

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Public Notice: The Aging and Long-Term Services Department (Department) will hold a public hearing on July 25, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person in the Willie Ortiz Auditorium, 2600 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

Purpose of Rule Hearing: The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public input on a proposed new rule, 9.2.25 NMAC - Kinship Caregiver Support Pilot Program.

Statutory Authority: Aging and Long-Term Services Department Act, Section 9-23-15 NMSA 1978.

Purpose of the Proposed New Rule: The purpose of this new rule, 9.2.25 NMAC, is to establish the requirements for the administration of the Kinship Caregiver Support Pilot Program created by H.B. 252, 57th Leg., 1st Sess. (N.M. 2025). The purpose of the program is to assist kinship caregivers in learning about, finding and using programs and services to meet the needs of the children they are raising and their own needs, and promote effective partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure kinship caregiver families are served. Program navigators will provide information and referrals, including legal assistance and monthly economic support through program partners. The pilot program will be offered in five to seven counties, serving 50 participants per county.

Summary of Proposed Rule: The proposed rule lays out how the program will be administered by the Department. In administering the program, the Department will provide for navigators, and the tasks assigned to navigators are listed in the rule. The proposed rule includes the requirements for participant eligibility, the selection of participating counties, the agreement between participants and the Department for participation in the program, continued eligibility in the program, termination from the program, program limits, notices issued by the Department to participants, and suspension of the program.

How to Comment on the Proposed Rules: Public comment addressing the proposed rule can be submitted in writing to the Aging and Long-Term Services Department, Office of the Secretary, ATT: Kinship Caregiver Support Pilot Program Comments, 2550 Cerrillos Rd., Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505. Interested persons may also send written comments via email to craig.hay@altsd.nm.gov by 5:00 p.m., email comments must include the subject line, "Proposed Rule 9.2.25 NMAC," and the commenter's name and contact information. All written comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, 2025. All written comments will be posted on the Department's website within (3) three days of receipt.

Copies of Proposed Rules: Copies of the proposed rules are available for download on the Aging and Long-Term Services website at aging.nm.gov/kcs-rulemaking. A copy of the proposed rules may also be requested by contacting Craig Hay by phone at (505)603-9431 or by email craig.hay@altsd.nm.gov.

Special Needs: Individuals who require this information in an alternative format or need any form of auxiliary aid to attend or participate in the public hearing are asked to contact Craig Hay at (505)603-9431 as soon as possible to allow adequate time to provide the requested accommodation(s).