



Anchorum
Health Foundation

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Helping Children Stay with Family; *Anchorum Partners on Kinship Caregiver Pilot*

Santa Fe, NM — Across New Mexico, thousands of children are being raised by grandparents, uncles, aunts, older siblings, and close family friends who have stepped in to provide love, safety, and stability when it is needed most. These caregivers keep children rooted in their families and communities, often while navigating complicated systems with little support.

The Kinship Caregiver Pilot Program, created through [House Bill 252](#) during the 2025 Legislative session, was launched to change that. The program connects kinship families with the financial assistance, legal resources, and service navigation they need to help children grow and thrive in the homes that know them best.

“In New Mexico, we know that families take many forms,” said Emily Kaltenbach, Aging and Long-Term Services Department Cabinet Secretary. “Kinship caregivers help keep these children connected to their roots and their communities. This pilot program is about honoring that and helping provide the tools, support and stability these caregivers need to continue providing those safe and nurturing homes.”

Led by the New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department, the pilot is supported by several philanthropic partners. In the first phase the LANL Foundation is providing financial support for families in Rio Arriba County, and Anchorum Health Foundation is supporting families in San Juan County.

“Grandparents and relatives raising children in New Mexico have long carried so much on their own, often without the resources they deserve,” said Dr. Gwen Perea Warniment, LANL Foundation President and CEO. “This program shows what’s possible when state and community partners come together to meet real needs with action.”

“This pilot hopes to show that with monthly stipends and navigational support, kinship families can truly thrive,” said Jenny Parks, Senior Vice President of Strategic



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Philanthropy at Anchorum. “We see this as a model that has the potential to be scaled statewide to reach the more than 36,000 children being raised by relatives in New Mexico.”

The state is in the process of identifying the remaining counties that will participate in the pilot. For more information or to apply to the program, visit aging.nm.gov/long-term-care/kinship-caregiver.

Anchorum Health Foundation is dedicated to improving the conditions that have the greatest influence on the health and people in our region. We are committing our resources to strengthening community-based partners tackling critical local issues. For more information, visit anchorum.org.

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