



A Healthcare System that Works for All New Mexicans

Healthcare should be a right, not a privilege. But our healthcare system is not working for far too many New Mexicans. It is unaffordable for many families – even those with insurance – and too complicated to use.

We have top notch healthcare providers and facilities in New Mexico, but not everywhere in the state. We don't have **enough** doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals, particularly in our rural communities.

Our Medicaid program has been poorly administered and cut reimbursement rates to providers so much that they can't survive on Medicaid rates and many New Mexicans cannot find a provider when they need one.

And we still have not recovered from the decimation of our behavioral health system by the Martinez Administration – many families struggle with mental illness and drug addiction with little or no access to treatment.

I have opposed every effort by the Trump Administration and the GOP Congress to take healthcare away from people with pre-existing conditions, slash Medicaid, and cut critical public health programs that keep our communities healthy and safe.

We are not going to get solutions from Washington under this Administration. Now, more than ever, New Mexico needs a Governor who will help ordinary New Mexicans access high quality healthcare, and who understands our state and federal systems. We must leverage New Mexico's strengths and opportunities to make the healthcare system work better for every New Mexican.

We have a unique opportunity to design a healthcare system that works for all New Mexicans. The Martinez Administration left tens of millions of federal dollars on the table that we should use to invest in our healthcare infrastructure, reduce costs, improve public health, and strengthen our healthcare workforce.

When I am Governor I will bring together the key healthcare stakeholders in New Mexico to create a healthcare system based on four core principles. New Mexico's healthcare system must:

1. Be **accessible** to all New Mexicans.
2. **Deliver high quality care.**
3. **Lower consumer costs.**
4. **Improve the health** of New Mexicans.

To design and implement such a system, we must leverage Medicaid and other federal funding, invest in prevention and public health, and develop a **cohesive** healthcare delivery system that:

- Is cost effective.
- Allows providers to spend more time and resources taking care of patients instead of filling out paperwork.



- Invests more of our healthcare dollars in patient care instead of paying drug companies, insurance companies, and pharmacy middlemen.
- Requires more transparent pricing for all healthcare services.
- Reimburses healthcare providers at fair rates that will sustain a strong healthcare professional workforce.
- Ensures that consumers can easily access providers and care when they need it.

When I become Governor, I will take immediate steps to design and implement a healthcare system that is more ***accessible, delivers high quality care, lowers consumer costs, and improves the health*** of New Mexicans. My plan includes 8 specific actions. As Governor, I will:

1. Maximize federal funding for Medicaid, opioid addiction treatment, and other core health care needs to help build up our healthcare workforce, infrastructure, and delivery system.
2. Protect New Mexicans from the destructive policies of the Trump Administration and the GOP Congress by ensuring ongoing insurance coverage for people with pre-existing conditions and implementing a Medicaid buy-in program.
3. Make the healthcare system easier to understand and simpler to use and let providers spend more time taking care of patients, instead of dealing with bureaucracy.
4. Recruit and retain more healthcare providers and increase incentives for them to work in rural communities, including by:
 - Paying providers fairly in Medicaid and public employee and retiree health insurance programs.
 - Leveraging Medicaid to expand psychiatry and family practice physician residency positions in rural New Mexico.
 - Continuing the rural physician and nurse tax credit and extending it to pharmacists, social workers and counselors.
 - Supporting full funding for the New Mexico Health Service Corps to provide valuable stipends for professionals completing residency if they promise to practice in an underserved area.
 - Supporting educational programs in public schools, and two- and four-year higher education institutions that encourage careers in the health sciences, provide support and enrichment in the health sciences, and offer good health career opportunities that will help keep our kids in New Mexico.
5. Fix our broken behavioral health care system, including by:
 - Rebuilding New Mexico's behavioral health provider infrastructure destroyed by the Martinez Administration.
 - Ensuring we have the necessary continuum of care – including inpatient and outpatient services – for mental health and addiction services in New Mexico.
 - Providing comprehensive evidence-based treatment for opioid addiction.

- o Addressing adverse childhood experiences (ACES) that create significant challenges for far too many of our kids and often lead to significant behavioral health challenges.
 - o Getting nonviolent offenders treatment for mental illness and addiction, instead of incarcerating them and promoting recidivism.
6. Drive down healthcare costs through innovative strategies that
- o harness the state’s purchasing power in Medicaid and public employee and retiree health plans,
 - o reduce high drug costs,
 - o increase the use of telehealth and support UNM’s Project ECHO to provide training, support and learning communities for rural providers,
 - o coordinate care more effectively, and
 - o use tested models that lower costs while improving quality.
7. Support prevention and public health initiatives that will reduce the need for healthcare services, address the social determinants of health, and keep our families and communities safe and healthy.
8. Prioritize policies that meet the needs of New Mexico’s most vulnerable populations, including children, seniors, persons with disabilities, Native Americans, immigrants, women, and members of the LGBTQ+ community.
9. Build system capacity to provide services to 4,500 people with developmental disabilities and their families, who currently have to wait more than a decade to receive services through the Developmental Disabilities (DD) waiver program, and seek a supports services waiver to help provide some temporary relief to families on the waiting list.