



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2023-136

RENEWING STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DUE TO DRUG ABUSE

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico has witnessed a growing and alarming trend of drug abuse, including the misuse of prescription opioids, fentanyl, heroin, and other illicit substances;

WHEREAS, the devastating consequences of drug abuse have resulted in a significant increase in drug-related deaths, with 1,501 fatal overdoses reported in the state in 2021—the fifth highest overdose rate in the nation according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

WHEREAS, communities across New Mexico are grappling with the social and economic burdens of drug addiction, including the strain on healthcare resources, increased crime rates, homelessness, and disrupted family structures;

WHEREAS, the accessibility and prevalence of potent synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, have escalated the risks associated with drug abuse, contributing to a surge in overdose incidents;

WHEREAS, the healthcare system in New Mexico is facing unprecedented challenges due to the demands placed on emergency rooms, treatment facilities, and first responders as a result of the drug abuse crisis;

WHEREAS, the children and youth of New Mexico are particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of drug abuse, as evidenced by the rising number of cases involving parental substance abuse and its subsequent effect on child welfare;

WHEREAS, the State's existing efforts to combat drug abuse, including prevention, treatment, and law enforcement initiatives, require immediate reinforcement and coordination to effectively address this public health crisis;

WHEREAS, after consulting with the Secretary of the Department of Health, I have determined that the foregoing situation constitutes a statewide public health emergency of unknown duration, as defined by the Public Health Emergency Response Act;

WHEREAS, the foregoing situation also constitutes a man-made disaster causing or threatening widespread physical or economic harm that is beyond local control and requiring the resources of the State pursuant to the All Hazard Emergency Management Act;

WHEREAS, it is essential to marshal all available resources to mitigate the harms caused by drug abuse and to provide support and treatment options for individuals and families affected by this epidemic;

WHEREAS, I declared a state of public emergency for this situation on September 7, 2023; and

WHEREAS, although my Administration has taken swift action to address this public health emergency, the Secretary of the Department of Health and I have determined it is necessary to renew my declaration of public health emergency to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby **DECLARE** that a state of public emergency exists throughout the State due to drug abuse and **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. The Department of Public Health, Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and Department of Public Safety shall immediately begin collaborating with my Office to provide an effective and coordinated response to this public health emergency.

2. The Department of Finance and Administration shall make available additional emergency financial resources in an amount not to exceed seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) to the Department of Health, Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Environment Department, Corrections Department and/or Department of Public Safety, in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 12-11-23 to -25. Funds shall be expended for the purpose of complying with this Order and shall be expended specifically to avoid and minimize economic or physical harm and to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. Funds shall be paid out upon warrants drawn by the Secretary of Finance and Administration upon vouchers approved by the Governor or an agent or agency designated by her for that purpose.

3. All mayors, sheriffs, and members of governing bodies of municipalities or counties are encouraged to request, if necessary, an emergency proclamation and implementation of temporary additional restrictions to address this public health emergency.

4. All political subdivisions of the State shall comply with and enforce all directives issued pursuant to this Order.

I FURTHER ORDER and DIRECT as follows:

1. This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until November 3, 2023.

ATTEST:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 5TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2023

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Michelle Lujan Grisham
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

