

Mayor Timothy M. Keller

**CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE**  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico**  
**Office of the Mayor**

**INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

November 19, 2025

**TO:** Brook Bassan, President, City Council

**FROM:** Timothy M. Keller, Mayor 

**SUBJECT:** Age-Friendly Quarterly Update for Q1 FY 2026

The Department of Senior Affairs was directed by Resolution No. R-21-221 to provide quarterly updates regarding the Department's efforts to determine the internal staffing capacity and needs for implementing and executing the Age Friendly Action Plan; to build relationships and investment from community groups and organizations across the city; and to work across city departments to identify policy or programmatic change opportunities to meet the needs of Albuquerque's aging population.

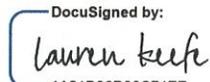
TITLE/SUBJECT OF LITIGATION: Age-Friendly Quarterly Update for Q1 FY2026

Approved:

Approved as to Legal Form:

  
Samantha Sengel  
Chief Administrative Officer

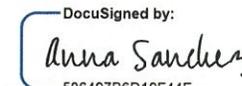
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Date

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11/24/2025 | 2:19 PM MST  
Lauren Keefe  
City Attorney

Date

Recommended:

Initial  
CW

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11/21/2025 | 2:43 PM MST  
Anna M. Sanchez  
Director

Date

## Cover Analysis

### 1. What is it?

The Department of Senior Affairs' Age-Friendly Report covers the first quarter Fiscal Year 2026 and includes a summary of DSA's work to evaluate operations, programs and services and build relationships internally and with community groups and organizations across the City to identify policy or programmatic change opportunities to meet the needs of Albuquerque's aging population.

### 2. What will this piece of legislation do?

Report the status of the Department of Senior Affairs' efforts to support the aging population from July to September 2025.

### 3. Why is this project needed?

This update is in response to Resolution No. R-21-221 to provide quarterly reports to the City Council regarding the Albuquerque Age-Friendly Action Plan and to direct the City of Albuquerque's Department of Senior Affairs to plan and identify ways to support Albuquerque's aging population.

### 4. How much will it cost and what is the funding source?

None.

### 5. Is there a revenue source associated with this contract? If so, what level of income is projected?

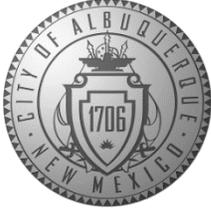
There is no revenue source associated with this legislation. This legislation is for informational purposes only.

### 6. What will happen if the project is not approved?

N/A

### 7. Is this service already provided by another entity?

No.



# City of Albuquerque

## Department of Senior Affairs

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

### Memorandum

November 19, 2025

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Anna Sanchez, Director, Senior Affairs *AS*

**SUBJECT:** Department of Senior Affairs - Quarterly Update (FY26 Q1)

In accordance with Resolution No. R-21-221, the Department of Senior Affairs (DSA) is providing this quarterly update regarding the Department's efforts to assess the current internal capacity in determining staffing needs for implementing and executing the Age Friendly Action Plan; to build relationships and investment from community groups and organizations across the city; and to work across city departments to identify policy or programmatic change opportunities to meet the needs of Albuquerque's aging population. This update reflects work conducted during July – September, 2025.

#### **Building a Team of Age-Friendly Advocates:**

Remarkably, children as young as three years old are familiar with age stereotypes. These stereotypes are often reinforced throughout their lifetimes and can result in internal or external ageism. One known approach to combatting ageism is by creating intentional intergenerational activities where older and younger people come together and learn from and about each other.

- **Senior and Youth Making Art Gallery:** Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center hosted a Senior and Youth Making Art gallery event where multiple generations of creatives showcased their shared interest in making art.
- **Manzano Mesa Splash Pad Age-Friendly Renovation:** Capitalizing on the need to renovate the Splash Pad at the Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center, DSA created an age-friendly all abilities inclusive space that promotes physical activity, fun and intergenerational connection. With funding received from Councilor Renee Grout, the state legislature and DSA's general obligation dollars, the splash pad was equipped with a range of interactive water features designed for all ages and abilities. Certain features allow users to control the water flow, promoting fine motor skills and cognitive engagement. Other elements are designed to encourage gentle upper body movement, while misting arches offer a refreshing, low-impact way to stay active. In addition, a new water canopy provides a noise-blocking space that reduces sensory overload. These

features ensure that older adults can comfortably participate in water activities alongside younger family members or simply enjoy the cooling and social benefits of the space.

- **JMP Interns:** The Department participated in the City's Job Mentoring Program by hiring summer interns. Nine young people were placed at five senior and multigenerational centers, Additionally, two interns supported the Home Services program and one intern supported Information & Assistance over the summer.
- **RSVP Volunteer Recognition Breakfast:** In September, the Department held its annual breakfast for more than 270 AmeriCorps Senior volunteers and community partners to celebrate volunteers in the Retired and Senior Volunteer program (RSVP), Volunteers in Action program (VIA), Senior Companion Program (SCP) and Foster Grandparent Program (FGP).

During Fiscal Year 2025, RSVP volunteers collectively served 46,647.00 hours, equaling a volunteer value of over \$1.6 million.

The award ceremony honored volunteer stations and exceptional volunteers that contribute to not only the community, but support City departments such as:

**RSVP Exceptional Volunteer Station of the Year - the Barelvas Senior Center.**

This year, the Barelvas Senior Center volunteers contributed 6,317 hours of service.

**RSVP Exceptional Volunteer Station of the Year – Valle de Oro.**

Valle de Oro volunteers contributed 904 hours of service.

**RSVP Substantial Station of the Year - Bear Canyon Senior Center.**

Over the past year, Bear Canyon Volunteers have recorded 5,871 hours of service.

**RSVP Substantial Station of the Year - City of Albuquerque Aviation Department.**

Over the past year the Aviation Department volunteers recorded 525 hours of service.

**RSVP Rookie of the Year Award - Ken Flack**

Ken volunteers with the Department of Senior Affairs at the Palo Duro Senior Center and the North Valley Senior Center as a ceramic teacher and a bingo caller. For nearly one year, he has been a vital part of the program. Ken has dedicated over 296 hours of his time since joining the program.

**Volunteer of the Year Award - Karen Morton**

Karen volunteers with Meals on Wheels as a meal delivery driver. For nearly three years, she has been a vital part of the program, delivering more than 900 meals each year. In total, Karen has dedicated over 265 hours of her time since joining the program.

**RSVP Lifetime Achievement Award- Connie Devers**

Connie volunteers with the Department of Senior Affairs at the Highland Senior Center as a choir leader for the Highland Harmonizers. Since 2003, she has been a vital part of the program. Connie has dedicated approximately 4,000 hours of her time since joining the program.

### **Building Key Relationships and Investments:**

- **Senior Walking Pilot Program at the ABQ BioPark:** In partnership with the Arts and Culture Department, BioPark and DSA staff developed an innovative walking program which included Zoo entry and a walking map. The reverse side of the map had fun facts on the reverse side to enhance the experience. Participants had the option to follow the suggested walking path or explore the Zoo at their own pace. The group was invited to enjoy a discounted treat on-site at the Cottonwood Café, if desired. As a pilot, no admission fee was charged for the first event. In return, participants provided feedback—including what they enjoyed, suggestions for improvement, and any compliments—to shape the future of this program.
- **Aging Alone Together:** Our annual survey identified that nearly half of our home delivered meals recipients and center members self-report living alone. Using this information, DSA worked with DOROT, a non-profit based in New York to bring *Aging Alone Together* to DSA. Working with ORCA (Older Rainbow Community of Albuquerque) and with support from the Area Agency on Aging, nine local discussion leaders were trained to facilitate the breakout discussions each week. This six-week virtual program was designed for solo agers- individuals who, by choice or circumstance, expect to age independently. The program provided practical tools and discussions on key topics like building community, future medical planning, financial/legal matters and aging at home or elsewhere. Over 70 participants completed the six-week series. A number of participants suggested continuing to meet in-person rather than virtually. Together with staff from DSA, members of the alumni group are meeting monthly at Santa Barbara Martineztown Multigenerational Center.

### **Building Recommendations:**

The Strategic Program Manager convened colleagues from the three other Age-Friendly designated cities in NM (Carlsbad, Las Cruces and Santa Fe) to present *Age-Friendly New Mexico, Join the Movement* at the New Mexico Conference on Aging held in Glorieta, NM. The presentation highlighted each community's journey toward becoming Age-Friendly certified and the benefits and impacts this work has had in the respective communities.

Engaging with innovative approaches to providing healthy nutrition to older adults, DSA's Nutrition program received the Golden Chile Award from New Mexico Grown recognizing its efforts to procuring and serving locally grown vegetables and meats. This is the highest award given by the organization. The Department will take lessons learned to continue to build on ways to incorporate local foods into their nutritious lunch meal program.

# CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

## TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-21-221 ENACTMENT NO. R-2022-008

SPONSORED BY: Klarissa J. Peña

1 RESOLUTION

2 APPROVING THE ONE ALBUQUERQUE AGE-FRIENDLY ACTION PLAN AND  
3 DIRECTING THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE'S DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR  
4 AFFAIRS TO USE THE AGING POPULATION STUDY TO IMPLEMENT THE  
5 PLAN.

6 WHEREAS, the development of new programs and initiatives aim to  
7 improve the quality of life and support healthy aging for current and future  
8 older adult cohorts; Thereby, strengthening and affirming the City of  
9 Albuquerque's commitment to making Aging a Top Priority; and

10 WHEREAS, adopting this Resolution furthers FY/21 Goal #1 on Human and  
11 Family Development aimed at providing people of all ages the opportunity to  
12 participate in the community and economy, and are well sheltered, safe,  
13 healthy, and educated; and

14 WHEREAS, it is projected, Bernalillo County's older adults will account for  
15 over 40% of the County's population in 2030; and

16 WHEREAS, it has been declared, poor health, economic instability and food  
17 insecurity of emerging older adults' cohorts is negatively impacting how we  
18 are aging as a society; and

19 WHEREAS, it is reported, ageism and workplace discrimination also  
20 negatively impact our aging experience and reduce our ability to earn and  
21 save for retirement; and

22 WHEREAS, the City heavily relies on volunteer labor from the community in  
23 order to provide regular meal service for seniors at community center and  
24 senior center facilities; and

25 WHEREAS, adopting this Resolution furthers FY/21 Goal #1 Priority  
26 Objective #3 aimed at creating a marketing and volunteer recruitment strategy

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1 targeting individuals 50 years of age or older, including recent retirees and  
2 low-income seniors, to increase the number of volunteers in the Department  
3 for innovative opportunities such as addressing senior challenges, promoting  
4 age-friendly initiative and utilizing skills and specialized expertise to improve  
5 services offered by the Department; and

6 WHEREAS, it is suggested that one of the most effective ways cities can  
7 prepare for serving their growing older adult population and become more  
8 resilient is to adopt an age-friendly initiative; and

9 WHEREAS, adopting this Resolution furthers FY/21 Goal #1 Priority  
10 Objective #4 aimed at developing age-friendly policies that focus on the eight  
11 domains of livability and creating partnerships with a variety of stakeholders,  
12 including internal City departments and external businesses and  
13 organizations, to improve existing and/or create new age-friendly initiatives;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, there have been many City Councils around the nation that  
16 have adopted Age-Friendly Action Plan Resolutions, including Tucson and  
17 Phoenix Arizona, and Seattle Washington; and

18 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque was designated an age-friendly  
19 community by AARP and the WHO in February 2021; and

20 WHEREAS, the Age-Friendly Action Plan focuses on three key areas: 1)  
21 Age-Forward Economic Development, 2) Age-Inclusive City Design, and 3)  
22 Resilient Networks for Healthy Aging; and

23 WHEREAS, as part of being designated an age-friendly community by  
24 AARP and the WHO, the City of Albuquerque will need to re-evaluate its Age-  
25 Friendly Action Plan every 3-5 years to ensure continued progress toward new  
26 age-friendly strategies and to adapt the plan to the changing needs of the  
27 community; and

28 WHEREAS, adopting an Age-Friendly Albuquerque Action Plan will allow  
29 the Department of Senior Affairs and City Council to assess how new age-  
30 friendly strategies are being implemented; and

31 WHEREAS, to continue the momentum behind this initiative, City Councilor  
32 Klarissa Peña commissioned the Department of Senior Affairs in 2020 to

1 conduct a comprehensive study aimed at identifying strategies and  
2 recommendations for implementing the Plan; and

3 WHEREAS, Councilor Peña’s comprehensive study furthered FY/21 Goal #1  
4 Priority Objective #6 aimed at preparing and planning to provide services for a  
5 growing aging population; and

6 WHEREAS, in October 2021, the Department of Senior Affairs presented the  
7 findings and recommendations from their Aging Population Study to the City  
8 Council; and

9 WHEREAS, one of the key recommendations from the Study was to  
10 encourage collaboration and partnerships with the Department of Senior  
11 Affairs and other City Departments to lead future Action Plan strategy cycles;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, one of the key recommendations from the Study was for the  
14 Department of Senior Affairs to designate a team whose primary focus is  
15 advocacy and engagement aimed at building strong relationships among  
16 community businesses, organizations, and other City departments to raise  
17 awareness of aging issues; and

18 WHEREAS, the creation of this new team will also ensure enhancement of  
19 age-friendly programs and policies throughout the City, while allowing City  
20 departments to maintain their primary focus on implementing their respective  
21 programs; and

22 WHEREAS, the new team will also need to manage, assess, and expand  
23 existing programs and services along with special programming for the Age-  
24 Friendly Initiative.

25 WHEREAS, the new team will be responsible for community engagement,  
26 data collection, and quality control evaluation in accordance with the Age-  
27 Friendly Action Plan; and

28 WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Affairs will explore opportunities for  
29 establishing partnerships with the University of New Mexico and Central New  
30 Mexico Community College to develop innovative solutions through “think  
31 tanks” between students and older adults to address important issues facing  
32 the growing older adult population for Albuquerque; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Affairs will also explore opportunities  
2 for creating and offering age-bias awareness programs to implement policies  
3 and practices that aim to change current bias around aging; and

4 WHEREAS, AARP New Mexico and Senior Affairs are currently in  
5 conversation on how to partner in creating age-bias awareness programming;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, as part of the FY21 Budget Cycle, the Department of Senior  
8 Affairs will be hiring a Strategic Planning Manager who will be responsible for  
9 leading the new team's efforts in evaluating the department's internal and  
10 external capacity, coordinating community engagement and advocacy, data  
11 collection, and program and service delivery evaluation; and

12 WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Affairs is in the preliminary stages of  
13 defining the department's strategic path for services and programs beyond  
14 the Area Agency on Aging grant funding; and

15 WHEREAS, in order to ensure the long-term implementation of the Age-  
16 Friendly Action Plan, the Department of Senior Affairs will need to assess its  
17 internal staffing capacity to implement the strategic plan, work with other City  
18 Departments to assess their own policies and programming as related to  
19 meeting the needs of Albuquerque's aging population, and most importantly  
20 collaborate with local community groups and organizations who are already  
21 working to address the needs of Albuquerque's aging population.

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY  
23 OF ALBUQUERQUE:

24 Section 1. The City Council will formally approve the One Albuquerque  
25 Age-Friendly Action Plan.

26 Section 2. The Department of Senior Affairs will formally create an  
27 advocacy, engagement and quality control team to help implement the Age-  
28 Friendly Action Plan.

29 Section 3. The Department of Senior Affairs will work with the new team to  
30 focus on three key areas: 1) building relationships and investment from  
31 community groups and organizations working across the city, 2) assessing  
32 the Department of Senior Affairs' current internal capacity to determine  
33 staffing needs for implementing and executing the Age-Friendly Action Plan,

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1 and 3) working across City Departments to identify any particular policy or  
2 programmatic change opportunities as related to meeting the needs of  
3 Albuquerque’s aging population.

4 Section 4. The Department of Senior Affairs and the new team will keep City  
5 Council informed about the Department’s most recent efforts by providing  
6 them with quarterly updates in the form of Interoffice Memorandums as well  
7 as Annual Reports. While quarterly Interoffice Memorandums will be used to  
8 update City Council on the internal work efforts of the Department of Senior  
9 Affairs, the Annual Reports will include policy and/or programmatic  
10 recommendations that could impact other departments’ work, such as  
11 amendments to the Integrated Development Ordinance or priority projects in  
12 the Capital Improvement Plan.

13 Section 5. The Department of Senior Affairs and the new team will regularly  
14 meet with various City Boards and Commissions to evaluate and review  
15 policy and programming that relates to meeting the needs of Albuquerque’s  
16 aging population in order to incorporate their most recent efforts into the  
17 Interoffice Memorandums and Annual Reports. These Boards and  
18 Commissions include but are not limited to the Americans with Disabilities  
19 Act Advisory Council, Older American’s Act Advisory Council, Senior Affairs  
20 Advisory Council, and the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council.

21 Section 6. The Department of Senior Affairs and the new team will continue  
22 to develop 1) the age-friendly asset inventory and 2) community partner age-  
23 friendly commitment statements. The age-friendly asset inventory provides  
24 the City a comprehensive list of age-friendly programs and services from  
25 private, public and non-profit partners. The inventory is created from  
26 community partners and City department commitment statements. With these  
27 statements, community partners sign a commitment supporting an age-  
28 friendly Albuquerque and list their age-friendly resources, services, and  
29 programs. This inventory can grow to become an important database of City  
30 and community-based aging resources and can assist Albuquerque’s aging  
31 network, including the Bernalillo County Area Agency on Aging, in growing  
32 alternative points of service for older adults.

1 Section 7. The Department of Senior Affairs will work closely with the  
2 Office of Neighborhood Coordination, Office of Civic Engagement, and the  
3 Office of Equity and Inclusion to identify best practices for coordinating  
4 equitable outreach to community members and organizations and other  
5 stakeholders.

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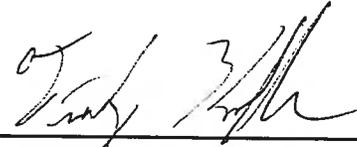
1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF January, 2022  
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.

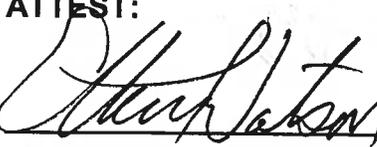
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Isaac Benton, President  
City Council

APPROVED THIS 1 DAY OF February, 2022

Bill No. R-21-221

  
Timothy M. Keller, Mayor  
City of Albuquerque

ATTEST:  
  
Ethan Watson, City Clerk

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