

The MolinaCares Accord in **NEW MEXICO**

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Welcome from Plan President, David Nater

Since my last update, our state has endured New Mexico's largest and most devastating fire ever recorded. It will take time to rebuild what New Mexicans have lost, but it is truly inspirational how we have banded together to face this unprecedented situation. In light of this, I wanted to share how Molina Healthcare of New Mexico (Molina) has worked to help fire-relief efforts. Over the past month, MolinaCares volunteers have been on the ground at evacuation sites to provide essential items including food, baby supplies and hygiene products, as well as entertainment and activities for the children and families affected by the wildfires.

We know how hard this time is for many of the members we serve. We are providing ongoing wellness checks and aid to individuals in need. For impacted members, we have implemented many relief actions, including waiving prior authorizations for medical services, allowing emergency refills for medications, and providing coverage for out-of-network services. [Read more about how we're serving members here.](#)

Molina has also made donations to local nonprofit organizations including the [Santa Fe Community Foundation](#) and the [All Together New Mexico Fund](#) to assist in massive relief efforts. Both organizations are accepting donations and volunteers. If you would like to learn more about their efforts or get involved, please click the links above.

Best,

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MolinaCares in the community

MolinaCares Donates \$200,000 to New Mexico Wildfire Relief Efforts

In response to the devastating wildfires during this year's fire season, MolinaCares, in collaboration with Molina, donated \$200,000 to Governor Michele Lujan Grisham's [All Together New Mexico Fund](#) and the [Santa Fe Community Foundation Community Resiliency Fund](#) to provide shelter, food, water and medical care to residents affected by the wildfires.

"We are working tirelessly to provide New Mexicans with immediate relief and recovery efforts during this challenging time," said **David Nater, plan president for MHNM**. "In addition to donations, our field teams are actively reaching out to members, providers, employees and residents to offer needed resources and support."

"Our fire season arrived early due to the extreme drought, affecting so many of our residents and communities with evacuation orders and widespread damage," said **Christopher Goett, president and CEO of the Santa Fe Community Foundation**. "We are thankful for MolinaCares' swift support in funding relief efforts as fire authorities work to contain the devastation."

In addition to our donation, Molina is actively distributing non-perishable food, water, laundry and cleaning supplies, baby items, clothing, hygiene products and pet food; and Molina employee volunteers are serving meals at designated evacuation centers.

[To learn more about our efforts, click here.](#)



Molina seeks donations for wildfire evacuees

We recently joined KRQE to discuss Molina's donation efforts to help those in need due to the wildfire evacuations and how New Mexicans can help those in need. The donations are going to the All Together New Mexico Fund which works to coordinate statewide relief efforts as well as the Santa Fe Community Foundation Resiliency Fund.

"We have received so many donations that we had to rent a U-Haul trailer to go pick them up," said **Buffie Saavedra, Director of Member & Community Engagement**. "We are taking anything that comes into the Chamber to the different sites."



[To watch the full interview on KRQE New Mexico Living Show, click here.](#)
[To read more about the donation and evacuation efforts on KRQE, click here.](#)

Supply drive with Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce

On May 16, Molina partnered with the [Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce](#) to host an event at the Hotel Andaluz in Albuquerque where community members donated supplies for Molina to distribute to families at wildfire evacuation sites across northern New Mexico. Supplies collected included laundry and cleaning products, games and hygiene products.



Molina Becomes Corporate Sponsor of KRQE Cares Shoes for Kids

As announced in a recent appearance on KRQE's New Mexico Living Show, Molina expanded its commitment to the KRQE Cares Shoes for Kids program by donating \$10,000 and becoming a corporate sponsor. Since 2015, the KRQE Cares Shoes for Kids program has guaranteed every child in Albuquerque's Title 1 schools receives a new pair of athletic shoes. We could not be more excited to continue our work with the KRQE Cares program as we strive to ensure all children in New Mexico feel happy and confident about themselves.

"We're very proud that KRQE Cares' Shoes for Kids program has reached over 22,000 children in our local communities and we're excited to see that number continue to grow," said **Plan President David Nater**. "I am very honored on behalf of the MolinaCares Accord and MHNM to present a check for \$10,000 for the KRQE Cares Shoes for Kids program."

As part of Molina's sponsorship of the KRQE Cares Shoes for Kids program, we recently went to Moriarty Elementary School in Moriarty, New Mexico to participate in the last distribution of shoes for the school year. The KRQE Cares Shoes for Kids program has been providing shoes to local kids since 2015, reinforcing an active lifestyle and creating an immediate and positive impact on their confidence to go about their school day.



[To watch the full segment, click here.](#)

[To learn more about the KRQE Cares and the Shoes for Kids program, click here.](#)

Best Buddies Walk with Miss Albuquerque

Molina partnered with Miss Albuquerque Kaitlin Kerl for the 2022 Best Buddies Albuquerque Friendship Walk. The local event is part of the national Best Buddies Friendship Walk where 40,000 people participate in support of inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Molina's Director of Member of Community Engagement Buffie Saavedra ranked as one of the top five fundraisers and Molina's team ranked as a top five team.

[To learn more about the Best Buddies Friendship Walk, click here.](#)



Additional Activities

Virtual Panel: Addressing Elevated Social Isolation and Behavioral Health Issues in Seniors

MolinaCares hosted its first virtual panel in New Mexico on April 12, titled **Addressing Elevated Social Isolation and Behavioral Health Issues in Seniors**. The panel featured keynote remarks from Cabinet Secretary Katrina Hotrum-Lopez of the New Mexico Aging and Long-term Services Department and expert panelists including Anna Sanchez, director of senior affairs for the City of Albuquerque and Lena Ernst, founder and clinical director of Retreat Healthcare. Panelists discussed historical social isolation challenges in New Mexico's senior population, the role of the COVID-19 pandemic in elevating social isolation and behavioral health issues, and best practices to prevent social isolation and address behavioral health issues among seniors.

"It's clear the pandemic brought to light unique challenges our senior community faces when it comes to their behavioral health," said **Plan President David Nater**. "I'm grateful we have dedicated leaders like Ms. Ernst and Ms. Sanchez to help the community navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and whatever the future holds."



[Watch the full panel here.](#)

Protecting Tribal Families Golf Fundraiser

On April 27, Molina served as a key sponsor of AMERIND and the National Indian Council on Aging's 17th annual Protecting Tribal Families Golf Fundraiser. As a key sponsor, Molina registered two teams to participate in the tournament and assisted in fundraising which led to raising more than \$100,000 for tribal families in Indian Country.

[To learn more about the Protecting Tribal Families Golf Fundraiser, click here.](#)



Supporting our Youth at Wildfire Evacuation Sites

On May 18 and 19, Molina visited multiple wildfire evacuation sites in Glorieta, Las Vegas, Mora and Taos, to deliver children's games and activities, along with needed supplies. The team provided a much-needed break for children who played video games from a rolling video game trailer, made healthy smoothies from a stationary blender bike, and participated in fun outdoor activities. In addition, Molina distributed the supplies collected as a part of its drive with the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce.



Parents Reaching out Family Leadership Conference

Molina was featured as a key sponsor at the Parents Reaching Out 17th Annual Family Leadership Conference in Albuquerque on May 13 and 14. The conference aims to help families improve their skills in advocating for their children and make positive changes to the systems that affect them.

[To learn more about the conference, click here.](#)



New Mexico Public Health Association Conference

On May 19 and 20, Molina served as a key sponsor of the 2022 New Mexico Public Health Association annual conference titled Public Health for All: Building Communities That Thrive. The virtual conference convened public health practitioners across New Mexico to discuss strengthening the movement for health equity throughout the state. Molina also hosted a booth for attendees of the conference.

