



New Mexico
Aging and Long-Term Services Department
State Tribal Collaboration Report 2021-2022

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I. Executive Summary

New Mexico state departments, agencies, tribes, pueblos, and nations across the state continue to monitor and deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) Office of Indian Elder Affairs (OIEA) continues to closely monitor the challenges to New Mexico's tribal elders, their providers, and the long-term impact on the interconnected service delivery system. The ALTSD OIEA is collaborating with tribal leadership and senior service providers to help elders and providers make good decisions in what remains a challenging operating environment.

During a time of crisis, it is essential that our insights and experiences be shared. This helps us to contain and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the New Mexico system of elderly support services. Ongoing collaboration and sharing of resources and knowledge ensures timely clarifications as emerging developmental changes are implemented.

Value, effectiveness, and worth are necessary characteristics of the evolving Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) Office of Indian Elder Affairs (OIEA). Collaborative efforts support the triple aim of 1) improving the experience of services and care; 2) improving health; and 3) lowering evident health disparities in Native American elder populations.

ALTSD/OIEA consistently responds to emerging demands and helps reduce undue burdens on providers of elder services. Expectations require that providers maintain services that are safe, effective, client centered, timely, efficient, and equitable. The guidance presented throughout this report is a result of ALTSD and OIEA's collaborative efforts with tribal contractors to gather data on how and what types of quality services are provided based on current evidence and joint consensus.

A. Summary of Report Focused on Accomplishments with Tribal Nations and Overview of Future Efforts

The ALTSD continues to collaborate with New Mexico's Tribes, Pueblos and Nations. The OIEA helps strengthen the capacity to deliver a wide range of programs and services throughout New Mexico for Native American elders. The ALTSD/OIEA coordinates its senior services through the New Mexico Indian Area Agency on Aging (IAAA) and the Navajo Department of Aging and Long-Term Care Services (DALTCS), formerly Navajo Area Agency on Aging (NAAA). Through ardent management initiatives, the ALTSD consultation and communication policies and procedures have created a foundation that fosters an environment which concentrates on the needs of our Native American elders.

II. Agency Overview and Background

A. Mission Statement

Aging and Long-Term Services Department

Our Mission

The New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) provides accessible, integrated services to older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers to assist them in maintaining their independence, dignity, autonomy, health, safety, and economic well-being, thereby empowering them to live on their own terms in their own communities as productively as possible.

Our Vision

Lifelong independence and healthy aging

Guiding Principles

- ...Protect the safety and rights of those we serve
- ...Promote personal choice and self-determination
- ...Treat all persons with respect, embracing cultural diversity
- ...Encourage collaborative partnerships
- ...Provide fiscally responsible services

Office of Indian Elder Affairs

Vision

Honor healthy aging among American Indian elders by supporting culture, traditions and effective approaches that enrich a long life

Mission

Uphold endeavors that empower American Indian elders to live healthy with joy, respect and dignity in their tribal communities

Guiding Principles—Core Values

- ...Promote high-quality aging services
- ...Celebrate cultural diversity
- ...Strengthen partnerships and trust
- ...Engage in team approaches
- ...Conduct responsible monitoring

B. Agency Overview

“The role of the NM Aging and Long-Term Services Department is to develop programs and public policies which foster the delivery of integrated programs and services to older persons, persons with disabilities, and caregivers, throughout New Mexico. The Department is charged with creating a seamless, comprehensive, efficient and cost-effective array of programs and services, which emphasize home and community-based long-term care, healthy and productive aging, economic security, protection of rights, and prevention of abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Department has the authority to develop and manage budgets and programs, issue rules and regulations, and develop this statewide plan for addressing the needs of older New Mexicans and New Mexicans with disabilities. The Older Americans Act and the Governor of the State of New Mexico authorize the Department to prepare this plan for delivering services to New Mexico's older adults and adults with disabilities. The Cabinet Secretary and the Director for the Office of Indian Elder Affairs of the Aging and Long-Term Services Department are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor. By State statute, the Governor appoints an eleven member Policy Advisory Committee to advise the Secretary regarding programs, policies and issues addressed by the Department. The Aging and Long-Term Services Department consists of the Office of the Secretary and four divisions.”¹

The Office of Indian Elder Affairs was created within the Office of the Secretary in 2004. The OIEA has responsibility of managing the Indian Area Agency on Aging (IAAA), supports the efforts of the Navajo Nation-Department of Health's Division of Aging and Long-Term Care Support (DALTCS), serves as a central point for addressing issues affecting New Mexico's American Indian elders within ALTSD's various divisions, and provides a key advocacy role for Indian Country when circumstances warrant. OIEA's general operational functions include contract management of state general funds, program compliance monitoring, technical assistance, advocacy and training.

The Indian Area Agency on Aging provides contract management, program monitoring, technical assistance, advocacy and training to New Mexico's 19 pueblos and 2 Apache nations with regard to their provision of Older Americans Act services. In 1991, the Aging and Long-Term Services Department entered into a joint powers agreement with the NM Department of Indian Affairs creating the first state-designed Native American Indian area agency on aging. The joint intent of the two departments was to empower the Indian Area Agency on Aging with roles and responsibilities similar to the state's federally designated area agencies and for it to serve as the leading advocacy organization for Indian elders in the state. In 2000, the Indian AAA was placed within the Aging and Long-

¹ New Mexico State Plan for Aging and Long-Term Services “Partners in Lifelong Independence and Healthy Aging” October 1, 2017–September 30, 2021, page 4.

Term Services Department.”² The Indian Area Agency on Aging is under state authority, through the New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD), to work in partnership to develop a comprehensive and coordinated service system of senior centers and adult day care services provided by New Mexico’s 19 Pueblos, 2 Apache Nations, and the Navajo Nation. The IAAA administers Planning and Service Area 6 (PSA 6), which is comprised of 21 of 22 tribal geographic service areas.

The OIEA also supports the efforts of Planning and Service Area 5 (PSA 5), the Navajo Nation-Department of Health’s—DALTCS, which serves as the Area Agency on Aging that administers programs for Navajo Nation elders.

“Since 1978, the Navajo AAA has been the sole organization designated to provide Older Americans Act Title III and Title VI services to tribal elders who are age 60 or older. In certain communities, age eligibility is lowered to 55, subsequent to incorporating Title VI of the Older Americans Act. Currently, the area agency operates 81 senior centers (39 of which are located in New Mexico), family caregiver support services, a Foster Grandparent Program, a LTC Ombudsman Program, elder abuse prevention, and health insurance/benefits counseling services. The Navajo AAA has established five regional agencies. The Crownpoint Regional Agency is entirely within New Mexico’s state boundaries and operates 20 senior centers; the Shiprock Regional Agency operates 11 centers in New Mexico and the Fort Defiance Regional Agency operates 8 centers in New Mexico. Senior centers provide congregate and home delivered meals, transportation, health promotion and social services.”

The ALTSD’s goal is to continue to successfully provide training, technical assistance, advocacy, and strategic planning in partnership with its tribal contractors, to strengthen and coordinate a breath of services and programs to meet the social, health, nutrition, caregiving and adult day care needs of New Mexico’s Native American elders.

C. Any Department—Specific Tribal Collaboration/Consultation policy your agency might have adopted in addition to STCA (11-18-4C (1))

The ALTSD through its State-Tribal Consultation, Collaboration and Communication Policy, the Agency seeks to improve and/or maintain partnerships with Tribes. The purpose of the Policy is to use or build-upon previously agreed-upon processes when the Agency initiates programmatic actions that have tribal implications.

III. Agency Efforts to Implement Policy (11-18-4.C (1) (3))

A. Describe agency’s efforts to communicate, collaborate and consult with tribes as described in your Tribal Collaboration and Communications policy (Division specific efforts to build meaningful dialogue and collaboration with tribes)

“The ALTSD policy consists of the following principles:

- A. Recognize and Respect Sovereignty**—the State and Tribes are sovereign governments. The recognition and respect of sovereignty is the basis for government-to-government relations and this Policy. Sovereignty must be respected and recognized in government-to-government consultation, communication and collaboration between the Agency and Tribes. The Agency recognizes and acknowledges the trust responsibility of the Federal Government to federally-recognized Tribes.
- B. Government-to-Government Relations**—the Agency recognizes the importance of collaboration, communication and cooperation with Tribes. The Agency further recognizes that Agency programmatic actions may have tribal implications or otherwise affect American Indians/Alaska Natives. Accordingly, the Agency recognizes the value of dialogue between Tribes and the Agency with specific regard to those programmatic actions.
- C. Efficiently Addressing Tribal Issues and Concerns**—the Agency recognizes the value of Tribes’ input regarding Agency programmatic actions. Thus, it is important that Tribes’ interests are reviewed and considered by the Agency in its programmatic action development process.

² New Mexico State Plan for Aging and Long-Term Services “Partners in Lifelong Independence and Healthy Aging” October 1, 2017–September 30, 2022, page 11, 12.

- D. Collaboration and Mutual Resolution**—the Agency recognizes that good faith, mutual respect, and trust are fundamental to meaningful collaboration and communication policies. As they arise, the Agency shall strive to address and mutually resolve concerns with impacted Tribes.
- E. Communication and Positive Relations**—the Agency shall strive to promote positive government-to-government relations with Tribes by: (1) interacting with Tribes in a spirit of mutual respect; (2) seeking to understand the varying Tribes' perspectives; (3) engaging in communication, understanding and appropriate dispute resolution with Tribes; and (4) working through the government-to-government process to attempt to achieve a mutually-satisfactory outcome.
- F. Informal Communication**—the Agency recognizes that formal consultation may not be required in all situations or interactions. The Agency may seek to communicate with and/or respond to Tribes outside the consultation process. These communications do not negate the authority of the Agency and Tribes to pursue formal consultation.
- G. Health Care Delivery and Access**—providing access to health care is an essential public health responsibility and is crucial for improving the health status of all New Mexicans, including American Indians/Alaska Natives in rural and urban areas. American Indians/ Alaska Natives often lack access to programs dedicated to their specific health needs. This is due to several factors prevalent among American Indians/Alaska Natives, including but not limited to, lack of resources, geographic isolation, and health disparities. The Agency's objective is to work collaboratively with Tribes to ensure adequate and quality health service delivery in all tribal communities, as well as with individual American Indians/ Alaska Natives in urban areas or otherwise outside tribal communities.
- H. Distinctive Needs of American Indians/Alaska Natives**—compared with other Americans, American Indians/ Alaska Natives experience an overall lower health status and rank at, or near, the bottom of other social, educational and economic indicators. American Indians/Alaska Natives have a life expectancy that is four years less than the overall U.S. population and they have higher mortality rates involving diabetes, alcoholism, cervical cancer, suicide, heart disease, and tuberculosis. They also experience higher rates of behavioral health issues, including substance abuse. The Agency will strive to ensure with Tribes the accountability of resources, including a fair and equitable allocation of resources to address these health disparities. The Agency recognizes that a community-based and culturally appropriate approach to health and human services is essential to maintain and preserve American Indian/ Alaska Native cultures.
- I. Establishing Partnerships**—in order to maximize the use of limited resources, and in areas of mutual interests and/or concerns, the Agency seeks partnerships with Tribes and other interested entities, including academic institutions and Indian organizations. The Agency encourages Tribes to aid in advocating for state and federal funding for tribal programs and services to benefit all of the State's American Indians/Alaska Natives.
- J. Intergovernmental Coordination and Collaboration**—
1. *Interacting with federal agencies.* The Agency recognizes that the State and Tribes may have issues of mutual concern where it would be beneficial to coordinate with and involve federal agencies that provide services and funding to the Agency and Tribes.
 2. *Administration of similar programs.* The Agency recognizes that under Federal tribal self-governance and self-determination laws, Tribes are authorized to administer their own programs and services which were previously administered by the Agency. Although the Agency's or Tribe's program may have its own federally approved plan and mandates, the Agency shall strive to work in cooperation and have open communication with Tribes through a two-way dialogue concerning these program areas.
- K. Cultural and Linguistic Competency**—the Agency shall strive for its programmatic actions to be culturally relevant and developed and implemented with cultural and linguistic competence.³

³ New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department State-Tribal Consultation, Collaboration and Communication Policy. Pages 2–4

The Aging and Long-Term Services Department consists of the Office of the Secretary and four divisions:

- The **Office of the Secretary** includes the Cabinet Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Office of the General Counsel, Human Resources, Information Technology, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, Office of Alzheimer's and Dementia Care, and Office of Indian Elder Affairs.
- The **Administrative Services Division** includes the Capital Projects Bureau, financial management, budgeting, procurement, contracting, and administrative support for the Department.
- The **Adult Protective Services Division** provides a system of protective services to persons age 18 and older who are unable to protect themselves from abuse, neglect or exploitation. Investigations are conducted through a network of regional field offices which cover all New Mexico counties. When necessary, Adult Protective Services provides short-term services, including emergency protective placement, home care, adult day care, attendant care and filing of guardianship petitions in district courts.
- The **Aging Network Division** includes an Employment Programs Bureau which administers two older worker programs and 50+ Employment Connection offices, the NM Conference on Aging, and the Senior Services Bureau which provides technical and programmatic support for all non-tribal area agencies on aging, Volunteer Programs (FGP, SCP, RSVP) and other aging network contractors.
- The **Consumer and Elder Rights Division** includes the NM Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Options Counseling, a Veteran Directed Home and Community-Based Services Program, the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), a Care Transitions Program, and a Prescription Drug Assistance Program.

Division specific efforts to build meaningful dialogue and collaboration with tribes resulted in the following status summary.

The majority of frail Native American elders live at home, are cared for by family members, and many live in multi-generational homes. Some of the tribal programs provide in-home services and caregiver support. Adult Day Care Centers operate in Zuni, Isleta and Santa Clara Pueblos. The Isleta Pueblo also operates a tribally-assisted living facility. Two tribal nursing facilities are currently operating in PSA 6: the Laguna Rainbow Center located in the Laguna Pueblo, 50 miles west of Albuquerque, and the Mescalero Care Center at the Mescalero Apache Reservation in southern New Mexico. The Mescalero Apache Reservation and Zuni Pueblo also have dialysis care units.

An Adult Day Care Center program is currently in development at the Pueblo of Santa Ana. Due to the need for corrective legislative language that authorizes the use of the Kiki Saavedra Senior Dignity Fund, the ALTSD was not able to fully fund the development of additional tribal Adult Day Care programs during FY 2022. However, the ALTSD intends to fund and support the Pueblos of Taos and Santo Domingo to develop Adult Day Care and/or Home and Community Based Care programs in FY 2023.

New Mexico's Native American lands can be described as rural or frontier and predominantly isolated from urban areas. This isolation impacts tribal members' access to services, and particularly impacts tribal elders. There is a need for additional long-term care services (both in-home and facility-based), access to adequate medical care, expanded transportation services, adequate housing and legal services to address issues of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation. The major concerns of Native American elders in PSAs 5 and 6 include Covid-19 relief, transportation, nutrition, long-term care, and social and supportive services. In addition, elders are concerned about the role of Indian Health Service in providing long-term care and geriatric care. The Indian AAA conducts outreach to identify Native American elders eligible for assistance, and informs them of the availability of aging programs and benefits, including those provided directly by the Department. These outreach efforts place special emphasis on reaching older individuals with greatest economic and social needs, with particular attention to those with low incomes. The Indian Area Agency on Aging maintains an active advocacy network which responds to Native American elder concerns throughout tribal, state, and national venues, and works to address identified gaps and barriers.⁴

⁴ 2017–2021 State Plan. Page 12

IV. Current & Planned Programs and Services for Native Communities (11-18-4.C (5))

- A. Provide a description of current and planned programs and services provided to or directly affecting Native communities and the funding for each program

Senior Services Programs —In collaboration with its partners in FY 2021 and FY 2022, the ALTSD provided technical assistance and program initiatives. ALTSD awarded 19 contracts to fund 59 senior center operations and services provided in the New Mexico tribal communities. The contractors and contract amounts include:	FY21 & FY22 Contract Amounts
Acoma Senior Center—Pueblo of Acoma	\$ 137,940.00
Cochiti Senior Center—Pueblo of Cochiti	136,253.00
Isleta Senior Center—Pueblo of Isleta	114,910.00
Jemez Senior Center—Pueblo of Jemez	136,131.00
Jicarilla Senior Center—Jicarilla Apache Nation	150,044.00
Laguna Senior Center—Pueblo of Laguna	173,196.00
Mescalero Senior Center—Mescalero Apache Tribe	122,246.00
Navajo Area Agency on Aging—Navajo Nation DALTCS	1,177,000.00
Ohkay Owingeh Senior Center—Ohkay Owingeh	126,404.00
Pojoaque Senior Center—Pueblo of Pojoaque	68,670.00
San Felipe Senior Center—Pueblo de San Felipe	150,259.00
Sandia Senior Center—Pueblo of Sandia	54,866.00
Santa Ana Pueblo Senior Center—Santa Ana Pueblo	55,013.00
Santa Clara Senior Center—Santa Clara Pueblo	180,404.00
Santo Domingo Senior Center—Santo Domingo Tribe	140,558.00
Taos Senior Center—Taos Pueblo	105,565.00
Tesuque Senior Center—Pueblo of Tesuque	59,543.00
Zia Senior Citizen Center—Pueblo of Zia	54,866.00
Zuni Senior Center—Pueblo of Zuni	199,286.00
8 Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc.—Eight Northern Indian Pueblo	180,950.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,524,104.00

Three FY 2022 and FY 2022 contracts for adult day care services in the Pueblos were awarded:	FY 2021 & FY 2022 Contract Amount
Isleta Adult Daycare Center (ADC)	\$ 82,114.00
Santa Clara ADC	102,708.00
Zuni ADC	93,774.00
TOTAL	\$ 278,596.00
IAAA Senior Center Contracts	\$ 3,524,104.00
IAAA Adult Day Care Contracts	278,596.00
TOTAL IAAA Budget	\$ 3,802,700.00

Senior Services for the Apache Tribes, Navajo Nation, and Pueblos—the ALTSD/OIEA provided technical assistance during FY 2022 which involved training in both budgetary and fiscal processes, including contract and budgeting timelines, initiation and timely completion of processes, State House Bill II funding allocations, service unit tracking and analysis. These training opportunities reached senior center management and program staff. More detailed descriptions are located in the sections that follow.

During FY 22 programs overseen by the NAAA provided:

- 25,646 one-way trips
- 196,253 congregate meals to 23,111 elders
- 92,803 home-delivered meals to 6,741 elders

IAAA tribal contractors provided the following services to elders during FY 22:

- 42,255 one-way trips
- 83,810 congregate meals to 2,391 elders
- 257,039 home-delivered meals to 9,934 elders
- 22,593 hours of Adult Day Care

OIEA collaborated with the following organizations on an on-going basis in order to increase services and opportunities available to New Mexico's Native American elders:

- AARP—Tribal Liaison
- Administration on Aging/Administration on Community Living/Title VI Program
- All Pueblo Council of Governors
- All Pueblo Council of Governors-Elder's Committee
- ALTSD Aging and Disability Resource Center
- Alzheimer's Association, National & New Mexico Chapter
- Central New Mexico College
- City of Albuquerque
- Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Health Benefit ABCs (Bill Benson)
- Indian Health Services
- International Association for Indigenous Aging (Bill Benson/Dave Baldrige)
- National Indian Council on Aging
- National Senior Olympics
- Native American Budget and Policy Institute
- Navajo Nation Department of Health – Division of Aging & Long Term Care Support
- New Mexico Department of Health
- New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions
- New Mexico Indian Affairs Department
- New Mexico Indian Council on Aging
- New Mexico Senior Olympics, Inc.
- New Mexico Title VI Coalition
- Santa Fe Indian School – Leadership Institute
- University of New Mexico
- UNM-Native American Alzheimers Institute
- USAging

ALTSD/OIEA COVID-19 RESPONSE

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, all tribal and non-tribal senior centers across that state ceased providing meals in a congregate setting to limit and prevent exposure to COVID-19 within senior centers. Tribal senior centers across the state generally follow the same process the NM Department of Health has in place to assist with testing, contact tracing, and evaluating risk factors that assist tribal leadership in make informed decisions about closures of senior centers due to COVID-19 risk factors. The ALTSD/OIEA honors and respects the government-to-government relationship between the state and tribes, and fully supports decisions tribal leaders and tribal programs make regarding when, or if, senior center and adult day care programs opened to a congregate setting.

To support tribal senior center programs through the Covid-19 pandemic, the OIEA facilitated the following:

- 1) **Tribal Senior Center Emergency Plans**—the OIEA mobilized to help our Tribes, Pueblos, and the Navajo Nation with guidance and assistance to establish “Senior Center Emergency Plans” which halted congregate meal activities at tribal senior centers, and transitioned to providing “home-delivered meals, pick-up meals, and other alternatives to congregate settings, to ensure our elders would not go hungry during this crisis.
- 2) **Emergency Food Box Initiative**—the ALTSD started an emergency food box operation to provide much needed food to elders throughout the state. ALTSD staff and volunteers packed thousands of food boxes for delivery to tribal and non-tribal senior centers throughout the state. Due to the complexities tribal communities face (e.g. limited, or non-existent, access to local food, water, and supply stores, lack of transportation for elders, etc.) ALTSD delivered these emergency food boxes to tribal communities first. While department staff packed boxes with the assistance of numerous volunteers, the OIEA made arrangements with each individual tribe to obtain tribal leader approvals, set up hub sites, arrange for transport and receiving, and coordinated delivery of food boxes to tribal elders. Subsequent rounds of food box deliveries were provided to several tribal communities hardest hit by COVID-19.
- 3) **Personal Protective Equipment**—Throughout the pandemic, personal protective equipment (PPE) was made available to tribal senior centers largely consisting of facemasks and personal protective supplies.
- 4) **Ongoing Zoom Meetings and Phone Calls**—The OIEA provided tribal senior center staff with ongoing support and guidance as circumstances evolved. The responsibilities each of our tribal providers faced were difficult, at best. Continual support and encouragement were paramount as senior centers navigated difficult challenges. In addition to regular Zoom meetings and calls, the OIEA conducted special workgroup sessions and support group sessions as circumstances required.

ALTSD Divisions and Program Supports

Healthy Aging Activities

- ALTSD and OIEA staff participated in the Governor’s Hunger Initiative throughout tribal communities
- Provided support by restructuring congregate meals to “grab-n-go”, pick-up meals, or home delivered meals
- Provided additional food boxes to alleviate hunger created by the pandemic
- Initiated partnership with the Department of Health to provide sovereign food trainings to tribal communities.
- Implemented the AmeriCorps planning grant from the Department of Workforce Solutions to develop a sovereign food and economic development project that utilized a partnership with the Pueblo of Zuni.
- Collaborated with the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA)

- Collaborated with the New Mexico Indian Council on Aging (NMICOA)

Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Services

The Office of Alzheimer's and Dementia Care collaborated with the OIEA and New Mexico's Pueblos, Tribes and Navajo Nation. These projects included:

- The New Mexico State Caregiving/Dementia Plans Leadership Team included representatives from the OIEA and Navajo Nation.
- The Alzheimer's Association, New Mexico Chapter, provided statewide caregiver support services including 24/7 Helpline, information, care consultations, training and education, support groups and a self-directed respite program. Skills for Dementia Caregiving (aka Savvy Caregiver), an evidence-based caregiver education program continued to be offered.
- Pegasus Legal Services for Children, Inc. provided legal services to assist kinship caregivers to obtain guardianship of related children, including Native American kinship caregivers.

Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services (APS) does not have jurisdiction on Indian land and refers any reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation involving Native Americans residing on Indian land to the social services office of the appropriate jurisdiction. At the time of a referral, APS also offers to collaborate regarding the investigation. In order for APS to investigate, the leadership of the Pueblo, Tribe or Nation must grant permission.

APS NE Region: Staff in the NE region collaborate with Santa Clara, Ohkay Owingeh, Jicarilla Apache, Tesuque, Nambe and Pojoaque. Training was provided as possible.

- **APS NW Region:** During FY22, staff in the NW region provided technical support to Zuni pueblo in developing and updating their APS policies and procedures. Staff also provided consultation and training at Laguna Pueblo, Acoma Pueblo and Navajo Nation. Staff also provided training to staff at Shiprock Social Services. APS continues to work with the Nation on mutual cases where an alleged victim resides off the reservation.
- **APS SE Region:** The SE regional office collaborates with the Mescalero tribe and provides non-jurisdictional reports to their Tribal Social Services.
- **APS SW Region:** APS management in the Southwest region of New Mexico collaborates with the Mescalero tribe and provides non-jurisdictional reports to their Tribal Social Services.

APS Metro Region: APS collaborated with Isleta Pueblo regarding mutual cases.

Capital Outlay

ALTSD Capital Projects Bureau (CPB) is responsible for the administration of the capital outlay projects for senior centers statewide under the statutory authority of State Agency on Aging (28-4-1 to 28-4-9 NMSA 1978). Capital outlay appropriations are made to ALTSD through the legislative process and such projects include those awarded to both local and tribal governments for renovation and construction projects, as well as for the purchase of vehicles and large equipment, such as commercial kitchen equipment. CPB staff work closely with the Aging Network, OIEA, AAA's and the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) to prepare an annual capital outlay recommendation. The CPB is responsible for contracting with the funded governmental entities, and must provide assurances to DFA that the governmental entity is in compliance with NMAC 2.61.6 Bond Disbursement Rule, Executive Order 2013-006 and the DFA State Board of Finance Release of Funds Conditions (Anti-donation Clause of NM Constitution, Art. IX, Sec.14). The CPB also monitors, tracks, and reports project and fiscal status for each appropriation; processes requests for reimbursement of eligible expenditures; ensures timely reversions of expired appropriation balances; and, provides training and technical assistance to grantees with regard to planning, project management and administration of capital project appropriations.

Capital outlay request applications are vetted for fundability and project readiness for inclusion in the annual ALTSD recommendation to the Executive. The CPB provides training and technical assistance workshops on how to submit capital outlay applications and grants management/compliance. In FY 2022, the CPB conducted several virtual training sessions for the 2023 Applications. The 2022 Application template and required documents were posted on

the ALTSD website along with the supporting power point presentations. Local and Tribal administrators were invited to attend the workshops in their respective areas of the State. CPB provided in-person technical assistance as requested.

Consumer and Elder Rights—State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) and Native American Indian tribes interactions

The current programs are listed below (FY22):

- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) benefits counseling.
- Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) – empowers and assists Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and their caregivers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse.
- Resource Options Counseling can help weigh choices and help connect consumers to programs and services around long-term services and supports (LTSS).
- The Prescription Drug Assistance (PDA) program assists uninsured and underinsured individuals obtain medications they need at costs they can afford.

Employment Programs

Healthy Aging and Employment Programs—ALTSD seeks to promote the economic well-being and health of New Mexico's elders. Healthy Aging initiatives promote fitness, adequate and healthful nutrition and education about health risks and the management of chronic disease. Participants in the older worker programs gain job skills, while enabling non-profit and government organizations to provide additional community service. Listed are some of these activities and programs offered to the pueblos, tribes and nations in FY 2021 – FY 2022

Employment Programs Bureau—During FY20, six participants in the Senior Community Service Employment Program were assigned to half-time on-the-job training in Native communities:

- Three in Zuni Pueblo,
- One in Picuris Pueblo, and
- Two on the Navajo Nation.

In addition, nine Native Americans participated in the Employment Programs in urban areas,

- Four in Gallup,
- Three in Albuquerque and
- Two in the Four-Corners area.

The planned programs for are listed below, but during FY21 – FY22 the program implementation was challenged due to the pandemic.

“The Senior Employment Programs will continue to provide low-income seniors with half-time, on-the-job training and additional classroom or on-line training to enable the acquisition of job skills and eventual financial self-sufficiency. The Employment Programs are collaborating with the Office of Indian Elder Affairs and Zuni Pueblo to institute a weekly conference call “radio” program. The program will be coordinated by Zuni elders, with contributions from elders and elderly programs staff. It will include updates of relevant news, open discussions of pertinent topics and some music. The purpose of the program is to provide some social contact to isolated elders.

Alleviation and prevention of chronic disease will be the goal of another developing program. Native elders will be recruited and trained to be Community Health Workers and Certified Peer Support Workers. Some will be eligible for the Senior Employment Programs, others will be funded through other programs. Once trained and certified, they will work in their communities with other elders with chronic mental or physical illness. The goal is to reinforce healthy habits and lifestyles, including regular check-ups, diet, exercise and socialization.”

During FY21-FY22 the Employment Programs:

- Assisted with tracking COVID-19 cases in long-term care facilities including nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Native Communities.
- Assisted with feeding programs at Church Rock on the Navajo Nation.
- Assisted with assessments of PSA VI senior programs in the Four-Corners area.

Legal Services for the Elderly Program (LREP)

The ALTSD provides funding to organizations that provide advocacy and legal representation to assist older adults (including Native American older adults) with greatest economic need or social needs in securing and maintaining government benefits, housing, health care, human rights, consumer protection and domestic protection. ALTSD contracts directly with the Legal Services for the Elderly Program, or LREP, for the provision of statewide legal services for individuals age 55 and older. LREP staff reach out to tribal programs by providing their monthly service/status report to the Navajo Area Agency on Aging and the ALTSD Office of Indian Elder Affairs. LREP conducts free workshops/legal clinics throughout the state, and ensures that all tribal programs receive a written notification regarding workshops in or in close proximity to tribal communities.

State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) is federally and state mandated to provide independent oversight and advocacy services to residents living in New Mexico's long-term care facilities. The Program's staff and volunteers regularly visit nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and they advocate for the recognition, respect, and enforcement of residents' civil and human rights. A regular and required part of our program is a training on cultural competency when working with Native American Elders for Ombudsman staff and volunteers. In FY 2020, the program hired a Northwest Ombudsman Regional Coordinator with a special focus on outreaching to Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations to make sure we understand the role of the LTCOP in supporting Native American elders and adults living with disabilities in facilities.

We spoke with adult day care centers, senior centers, and long-term care facilities on tribal land. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the Native American community in New Mexico. When residents in long-term care facilities started testing positive in long-term care facilities, we recruited volunteers who speak Navajo so we could serve our Navajo speaking COVID positive residents and their families. Recruiting volunteers who speak a Native American language continues to be a priority for the LTCOP in FY 2022.

Corps Volunteer Programs

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities and fosters civic participation through service and volunteering. Senior Corps, a division of CNCS, operates three volunteer programs for seniors: the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program, and RSVP. The Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) receives an annual legislative appropriation to support the operations of local projects statewide under these three programs. ALTSD, in collaboration with the CNCS, provides training and technical assistance to Volunteer Programs statewide, as well as monitoring to ensure program compliance. In State Fiscal Year 2020, **Pueblo of Zuni** was awarded a contract for the provision of services under the Foster Grandparent Program and Senior Companion Program(s). Training and technical assistance include the statewide Senior Corps Grantee meetings, biweekly state calls and Fall training, quarterly Grantee Calls with all state program directors, as well as regular one-to-one technical assistance with Pueblo of Zuni program and fiscal staff. SSB conducted virtual visits in lieu of on-site visits with Pueblo of Zuni volunteer program and fiscal staff.

B. Main agency accomplishments and challenges regarding work with tribes and native organizations including significant state-tribal issues, recommendations and/or priorities addressed in FY21-FY22.

ALTSD/OIEA Collaborative Efforts and Involvement

#	Area	Collaborative Effort and Involvement
1	<i>Transition of older adults to home- and community-based services</i>	The OIEA continues to provide opportunities for OIEA contractors to meet with tribal liaisons affiliated with New Mexico's Managed Care Organizations to discuss options to establish a tribal-MCO revenue stream. The OIEA coordinates with the ALTSD's Aging Disability Resource Center.
2	<i>Promotion of healthy aging</i>	<p>The OIEA is currently implementing a Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Framework with an emphasis on elevating the health status of NM American Indian elders. The OIEA collaborates with the NM Department of Health on a variety of joint initiatives. The OIEA coordinates with NM Senior Olympics, especially in the provision of "All Indian Game Day".</p> <p>The Alzheimer's Association in collaboration with OIEA has begun piloting the "Healthy Brain Initiative Roadmap for Indian Country" in New Mexico.</p>
3	<i>Support to caregivers</i>	The OIEA, the Alzheimer's Association—New Mexico Chapter, the National Indian Council on Aging and the ALTSD Office of Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care, are teaming together to promote the Savvy Caregiver program to the Pueblos and Tribes. One of the overarching goals is to have at least one "Savvy Caregiver in Indian Country" trainer in each tribal community.

OIEA Collaborative Goals with Other ALTSD Divisions:

Goal 1: Ensure all ALTSD staff members have completed the State Personnel Office cultural competency training. "The goals of this statutory training are to provide effective communication and collaboration between state agencies and tribes, develop positive state-tribal government-to-government relations, and to develop cultural competency to provide effective services to tribal governments and tribal citizens." State Personnel Office

Goal 2: Collaborate with the Department of Workforce Solutions to implement the AmeriCorps planning grant and develop a sovereign food and economic development project that will utilize a partnership with the Pueblo of Zuni.

Goal 3: Collaborate with the Alzheimer's Association piloting the "Healthy Brain Initiative Roadmap for Indian Country" in New Mexico.

C. Goals for fiscal year FY21-FY22 relating to tribes and native organizations

ALTSD—OIEA—FY 2020-21 Objectives and FY 2022 Actions & Responses

Tribal Driven Objectives

The OIEA objectives are based on management and community-based participatory processes to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated system of services for AI/AN elders, adults with disabilities and caregivers. Each tribal contractor is required to develop objectives, through its 4-Year Plan, which are monitored through the OIEA assessment and evaluation processes. These processes determine how effectively each pueblo, tribe, or nation is in meeting its stated program goals and objectives. Due to significant pandemic challenges during FY21-FY22, including staff turnover, tribal programs struggled to complete their 4-year plans. The OIEA was significantly understaffed by two people, the director and the staff manager. Despite this, the staff worked diligently to support tribal senior programs to the fullest extent possible. The OIEA will continue to assist tribal programs with planning and implementation of their 4-year plans and provide the needed support for implementation. During the FY22 Legislative Session, the Secretary strongly advocated for the addition of four new positions to enhance OIEA's capacity to provide support to tribal programs. The new staff positions will be available in FY23.

ALTSD Driven Objectives

The ALTSD Cabinet Secretary, the OIEA Director and the Staff Manager attended the State-Tribal Leaders Summit organized by the Indian Affairs Department. The State-Tribal Leaders Summit was held June 1-2, 2022 at the Sandia Resort and Casino at the Pueblo of Sandia. Based on input from tribes, direct responses to previous and current tribally-requested support are outlined in the following section: "ALTSD—OIEA—FY21 Tribally-Requested Support and Subsequent FY22 Follow Up, Planning & Response"

Tribes, Pueblos and the Navajo Nation have specifically requested support to:

- 1) Help tribal leaders, Title VI and Senior Center program managers create a vision for the further development of tribal elder programs.**

The OIEA is working with AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers to develop and Asset Mapping and Gap Analysis template/model to help tribal communities identify the needs and gaps in services to advise future development of tribal programs. The AmeriCorps VISTA program work will develop and test the template/model in three tribal communities and result in recommendations designed to support the further development of tribal elder programs. The OIEA will expand the initiative to mutually-selected tribal programs to support program development. In addition, in FY 23 the OIEA will also host an Elder's Summit in conjunction with tribal programs to assist tribal communities to create a vision for the further development of tribal elder programs.

- 2) Establish a better communication system utilizing an OIEA Director that communicates, advocates, and informs tribal entities of opportunities that develop and provide support to tribal elder programs that includes site visits to pueblos, nations and tribes.**

The OIEA Director and Staff Manager are in constant communication (by phone and Zoom meetings) with tribal senior center directors and staff to support tribal programs. Current staff turnover in tribal communities is significant, so consistent communication is necessary to assist tribal programs by providing training and support as needed. Site visits have been limited due to tribal closures.

- 3) The OIEA Director needs to build relationships with people they serve and act as a conduit to the department, involve pueblos, tribes and nations, as well as other state agencies that serve native elders (e.g. Indian Affairs Department).**

The OIEA Director and Staff Manager work with other state agencies such as the Department of Health, Human Services Department, Indian Affairs Department, Work Force Solutions, etc. to provide nutrition, health, and program support for tribal programs. The Asset Mapping and Gap Analysis work, and the subsequent recommendations resulting, will provide a roadmap to support tribal program development. The OIEA remains committed to provide support to tribal programs and continually builds collaborative relationships within the department, among tribes, pueblos and the nation, and with state agencies serving tribal communities.

- 4) Establish a method by which annual legislative appropriations for tribal services are clearly and accurately generated. This can be accomplished by creating a reporting system that feeds in to the end-of-year legislative session planning and information needs that has already been provided by tribes, pueblos, and nation to minimize last minute data collection needs that are burdensome to tribal elder program directors.**

Legislative activity often requires immediate responses by ALTSD and the OIEA. The department remains cognizant of the burden imposed to tribal program directors and minimizes requests for "last minute data collection needs," but is also aware of impact of not providing immediate relevant data to support legislative appropriations that provide support for tribal programs. Tribal support may be required, however the ALTSD/OIEA tries to balance the requests of the Legislature with timing and works to minimize any undue burden to tribal program personnel.

- 5) Provide transparency regarding appropriations and funding formulas.**

ALTSD/OIEA remains transparent regarding tribal senior center and adult day care program appropriations and has taken steps to evaluate and work with tribes to establish a funding formula for FY23 and subsequent years based on tribal populations, similar to the federal program guidelines administered by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). See response to # 6 below.

- 6) Conduct an equity study that ensures all funding for tribes, pueblos, and nations is equally distributed.**

During FY22, the ALTSD/OIEA evaluated prior year funding distributions. Tribal program reporting through the

WellSky/SAMS data system has been significantly impacted during the pandemic due to tribal staff turnover and the limited staff capacity of OIEA to provide extensive training and support to new hires. Due to these complex challenges, current data provided by tribal programs during the Covid-19 pandemic does not provide a sufficient or accurate picture of senior center services to use as a basis for a funding formula. Alternatively, the OIEA has taken steps to work with tribal programs and tribal leadership to provide for a funding formula based on tribal population, supported by Tribal or U.S. Census data and substantiated by tribal resolution, versus service delivery data that may not accurately reflect the needs and potentials of tribal communities. The IAAA budget is dependent on legislative appropriations and will require a minimum increase of about \$300,000.00 in allocation to balance out an equitable distribution of funding and to minimize any reductions in allocation to tribal programs. The Cabinet Secretary is assisting the OIEA by taking steps to request an increase in IAAA appropriations in FY23 to balance out an equitable distribution of funding while minimizing any reductions in allocations to tribal programs.

- 7) Ensure that tribal leaders, Title VI and Tribal Senior Program Managers have a role in providing input to the development of programs they administer by incorporating and utilizing a formalized tribal consultation process to develop and strengthen program development and program implementation. (Establish a process by utilizing the guidelines of the State Tribal Collaboration Act (STCA)).**

In the Fall of 2019, Secretary Katrina Hotrum-Lopez met with tribal leaders, the Title VI Coalition, Tribal Senior Program Directors and Site Managers at the Pueblo of San Felipe. As a result, this listing is reflective of the tribal requests for action. Upon her appointment, the Secretary provided to the OIEA Director the listing to utilize as a basis for direction and action to ensure tribal input. Subsequently, the OIEA Director met with the All Pueblo Council of Governor—Elder's Committee, the Apache Tribe's program directors, and the Navajo Nation—Division of Aging and Long-Term Care Services (DALTCS) staff to: 1) develop relationships with tribal programs, 2) solicit additional input regarding the needs of tribal programs, and to 3) create an action plan to address the needs and concerns of tribally-based providers to strengthen and support the implementation and development of tribal programs. The State Tribal Collaboration Act requires consultation on department policies that impact tribal communities. The OIEA consistently communicates with tribal programs and engages tribal leadership on issues that impact tribal programs and communities. When necessary, the OIEA requests consultation with tribal leadership and informs them of policy or actions that affect them. In addition, the OIEA is responsive to requests from tribal leadership when they request consultation with the department. In person consultation has been challenging due to the pandemic, but the OIEA Director and Staff Manager respond to in-person site visit requests from tribal programs/leadership. In lieu of in-person consultation, the department remains ready to respond to requests by virtual means if necessary.

- 8) Review the age-related service guidelines and take into consideration life expectancy and health related issues when determining age eligibility for tribal programs.**

The contracts provided through the Indian Area Agency on Aging provide tribes with the option for tribes to lower the age eligibility requirements for service deliver to elders as young as 50-years-of-age. It is left to the tribe's discretion to determine the eligibility of their respective elders. Most tribal programs choose to provide services to those 60-years of age, and older. The choice remains with the tribe, pueblo, or nation.

- 9) Examine Intervention considerations for vulnerable elders versus just Prevention considerations.**

Much work remains to be done accomplish this request. To address the needs of vulnerable elders, the ALTSD is providing support for the development of Adult Day Care and Home & Community-Based Care Services in tribal communities through the Kiki Saavedra Senior Dignity Fund (KSSDF). In FY22, the legislative language that authorizes use of the KSSDF was revisited to allow for use of the funding. This impacted two tribal communities who responded to the RFP issued in FY21. It is OIEA's mission to continually identify needs and develop initiatives to assist tribal program to support New Mexico's vulnerable tribal elders.

10) Review and examine the Federal Statute for tribal programs to access Title III funding opportunities. New Mexico is the only state in the Union that does not fund Title III for tribal elder programs. (In reference to Keller as AG's finding.)

Throughout the development of the "New Mexico State Plan: Aging and Long-Term Services Department – October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2025" the ALTSD recognized that, "For many years ALTSD has heard from Tribes and Pueblos that having access to Title III funding is critical. This State Plan establishes objectives, strategies and measures that directly responds to this significant request. A partnership was established with the University of North Dakota to receive pertinent knowledge about the need of Tribal elders in New Mexico (Page 4)." ALTSD has committed, "New Mexico plans to transform system of care by fully including the Tribes, Pueblos and Nations within New Mexico in all funding opportunities for state and federal funds, as well as working to integrate the Aging Network services with the broader healthcare system, including access to Medicare and Medicaid funding (Page 5)." The Navajo Nation currently receives federal Title III funding through the "Tri-State Agreement" with the Administration for Community Living. This initiative and funding opportunity will apply to the two Apache Tribes and the nineteen Pueblos in New Mexico. In addition, the State Plan outlines, "During this State Plan period ALTSD has specific objectives, strategies and performance measures related to improving collaboration between federally-designated AAAs and Title VI Programs to better facilitate Title III and VI Coordination to expand services and access to NM's Native American older adults and caregivers. Federally-designated AAAs will expand Title III services to the Tribes and Pueblos by contracting directly with Title VI Programs." It is important to note that the IAAA is not a federally-recognized AAA, but it is a state legislatively established AAA.

11) Work closely with tribal entities such as the All Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG)—Elders Committee, the Apache Tribes, and the Navajo Nation to develop programs that are developed and implemented with cultural relevance and consideration for how tribes, pueblos, and nations operate.

12) Incorporate cultural sensitivity and respect for cultural aspects of how tribes, pueblos and nations operate in interactions and program development.

To address requests #11 and #12, the ALTSD's New Mexico State Plan outlines its action plan on Page 17 – 18.

"Objective 1.11 Coordinating Title III programs with Tribes and Pueblos: Improve collaboration between Area Agencies on Aging and Tribes and Pueblos to better facilitate the Older Americans Act required Title III and VI Coordination and expand services an access to New Mexico's Native American Elders and Caregivers.

Strategies

- Develop an eldercare workforce targeting rural and Tribal areas in collaboration with the New Mexico Higher Education Department.
- Gain knowledge and understanding of the Tribal and Pueblo programs and their unmet needs, while improving relations between the ALTSD, federal-recognized AAAs, and the Tribes and Pueblos.
- Conduct annual follow-up meetings with Tribe and Pueblo members to gain feedback and recommendations to meet the needs of elders. Meetings will include information provided about potential OAA services available in the area with Title III funds, service gaps and needs, and action steps to be taken to improve coordination and access to services.
- Collaborate with the AAA directors and staff to educate and improve coordination with Tribes and Pueblos in their area.
- All ALTSD staff and AAA staff will participate in American Indian cultural awareness training during the four-year plan period.

Performance Measures

- Participate in annual Tribal Consultation meeting and share outcomes with the AAAs.
- Facilitate meeting held with AAAs, Title VI Directors and Tribal stakeholders on an annual basis. The first facilitated meeting will take place prior to the release of the Area Plan Guidance in late 2021.
- Require AAA directors to document that agency staff have completed American Indian cultural awareness training.
- Develop an internal documentation system to track ALTSD's staff's successful completion of the training.
- Include the requirement for cultural awareness training in the Area Plan Guidance.

Objective 1.12 Expand Title III: Area Agencies on Aging will expand Title III services to the Tribes and Pueblos by contracting with Title VI Programs.**Strategies**

- Area Plan Guidance will require that the AAAs notify and encourage NM's Tribes and Pueblos to apply for Title III funding.
- Assist the AAAs in providing training and technical assistance to the Tribes and Pueblos on the process for applying for Title III funding from the AAA.
- Ongoing consultation with the Tribes and Pueblos.

Performance Measures

- Monitor progress of the contracting functions of the AAAs."

In conjunction with the AAAs, ALTSD held its first facilitated meeting with tribal Title VI program directors and staff on the Area Plan Guidance in late 2021. The RFP process was completed. No Tribes or Pueblos applied for Title III funding through the RFP process.

13) Tribal elders are asked to go to the legislature to support elder programs throughout the state. Please inform tribes and pueblos what ALTSD is asking for regarding Indian Elder programs, and show them how elders benefit from their time and effort to go to the legislature.

Planning and development of legislative initiatives generally happen in the Fall prior to the convening of the Legislature. The IAAA is a state-administered and state-funded program that relies on State General Funds to operate. The ALTSD/OIEA recognizes the importance of partnering with tribal leadership, providers, and elders, when requesting funding and legislative support for state-funded senior programs. The needs of tribal elders are often best conveyed through their voices and through the voices of tribal providers. A collaborative and cooperative relationship is crucial to the success of program funding and program development through legislative means. The ALTSD/OIEA will make a concerted effort to respectfully honor the request that ALTSD inform tribes and pueblos of what ALTSD is requesting relative to Indian elder programs, and explain to elders how they will benefit from their time and effort to go to the legislature.

14) The Native American Budget and Policy Institute will host an *Elders Convocation* in March or April of 2020 (Postponed due to COVID-10). The outcomes of the convocation will lead to program development needs and aspects that can strengthen and support the development of tribal programs. The APCG-Elder's Committee requests full engagement of ALTSD in the process of listening to and actively working with the pueblos to support and develop elder programs.

The Covid-19 pandemic required the postponement of a planned "Elder's Convocation" or "Elder's Summit." The intent of the summit is to work with participating tribes and pueblos to identify needs and gaps in services through an Asset Mapping and Gap Analysis tribal-specific model that is in development with support from the AmeriCorps VISTA program. A systematic process outlined with support from the Native American Budget and Policy Institute will actively work with tribes and pueblos to facilitate support and development of elder programs. The OIEA

intends to partner with the Native American Budget and Policy Institute (NABPI) to complete the summit in FY23 if Covid-19 related safety protocols will allow.

- 15) The APCG-Elders Committee asks that the ALTSD and OIEA personnel need to understand that fundamental interactions are important, and department personnel need to exhibit sensitivity to Native American Tribes and Pueblos in the process of any interactions with them. Business should be conducted through a “Government-to-Government” relationship, as opposed to a “top-down” or through a “dictatorship” mentality.

The ALTSD/OIEA fully agrees with and supports the recommendation of the APCG-Elders Committee. The State-Tribal Collaboration Act and the ALTSD guidelines require that state agencies function strictly on a “Government-to-Government” basis. The ALTSD/OIEA is committed to conducting business in a mutually-agreeable manner that does not encompass a “top-down” or “dictatorship” mentality that is disrespectful to our honorable tribal communities in New Mexico. The ALTSD is required to conduct tribal consultation efforts between the state and its respective tribes, pueblos, and nations on any policies or actions that effect tribal communities.

- 16) The OIEA needs to work with the Indian Affairs Department (IAD) to develop an methodology for conducting a “government-to-government” relationship with pueblos, tribes and nations.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted OIEA’s ability to consult in person, the OIEA consistently participates in regularly scheduled virtual meetings with tribal leader and tribal representatives hosted by the Indian Affairs Department. In addition, the OIEA reaches out to the IAD for support when situations arise that require consultation with New Mexico’s tribes, pueblos and nations. The IAD provides periodic training for Tribal Liaisons to guide and advise processes for maintaining a meaningful “government-to-government” relationship and consultation process. Both ALTSD’s Tribal Liaison and the OIEA Staff Manager participate in all IAD activity relative to creating and maintaining respectful and meaningful consultation. Consultation is recognized by OIEA as an ongoing process.

- 17) The OIEA should work with the Tribal Program Directors of pueblos, tribes and nations to establish a timeline and an agenda for 2020 and 2021.

- 18) The OIEA should work with Tribal Program Directors of pueblos, tribes and nations, as well as the Title VI Coalition and NM Indian Council on Aging, to review and develop policy, set goals, and guide and inform outcomes that effect elder programs.

- 19) The OIEA should work with the tribal support network at the local, regional and national levels to be informed and to inform tribes and pueblos and nations of opportunities to access funding, and to strengthen and expand services they provide.

To address requests #17, #18, and #19: The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the tribal senior center programs. Staff turnover has created complex challenges for tribal programs. The OIEA works on a consistent basis to provide guidance, training, and direction for the delivery of services to elders. On a program level, the agenda and timelines are set by the contractual obligations agreed to through the Intergovernmental Agreements between the IAAA and the respective tribal contractors. Other initiatives not guided or obligated by contracts are negotiated between the IAAA, OIEA and respective tribes. As OIEA is able to hire four new positions to enhance and support OIEA’S capacity, a strong initiative will be implemented to work with tribes to outline meaningful goals and objectives and timelines coupled with training and support for implementation. In addition, the OIEA works with local, regional and national programs to inform tribes, pueblos and nations of funding opportunities available to strengthen and expand existing services.

20) The OIEA, with input from tribes and nations, must develop an approach to support tribes to define potential for capacity building and assist tribes in building capacity.

Tribal communities struggle with workforce challenges. The OIEA successfully applied for an AmeriCorps VISTA grant to support rural and tribal Asset Mapping and Gap Analysis studies and Eldercare Workforce initiatives to support capacity building within tribal programs. The initiative will be implemented in two rural communities to assist in the development of the model; and will initially implemented in three tribal communities the first year, and selected tribal communities subsequently. As the model is refined, plans for an Elder Summit include intensive workshops to include additional tribal communities as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

21) The OIEA should work with Tribal Program Directors of pueblos, tribes and nations, as well as the Title VI Coalition and NM Indian Council on Aging, to review and develop policy, set goals, and guide and inform outcomes that effect elder programs.

22) The OIEA should work with the tribal support network at the local, regional and national levels to be informed and to inform tribes and pueblos and nations of opportunities to access funding, and to strengthen and expand services they provide.

To address requests #17, #18, and #19: The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the tribal senior center programs. Staff turnover has created complex challenges for tribal programs. The OIEA works on a consistent basis to provide guidance, training, and direction for the delivery of services to elders. On a program level, the agenda and timelines are set by the contractual obligations agreed to through the Intergovernmental Agreements between the IAAA and the respective tribal contractors. Other initiatives not guided or obligated by contracts are negotiated between the IAAA, OIEA and respective tribes. As OIEA is able to hire four new positions to enhance and support OIEA'S capacity, a strong initiative will be implemented to work with tribes to outline meaningful goals and objectives and timelines coupled with training and support for implementation. In addition, the OIEA works with local, regional and national programs to inform tribes, pueblos and nations of funding opportunities available to strengthen and expand existing services.

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21) The ALTSD-OIEA contractual agreements must be reviewed by the department and tribes to ensure realistic measures and/or deliverables.

Contractual agreements are negotiated and program deliverables are selected by tribes based on a set of service delivery options. The OIEA does not dictate what services tribes can select although minimum requirements for services must include nutritional services. Tribal programs submit monthly reports and invoicing for reimbursement. Training and support is provided on an ongoing basis. However, the OIEA is also challenged with capacity issues, but will build its capacity to support tribal programs with four new hires within the division.

22) The Navajo Nation-Department of Health- Division of Aging and Long-Term Care Support has requested a work meeting to evaluate senior programs and identify ways the ALTSD can provide support to build capacity in the Navajo Nation Programs.

The OIEA worked diligently to provide ongoing support to the Navajo Nation (DALTCS) aging program throughout

ALTSD—OIEA—Requested Support FY21-FY22 continued

FY2022 at the request of the director of programs. Bi-Monthly meetings were held to evaluate senior center program challenges and to provide support to address those challenges. The Navajo Nation has 39 senior centers in New Mexico, some struggled to stay open during the pandemic. Unfortunately, for every one non-Indian who contracted Covid-19, there were ten Indians who contracted it. The impact of service providers and tribal programs has been significantly challenging. The Navajo Nation made significant strides in comparison to prior years.

23) The Jicarilla and Mescalero Apache Tribes has requested on-site visits to evaluate and identify ways the ALTSD can provide support to build capacity within the Apache Tribes.

The director, staff manager, and an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer conducted a two-day site visit at the Mescalero Apache Senior Center and met with tribal leaders and service providers to initiate an Asset Mapping and Gap Analysis survey to identify ways the ALTSD and the Tribe can build capacity by identifying issues and workforce development needs. In addition, they met with ENMU-Ruidoso Campus personnel to initiate support for workforce development initiatives.

The Office of Indian Elder Affairs and the Aging and Long-Term Services Department remain dedicated and committed to addressing the issues raised by the tribes, pueblos, and nation. Most in-person meetings and site visits were postponed in FY 2021 and FY 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the OIEA-ALTSD continue to address concerns as they are presented and as they arise. In person site visits are arranged as requested and as Covid-19 safety protocols allow.

V. Training and Employee Notification (11-18-4. (4)(6))

A. STCA Training and Certification

The Department and OIEA offer multiple training events each year, designed to educate and inform aging network providers statewide. Throughout FY 2022, representatives from all pueblos, tribes, and nations participated in trainings the Office of Indian Elder Affairs staff provided to enhance and support tribal senior center and adult day care programs. Staff turnover within tribal senior center and adult day care programs has been challenging and exacerbated by the pandemic. Most trainings were offered virtually by Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

ALTSD's New Mexico Conference on Aging offers older adults, caregivers, and the professionals who work with them, a chance to learn and have fun in an environment that supports independence and dignity. Drawing approximately 1500 people annually, this is one of the few conferences attended by both older adults and professionals. Conference attendance is reflective of New Mexico's ethnic and cultural diversity. The FY22 New Mexico Conference on Aging was held virtually. The Office of Indian Elder Affairs worked closely with the President of the New Mexico Indian Council on Aging and the Chairman of the All Pueblo Council of Governors who hosted the OIEA track during the virtual NM Conference on Aging.

Currently, all ALTSD senior managers are required to participate in the State Personal Office (SPO) cultural competency training. In addition, mid-level managers, supervisors and employees are required to attend the SPO cultural competency training if working directly with tribal communities.

B. Employee Notification about STCA

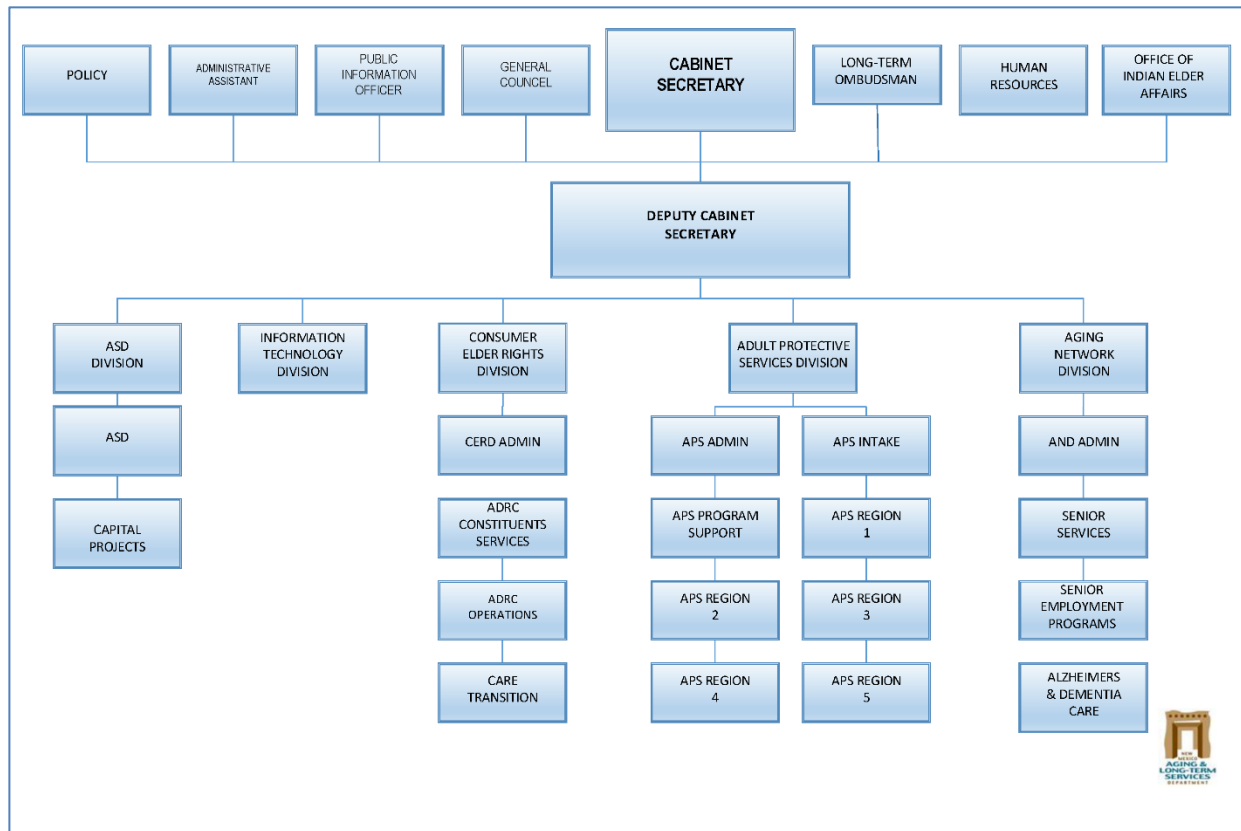
ALTSD notification about the STCA consists of the following:

- Senior management meeting notices
- Telephone consultation with ALTSD Division Directors
- Email notifications—limited to key information, critical information and data that will help improve performance outlined in the STCA
- Cultural Competency training through SPO for all employees serving tribal communities

VI. Key Names & Contact Information (11-18-4.C (2))

A. Org chart and contact information

The diagram below outlines the internal structure of the ALTSD. It outlines the roles, responsibilities and relationships between individuals within the ALTSD organization.



KEY NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION	
Cabinet Secretary Katrina Hotrum-Lopez, Cabinet Secretary 2550 Cerrillos Rd. Santa Fe, NM 87502-7118 Phone: (505) 476-4990 Email: Katrina.Hotrum-Lopez@state.nm.us	Deputy Secretary (Retired in 2022) Sam Ojinaga, Deputy Secretary 2550 Cerrillos Rd. Santa Fe, NM 87502-7118 Phone: (505) 476-4708 Email: Sam.Ojinaga@state.nm.us
Office of Indian Elder Affairs Director Rebecca Baca, Director 2550 Cerrillos Rd. Santa Fe, NM 87502-7118 Phone: (505) 690-4263 Email: Rebecca.Baca@state.nm.us	ALTSD Tribal Liaison Rebecca Baca, Tribal Liaison 2550 Cerrillos Rd. Santa Fe, NM 87502-7118 Phone: (505) 690-4263 Email: Rebecca.Baca@state.nm.us
Office of Indian Elder Affairs Marvinia Chavez, Program Manager 8500 Menaul NE B350 Albuquerque, NM 87112 Phone: (505) 629-8544 Email: Marvinia.Chavez@state.nm.us	Capital Projects Bureau Barbara Romero, Capital Outlay Bureau Chief 2550 Cerrillos Rd Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 Office 505-476-4704 Email: Barbara.Romero@state.nm.us

VII. Relevant Statutes and Mandates

A. Agency specific and applicable state or federal statutes and mandates. (Ex. State Tribal Collaboration Act, Transfer of Water Rights, National Historic Preservation Act, etc.)

Federal and State statutes and mandates applicable to ALTSD are:

1. "Congress passed the **Older Americans Act (OAA)** in 1965 in response to concern by policymakers about a lack of community social services for older persons. The original legislation established authority for grants to states for community planning and social services, research and development projects, and personnel training in the field of aging. The law also established the Administration on Aging (AoA) to administer the newly created grant programs and to serve as the federal focal point on matters concerning older persons. Although older individuals may receive services under many other federal programs, today the OAA is considered to be a major vehicle for the organization and delivery of social and nutrition services to this group and their caregivers. It authorizes a wide array of service programs through a national network of 56 state agencies on aging, 629 area agencies on aging, nearly 20,000 service providers, 244 Tribal organizations, and 2 Native Hawaiian organizations representing 400 Tribes. The OAA also includes community service employment for low-income older Americans; training, research, and demonstration activities in the field of aging; and vulnerable elder rights protection activities."⁵
2. **State Tribal Collaboration Act**—"Relating To Governmental Affairs; Enacting The State-Tribal Collaboration Act; Requiring State-Tribal Collaboration And Communication; Declaring An Emergency."⁶ Compliance with the State Tribal Collaboration Act in its entirety is required by ALTSD and its divisions and offices.
3. 2017 New Mexico Statutes
Chapter 9—Executive Department
Article 23—Aging and Long-Term Services Department
Section 9-23-1—Short title.
Universal Citation: [NM Stat § 9-23-1 \(2017\)](#)
9-23-1. Short title.
Sections 1 through 11 of this act [9-23-1 through 9-23-11 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "Aging and Long-Term Services Department Act".
History: Laws 2004, chapter. 23, 1.
4. Capital Outlay—NMAC 2.61.6 Bond Disbursement Rule, Executive Order 2013-006 and the DFA State Board of Finance Release of Funds Conditions (Anti-donation Clause of NM Constitution, Art. IX, Sec.14)

⁵ ACL Administration for Community Living. <https://acl.gov/about-acl/authorizing-statutes/older-americans-act>

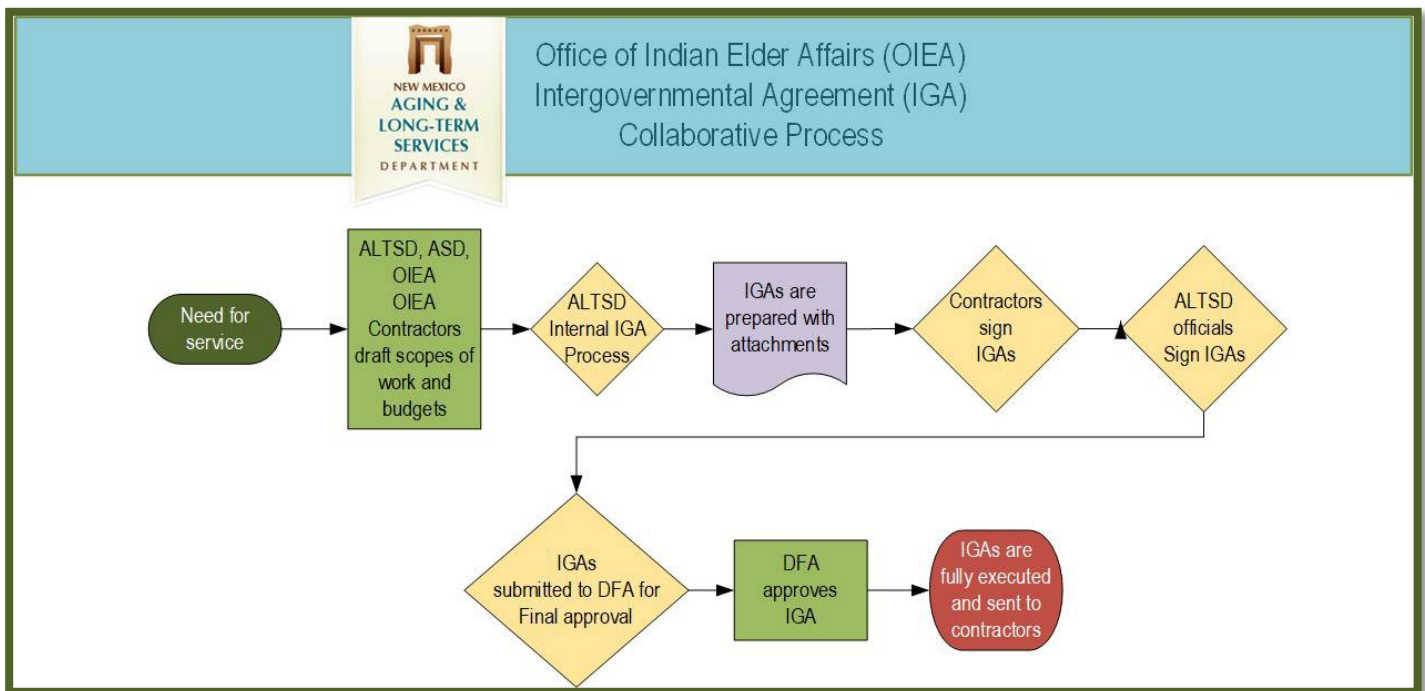
⁶ SB 196. An Act. State Tribal Collaboration Act.

VIII. Agreements

A. A list of any current or pending agreements with tribal nations, the site location

Current agreements with New Mexico's tribes, pueblos, and nations are listed below.	
Tribal Nation	Site Location
Acoma Pueblo	Acoma Senior Center
Cochiti Pueblo	Cochiti Senior Center
Isleta Pueblo	Isleta Senior Center
Jemez Pueblo	Jemez Senior Center
Jicarilla Apache Nation	Jicarilla Senior Center
Laguna Pueblo	Laguna Senior Center
Navajo Nation	Navajo Area Agency on Aging
Mescalero Apache Tribe	Mescalero Senior Center
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	Ohkay Owingeh Senior Center
San Felipe Pueblo	San Felipe Senior Center
Sandia	Sandia Senior Center
Santa Ana Pueblo	Santa Ana Senior Center
Santo Domingo Pueblo	Santo Domingo Senior Center
Taos Pueblo	Taos Senior Center
Tesuque Pueblo	Tesuque Senior Center
Zia Pueblo	Zia Senior Citizen Center
Zuni Pueblo	Zuni Senior Center
Pueblos of Nambé, Picuris, & San Ildefonso	8 Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc. Senior Centers
Isleta Pueblo	Isleta Adult Day Care
Santa Clara Pueblo	Santa Clara Adult Day Care
Zuni Pueblo	Zuni Adult Day Care
Zuni Pueblo	Zuni Senior Center Foster Grandparent Program
Zuni Pueblo	Zuni Senior Center Senior Companion Program
New Start Ups for ADC/HCBS Program Listing	In Development or Pending Contract
Santa Ana Pueblo ADC (In Development)	FY 2023 – Kiki Saavedra Senior Dignity Fund
Taos Pueblo ADC (Pending)	FY 2023 – Kiki Saavedra Senior Dignity Fund
Santo Domingo Pueblo ADC/HCBS (Pending)	FY 2023 – Kiki Saavedra Senior Dignity Fund

Diagram of the OIEA Intergovernmental Agreement Process:



The OIEA staff complies with all federal and state statutes, rules and policies with regard to general operational functions, including contract management, program monitoring and provision of technical assistance, advocacy and training. OIEA staff conduct periodic site visits with contractors, at the representative tribe's discretion and when the department's Covid-19 safety practices allow, to evaluate progress, identify best practices or problem areas and to determine actions to be taken by parties to resolve any problems that may be identified. The OIEA staff consistently remain in contact with tribal senior center and adult day care providers to ensure training and support is provided.

The OIEA review team conducts program and fiscal monitoring reviews of each contractor throughout the year and provides contractors with monthly reports on their contract status. The OIEA staff schedules additional reviews as needed and provides the contractors with monitoring tools prior to reviews. OIEA staff certify monthly contractor requests for reimbursement which are matched to the service data, and are subject to approval by the ALTSD/OIEA Director, to ensure that expenditures meet all federal and state requirements.

IX. Acronyms

ALTSD	Aging and Long-Term Services Department
ADC	Adult Day Care
DALTCS	Navajo Nation Department of Aging and Long-Term Care Services
FGP	Foster Grandparent Program
HCBS	Home & Community Based Services
IAAA	Indian Area Agency on Aging
IGA	Intergovernmental Agreement
LTCOP	Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
NAAA	Navajo Area Agency on Aging
OIEA	Office of Indian Elder Affairs
PAC	Policy Advisory Committee
RSVP	Retired Senior Volunteer Program
SCP	Senior Companion Program
SHIP	State Health Insurance Program
SMP	Senior Medicare Patrol
STCA	State-Tribal Collaboration Act