

Agency 645 Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)

- **The Mission of GCD is:** To improve the quality of life of all New Mexicans with disabilities by addressing social integration, economic self-sufficiency, political resolve, physical and program accessibility, and full participation in the benefits of life and rights of all individuals.

Four Main Programs of GCD include the

- **Disability Awareness & Advocacy Program:** Provides training and advocacy on a range of issues impacting people with disabilities, and advocates for greater inclusion and access to employment, health care settings, recreation areas, and cultural sites.
- **The 2nd the Physical Accessibility Program:** Promotes compliance with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and improves physical access to government offices and places of public accommodation through advocacy, site visits, and architectural plan reviews. This program also manages the Residential Accessibility Modification Program Known as RAMP. RAMP provides home modifications to help people with disabilities stay in their homes, And it continues to grow. In FY19 we completed 35 projects, FY20 =62 projects, and in FY21, even with COVID closures and reduced staff, we were able to complete 42 projects. Now in FY22 we already have over 20 active projects and many applications pending completion and approval.
- **3rd Brain Injury Advisory Council:** BIAC is statutorily required to conduct studies on the impact of brain injury, improve coordination in the state, and advise the Governor, legislature, agencies, and private organizations on the services and supports needed by individuals with brain injuries and their families. BIAC also manages the Bicycle Helmet Distribution program which provides free helmets and education to children in New Mexico in effort to reduce brain injuries and to raise awareness about New Mexico's Helmet Law.
- **4th New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP):** Federally funded program which supports individuals with disabilities to access education, employment, and civic participation through Assistive Technology. The Technology Assistance program also loans out assistive devices to New Mexicans with disabilities so that they can test out the equipment. This way the individual knows whether or not the device is compatible to their needs before they spend, what can sometimes be thousands of dollars, on purchasing that device.

The Governor's Commission on Disability is requesting a budget of \$2,123,700 for Fiscal year 23

of that amount \$1,480,500 is requested from general funds
\$543,200 will come from federal grants
and \$100,000 from fund balance.

This is \$195,100 more than our FY22 Budget. In FY21 and FY22 we budgeted vacancy savings to help meet budget cuts. The Governor's Commission on Disability is hoping to be fully staffed in FY23.