SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 162

A RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING SANTA FE COUNTY'S 2027 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES RELATED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the legislative pre-filing for the 2027 Regular Legislative Session will occur between January 2, 2027, through January 16, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe County (County) Board of County Commissioners (Board) discusses and approves support for legislative priorities as an important step in assuring the preservation and provision of exemplary services and policies; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the Board take action to maintain revenues, programs, and services at the current or higher level; and

WHEREAS, the Board would like to demonstrate strong support to the state legislature for legislation with respect to increased and/or enhanced public health and social services; and

WHEREAS, the Senior population continues to grow both nationally and at the local level, resulting in a much greater demand for essential services, especially for Seniors who are home-bound; and

WHEREAS, the successful implementation of Universal Child Care requires substantial physical infrastructure, including the construction, renovation, and expansion of licensed childcare facilities; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing demand for managed withdrawal and recovery services for the adult population struggling with substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, transportation remains among the top barriers to care, especially in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, New Mexicans continue to die of alcohol-related harms at rates that far exceed the national average, and increased alcohol taxes have been shown to decrease drinking, including underage drinkers, as well as to decrease many alcohol-related harms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners hereby identifies the following legislative priorities related to public health and social services as set forth above and urges that legislation incorporating these priorities be enacted by the State Legislature during its 2027 session.

1. **$300,000 to add "Homemaker" and/or "Chore" services for vulnerable Seniors enrolled with the County's Senior Services Division:** Both of these services were

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indicated as a need in the Santa Fe County Senior Survey and can prove essential especially for Seniors living alone.

As defined by the Area Agency on Aging, Homemaker Services are the "performance of light housekeeping tasks provided in a person's home and possibly other community settings. Tasks may include preparing meals, shopping for personal items, or using the telephone," among other duties. For a variety of age-related reasons, basic cooking and cleaning can become incredibly challenging and also put Seniors at greater risk of falling or getting hurt (trying to dust something out of reach or injuring their back trying to lift a heavy vacuum, as two examples).

Chore Services are defined by the Area Agency on Aging as the "performance of heavy household tasks provided in a person's home and possibly other community settings. Tasks may include yard work or side work maintenance in addition to heavy housework." It is not uncommon for Meal Drivers to come upon homes that in the winter have no means of shoveling snow to create an access point to the home and in the summer present with significant weed overgrowth resulting in the same issue. Providing this service as an option for eligible Seniors will help support their overall health and safety.

This initial requested investment of $300,000.00 would be applied to hire four (4) term FTEs with a sustainably plan of adding these services to our standard service array as portions of these services are reimbursable by the State. If workforce shortages continue to prove challenging, the services would be contracted out with an area vendor thereby helping to promote economic development.

2. **$600,000 for Adults with SUD as part of La Sala expansion:** The County is expected to acquire the facility located at 2025 Galisteo Street before the end of the year (2026). This facility is adjacent to the existing La Sala building, which will eventually be able to double its detox capacity from 25 beds to 50. Once the 2025 Galisteo building is purchased, the County will issue a solicitation for services at both sites similar to the solicitation issued for the Youth Behavioral Health Center as contracts with the existing La Sala service providers will be expiring in June of 2027.

   While the County will apply select State Behavioral Health Reform funds towards the necessary facility renovations and select DWI Prevention funds towards the service operations of expanded managed withdrawal, the County is seeking one-time, short term (<2 years) operational funding to help support service operations of contracted staff just until they're able to successfully scale enough for sustainable revenue through Medicaid and other funding sources.

3. **$200,000 for an on-demand ride contract tied to facility sites of La Sala, the Youth Behavioral Health Center, and/or any County Senior Center or enrolled County Senior:** Transportation remains as a considerable challenge, especially in the more rural areas. And while gains have been made in public transit and medically-related transportation covered by Medicaid, these services require advanced planning and at times assistance with access. By allowing those using or needing to access services at La Sala, the Youth Behavioral Health Center, or Senior Services an on demand option with

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Uber, for example, we're helping to narrow the access gap in ways that best benefit community health and safety. Sustainability for this one-time request would be to work with RTD about its on-demand expansion opportunities, to work with the City and our CONNECT network about expanding this existing but limited service, along with seeking other sources of support through grants.

4. **$200,000 specific to the immigrant population** to support and expand legal aid and social services.

5. Support the initiative to **increase the Alcohol Excise Tax in New Mexico** to help reduce alcohol-related harms while providing funding for more prevention efforts.

6. Adequately fund the **Child Care Facility Loan Fund** to ensure sufficient capital is available at below-market rates to build the physical capacity necessary to implement Universal Child Care.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 10th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026.

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Justin S. Greene, Chair

ATTESTATION:

_____
Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk

COUNTY CLERK
KATHARINE E. CLARK
SANTA FE COUNTY NEW MEXICO

Date: 11/12/2026

Approved as to form:

_____
Walker Boyd
Santa Fe County Attorney

OUNTY OF SANTA FE)
TATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
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Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
ecord On The 12TH Day Of November, 2026 at 01:53:52 PM
nd Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2095693
f The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clark
eputy _____ County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

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