



# LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR



**Michelle Lujan Grisham**

Governor of New Mexico

Dear Conference Attendees,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 45th Annual Conference on Aging. Our seniors have not only shaped our state’s history, but continue to play pivotal roles in our communities. They embody resilience, strength, and the spirit of togetherness that defines New Mexico. It is a priority of this administration to make sure that every single New Mexican receives the care, respect and support they deserve, including our elders.

Throughout my time as Governor, I have prioritized improving healthcare access throughout the state, particularly for our older adults and their families.

We have expanded Medicaid coverage, exempted social security income from taxation, launched initiatives to reduce the cost of prescription drugs, and improved access to affordable and high-quality foods. I’m also especially proud of the complete renovation of the New Mexico Veterans Home in Truth or Consequences, which will provide cutting-edge care to those who bravely served our country.

Please enjoy today’s event – it’s been a while since we were all together in person! I encourage you to fully participate in all of the incredible programming throughout this conference. Together, we are making New Mexico the best place to be a senior.

Thank you for being part of this incredible event!





# LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY



**Jen Paul Schroer**

ALTSD Cabinet Secretary  
Designate

Dear Conference Attendees,

I am delighted to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each of you as we gather for the 45th Annual Conference on Aging.

This conference is not just an event; it is a testament to our collective commitment to uplifting the lives of our seniors and caregivers in New Mexico. It is an opportunity for us to come together, learn from each other, and collectively address the challenges and opportunities that come with aging.

Our elders are the bearers of wisdom, the custodians of our heritage, and the foundation upon which we build our future. It is our responsibility to ensure that they are supported, respected, and provided with the resources they need to lead fulfilling lives.

Throughout this year's conference, you'll have the opportunity to engage in a wide range of workshops, listen to distinguished speakers, and connect with others. I look forward to the meaningful discussions, insightful sessions, and lasting connections that will emerge during our time together.

Thank you for being part of a brighter and more inclusive future for all New Mexicans.

Warm Regards,





## MONDAY OPENING REMARKS

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**Michelle Lujan Grisham**

Governor of New Mexico

A 12th generation New Mexican, Michelle Lujan Grisham is currently serving as the 32nd governor of New Mexico and is the first Democratic Hispanic woman in U.S. history to be elected governor. Driven by a deep compassion for seniors and those living with disabilities, Lujan Grisham was appointed as the first ever Cabinet Secretary for the Aging and Long-Term Services Department. She has carried that care and passion into her governorship prioritizing investments in health care infrastructure and innovative programming to improve access and quality of care for New Mexicans across the state.

## MONDAY KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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**Barbara "Mother" Hubbard**

Executive Director  
American Collegiate Talent  
Showcase

A celebrated figure from Las Cruces, Barbara "Mother" Hubbard has left an impression the entertainment industry in New Mexico and throughout the globe. Originally from Benton, Arkansas, Hubbard came to Las Cruces in 1954 and has served as the executive director of the American Collegiate Talent Showcase (ACTS) since 1978. Now in her mid 90's, "Mother" Hubbard is known for her joy for living, and her passion has centered on helping others enjoy their lives as well. Her speech at the conference will be titled, "There is a Tomorrow," and will focus on providing an uplifting and motivating message for the conference attendees.





## TUESDAY OPENING REMARKS

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**Howie Morales**

Lieutenant Governor  
of New Mexico

Howie Morales has served as the Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico since January 2019. Throughout his time in office, he has been an advocate for ensuring that New Mexicans can live their best lives by improving access to education and healthcare services. He has also been a strong voice for small businesses and rural communities, providing leadership and supporting new infrastructure to bolster job opportunities for all New Mexicans. A lifelong resident of Silver City, Morales still resides there with his two children.

## TUESDAY KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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**Valerie Tsosie**

Executive Director  
So' Tsoh Foundation

Valerie Tsosie leads the award winning So' Tsoh Foundation, an organization that aims to create pathways to better health by offering innovative solutions for Diné caregivers. Those solutions are centered on increasing access to behavioral and physical wellness as well as quality care for the caregiver and their families. In her speech at the conference, titled, "You are Not Alone," Tsosie will use her experience as a caregiver and nonprofit director to speak about the experience of supporting individuals in their caregiving journeys.