



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Jen Paul Schroer, Cabinet Secretary
Sarah Jacobs, Deputy Secretary
Antoinette Vigil, Deputy Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 22, 2024

ALTSD Contact:

Joey Long, PhD
Public Information Officer
Joey.long@altsd.nm.gov

State celebrates the impact of older adult volunteers during Volunteer Appreciation Month

Over 1,300 senior volunteers serve throughout New Mexico

SANTA FE – During the month of April, the New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) proudly celebrates the contributions of senior volunteers across the state.

Based on the national value of each volunteer hour in New Mexico, the financial impact of senior volunteers across the state is estimated at over \$13 million. Over this last year, the 1,369 senior volunteers serving with initiatives that include Foster Grandparents, Senior Companion and the Retired Senior Volunteer Programs provided over 498,000 hours of service.

“We are tremendously grateful for all of the senior volunteers who serve across our state,” said ALTSD Cabinet Secretary **Jen Paul Schroer**. “Their dedication, time, and commitment reflect the spirit of compassion and service that exemplifies New Mexico. Whether you are a seasoned volunteer or looking to make a difference for the first time, there are countless opportunities to get involved and make a meaningful impact in your community.”

In addition to the Foster Grandparents, Senior Companion and Retired Senior Volunteer Programs, ALTSD also offers opportunities for service through the Ombudsman Program and the Aging & Disability Resource Center. The Department encourages any New Mexicans who are interested in volunteering to contact us at 800-432-2080 or visit aging.nm.gov to learn more about opportunities to be of service.

The New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) was established in 2004 to provide resources, connection and advocacy for seniors and adults with disabilities. The department oversees the state’s Area Agencies on Aging to elevate the quality of care at senior centers, offers advocacy through the Long-Term Care Ombudsman volunteer program, and provides intervention through the agency’s national award-winning Adult Protective Services.

Additionally, ALTSD houses the state's Aging and Disability Resource Center, which offers options counseling, education, and connection to resources. For more information about ALTSD, visit aging.nm.gov or follow us on [Facebook](#), [X \(Twitter\)](#), and [Instagram @NewMexicoAging](#).

###