



## **Senator Heinrich's Signature Mental Health Accomplishments**

### **Toplines:**

- As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Heinrich delivered **\$6.59 million in federal funding to New Mexico through the fiscal year 2024 budget process** to support behavioral health providers and addiction treatment services.
  - Funds will deliver infrastructure upgrades to behavioral health facilities, training for behavioral health professionals, expansion of services, and more.
- Secured **\$13.4 million in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act for New Mexico** to improve mental health care, including:
  - \$4 million for the hiring and training of mental health professionals to work in schools,
  - \$7.5 million to update safety plans, hire mental health professionals and school resource officers, carry out community violence interventions, install security equipment, and take other steps to improve school safety, and
  - \$1.9 million to help schools identify students who need mental health care and help them access that care through the Project AWARE program.
- One of Heinrich's early votes in Congress was for the **Affordable Care Act, which insures over 40,000 New Mexicans** every year.

### **More on Heinrich's top accomplishments on mental health care:**

- Senator Heinrich has delivered millions of dollars to New Mexico to support behavioral health providers and addiction treatment services, including through the major COVID relief packages, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, and the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act).
- Early in his Senate career, Senator Heinrich fought back against Governor Susana Martinez's behavioral health shakeup, in which the New Mexico Human Services Department unjustifiably suspended Medicaid payments to providers based on manufactured and unsubstantiated allegations of fraud.
  - As part of that effort, Heinrich introduced the [Medicaid Program Integrity Enhancement Act of 2016](#), which would have protected Medicaid patients

by establishing clear guidelines to ensure state agencies investigating allegations of fraud do so in a manner that both protects health care consumers by ensuring continuity of care and affords due process of law to the health care provider.

- One of Senator Heinrich's [early votes in Congress was for the Affordable Care Act](#), to make health care accessible for working families, including the 40,000 New Mexicans benefiting from it this year alone. When the Trump administration attempted to repeal the ACA, Senator Heinrich stood firm to protect ACA coverage for New Mexicans, including for mental health care. He continues to speak out against Republican attempts to repeal the ACA. Former President Trump recently vowed that we would "never give up" on repealing the Affordable Care Act, calling the failure to repeal the ACA during his term "a low point for the Republican party," and he has continued to [double down](#) on those comments
- Most recently, Senator Heinrich was a member of the core bipartisan group of senators who negotiated and passed the [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act \(BSCA\)](#), the first significant federal gun safety legislation to become law in 30 years. BSCA included historic investments in mental health services.

#### **Committee Support of the Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations Bill:**

- Through his leadership on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Heinrich [secured Committee support for increased funding](#) for the National Health Service Corps and directed the Corps to increase the number of scholarships they provide to students from rural communities to increase equitable access to medical school and help address the rural provider workforce shortage.

#### **Secured Committee support for the following federal funding awards for mental health related projects in [New Mexico through Fiscal Year 2025](#) [Congressionally Directed Spending](#):**

- \$780,000 for the Amador Health Center to expand its current building to treat mental health and substance use disorders in Southern New Mexico.
- \$700,000 for Taos Whole Community Health Substance Abuse Treatment Expansion to combat the addiction epidemic by bringing in specialized clinicians in substance use disorder.
- \$700,000 for the New Mexico Department of Health to create a Primary Care Community Hub to recruit, retain, and support primary care and behavioral health providers throughout New Mexico.
- \$530,000 for Women in Leadership to expand their outreach, engagement, and trainings to prevent drug overdoses in central and southeastern New Mexico.
- \$516,000 for Gallup Community Health's Behavioral Health Program to expand its mental health services to include onsite behavioral health and substance use disorder counseling and case management.

- \$350,000 for the Pueblo of Santa Clara to design a behavioral healthcare facility to provide services in an environment that promotes security, health, and healing.
- \$247,000 for El Puente de Encuentro's Proyecto Crecer to create a culturally and linguistically diverse pipeline for behavioral health professionals in New Mexico.
- \$35,000 for the Pueblo of Laguna Opioid Treatment Project to distribute overdose prevention products and naloxone to reduce overdose rates within the Pueblo.

### **Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Bill:**

- Through his role on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Heinrich successfully secured report language in the [Fiscal Year 2024 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill](#) that emphasizes the impact that alcohol-related morbidity and mortality has on Indigenous, frontier, and rural communities and encourages the National Institutes of Health to fund studies that support rural and underserved communities.

### **Senator Heinrich also secured the following federal funding awards for mental health related projects in New Mexico through [Fiscal Year 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending](#):**

- \$1,000,000 for Carlsbad Lifehouse to develop a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic in Southeastern New Mexico.
- \$780,000 for the Amador Health Center to expand its current building to treat mental health and substance use disorders in Southern New Mexico.
- \$700,000 for Taos Whole Community Health Substance Abuse Treatment Expansion to combat the addiction epidemic by bringing in specialized clinicians in substance use disorder.
- \$700,000 for the New Mexico Department of Health to create a Primary Care Community Hub to recruit, retain, and support primary care and behavioral health providers throughout New Mexico.
- \$675,000 for the Trauma Informed Youth Diversion Program at Family and Youth Innovation Plus to provide support, resources, skills coaching, social emotional learning, and psychoeducational programming to youth in Doña Ana County.
- \$516,000 for Gallup Community Health's Behavioral Health Program to expand its mental health services to include onsite behavioral health and substance use disorder counseling and case management.
- \$500,000 for the University of New Mexico to conduct the Measuring Child Maltreatment Project to assess the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in New Mexico.

- \$350,000 for the Pueblo of Santa Clara to design a behavioral healthcare facility to provide services in an environment that promotes security, health, and healing.
- \$300,000 for the City of Santa Fe's Mobile Integrated Health Office to provide a team of trauma-informed responders and providers to administer care and navigation services to those experiencing a crisis or behavioral health emergency.
- \$247,000 for El Puente de Encuentro's Proyecto Crecer to create a culturally and linguistically diverse pipeline for behavioral health professionals in New Mexico.

### **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act:**

- As stated previously, Senator Heinrich was a member of the core bipartisan group of senators who negotiated and passed the [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act](#) (BSCA), the first significant federal gun safety legislation to become law in 30 years.
- In June 2024, Senator Heinrich [welcomed the U.S. Department Health and Human Services' \(HHS\) selection of New Mexico](#) into the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Medicaid Demonstration Program. The program provides states with funding to expand access to mental health care and substance use services. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act gave HHS the authority to add New Mexico, one of the first 10 states, into the CCBHC Medicaid Demonstration Program.
- In April 2023, Senator Heinrich [visited Silver High School in Silver City, N.M.](#) Silver Consolidated Schools was the first school district in New Mexico to receive a \$6 million [School-Based Mental Health Services Grant](#) under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. This new federal funding will allow Silver Consolidated Schools to hire psychologists, counselors, and other mental health professionals at all of their schools. This will make a huge difference in providing students with accessible mental health services right on campus.
- Through the BSCA, New Mexico received \$323,000 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in September 2023, marking the first round of three years of funding that New Mexico's Department of Human Services will receive to expand access to mental health care across the state. Permissible expenses include funding mental health and support services not otherwise covered by public or private health insurance, increasing awareness of mental health resources, and determining effectiveness of ongoing behavioral health efforts.

### **Additional Legislative Accomplishments:**

- Last Congress, Senator Heinrich served as the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs and Military Construction. In this role, [he delivered a Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations bill](#) that included \$13.9 billion for VA mental health services, including \$498 million for suicide prevention outreach. This funding was appropriated under the 2023 Omnibus

Appropriations bill, which passed the Senate on December 22, 2022, and was signed into law by President Biden on December 29, 2022.

- In June 2023, Senator Heinrich led the introduction of the [Mental Health Workforce and Language Access Act](#) of 2023 (S. 1784). This legislation would provide new incentives to help bolster the mental health workforce and federal grants to community health centers to help them recruit, hire, and employ qualified mental health professionals who are fluent in a language other than English.
- Senator Heinrich also introduced the [Increasing Mental Health Options Act](#) alongside Senators Brown, Collins, and Mullin in March 2023. This bill would increase access to mental health care services for older Americans by ensuring Medicare beneficiaries have access to clinical psychologists across all settings of care.
- In March 2024, Senator Heinrich introduced the [Providing Resources and Opportunities for Health Education and Learning \(PRO-HEAL\) Act](#), which would expand pathways to high quality, in-demand health care careers, including in behavioral health.

#### **Cosponsored Mental Health Legislation:**

- Senator Heinrich is a cosponsor of the [Mental Health for Latinos Act](#), which would recognize the unique mental health challenges of the Latino community, aiming to reduce cultural stigma and rectify the health care disparities that prevent people from receiving life-saving mental health services
- Senator Heinrich is a cosponsor of the [Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act](#), which would authorize \$995 million in grants and other funding to support research, improve the pipeline of culturally competent providers, build outreach programs that reduce stigma, and develop a training program for providers to effectively manage disparities.
- Senator Heinrich is a cosponsor of the [Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act](#), which would authorize the Maternal Mental Health Equity Program to award grants to eligible entities to address maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders, with a focus on demographic groups with elevated rates of maternal mortality, severe maternal morbidity, maternal health disparities, or other adverse perinatal or childbirth outcomes.
- Senator Martin Heinrich is a cosponsor of the [Moms Matter Act](#), which would establish two grant programs to address maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders, with a focus on demographic groups with elevated rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, maternal health disparities, and other adverse outcomes.

**On July 11, 2024, Senator Heinrich welcomed the announcement from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) of their [FY24 Drug-Free Communities \(DFC\) Support Program Continuation Awards](#).**

Seven coalitions in New Mexico have each been awarded a continuation grant of \$125,000. The total amount received by these New Mexico coalitions is \$875,000. These grants are being awarded throughout the summer.

**Below is the list of the awarded coalitions:**

- Peña Blanca - Connecting our Voices
- Socorro - Socorro County Options, Prevention and Education
- Taos - Vida del Norte Drug Free Coalition
- Las Cruces - Unified Prevention (UP!) Coalition
- Española - Revive Prevention Coalition
- Silver City - Pyramid Coalition
- Farmington - Navajo Youth Builders Coalition