the "single State Agency" in 1959 to administer a Federally funded program for the older population.

1961
White
House
Conference
on Aging

Since preparations for the 1961 White House Conference on Aging were completed, there has been a community service program of some kind in local communities with hundreds of volunteers active in County Committees on Aging to consider the met and unmet needs of the elderly.

1963-1965
DPW-AAUW
Project
on Aging

In 1963, Department of Public Welfare obtained Federal funds to carry out a two-year Project on Aging conjointly with County Welfare Offices and twenty-one branches of the American Association of University Women. Twenty-four County Committees on Aging were organized, but County Agents of the Extension Service, in State Department of Agriculture cooperated in the DPW-AAUW Project in all thirty-two Counties. The Project ended in December, 1965.

1966
Older
Americans
Act
State
Plan

As a result of the 1961 White House Conference on Aging, in which eighteen New Mexico delegates participated, was passage of THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT of 1965 which in turn created the Administration on Aging in the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The AoA was set up as a National center responsible for a whole range of needs of the older population, and to allot Federal funds to the states on a formula based on the number of people aged 65 and over for community service projects.

The State Plan for the Program on Aging was approved by AoA in 1966, and matched funds were allocated to New Mexico for administration with a separate allotment for project grant funds for community services for the elderly under Title III of the Act.

The Program on Aging remained in the Welfare Department when it merged with the Health Department into the Health and Social Services Department until July, 1969 when Senate Bill No. 40 created the Commission on Aging (Chapter 55, Laws of 1969).

1969
Commission
on Aging

As a separate statutory public agency, the Commission is designated as the single State Agency responsible for administering Federal, State, and local funds for community programs to benefit the older population, which in June, 1972 numbered over 71,000 persons aged 65 and over with more than 105,000 aged 60 and over.

1970
Commission
on Aging

As a result of 1969 Amendments to the Older Americans Act, the Administration on Aging increased the maximum amount of Federal funds for operations of Offices on Aging from \$50,000 to \$75,000 per year providing the states met a minimum of \$25,000 for administration, planning, coordination, and evaluation. This provided the Commission with a budget of \$100,000 rather than \$50,000, when funds were matched on a 50:50 rather than 75:25 basis.

Senior
Forums

The White House Conference on Aging Act of 1970 set up a three-year program to develop local, State, and National Policies on Aging. In September, 1970, when all states conducted community forums on aging, the Commission held fifty-six of these, involving over 4,200 senior citizens.

1971

White
House
Conference
12/2/71

Following these, states held community conferences on aging with six "District Conferences" in New Mexico in March, 1971 in Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Portales, Farmington, Las Cruces, and Roswell, followed by the State Conference on Aging, May 21, in Santa Fe, in which 500 participated in preparation for the 1971 Conference in Washington, D. C.. This was held November 29 - December 2, 1971, in which sixteen delegates and ten observers represented New Mexico to make recommendations on policies affecting nine major needs areas including Income, Health, Housing, Education, Nutrition, Employment, Retirement, Transportation, and Spiritual well-being.

PRIORITIES set by Older New Mexicans were for (1) Health Care, (2) Income, and (3) Transportation for the Elderly, in this order.

1972
Jan.-June

In the third year of the White House Conference on Aging, in which action was to take place at all levels, the Commission on Aging, like all its counterparts in the Country, was busy preparing for new directions and new strategies set by the Administration on Aging to develop areawide projects for local offices on aging, and to plan for administration of the Nutrition Program for the Elderly provided for under the Nutrition Act of March, 1972, which is set forth in Title VII of the Older Americans Act.

Nutrition
Act

Areawide
Project
for
Albuquerque

As of June 30, 1972, or the end of the Fiscal Year, one Areawide Project on Aging was pending approval for Metropolitan Albuquerque under contract with the City of Albuquerque, and New Mexico was notified that it should receive \$500,000 to administer the Nutrition Program. On June 30, 1972, Governor King designated the Commission on Aging as the Agency to administer this new program.

When Amendments to the Older Americans Act are finalized, hopefully in 1972, the Commission on Aging in New Mexico, as in every other state, will be able to make plans for the future.

DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED--Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states: "No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Therefore, all programs and activities receiving financial assistance from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare must be operated in compliance with this law.



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