

From: **Renee Denipah** <denipah.r.d@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 21, 2025, 9:50 PM

Subject: Proposed Rule 9.2.25 NMAC comment on Kinship Caregiver Pilot Program

To: <craig.hay@altsd.nm.gov>

Craig Hay, New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department:

I'm writing to comment on 9.2.25.9, Participant Eligibility and 9.2.25.6, Objective.

Acknowledge the Opioid Epidemic is causing a high number of newborn children to be born inutero exposed to drugs such as heroin, fentanyl and other drugs **and** is the cause of this current guardianship crisis.

Please **add**, on 9.2.25.9, Participant Eligibility:

Kinshippers and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren who are raising **NAS**, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome children/inutero exposed to drugs as a **priority**. NAS children have lifelong challenges. NAS children and their bio parents are already **left out** of the **Opioid Settlement**.

Please add, as "B" before Immigrants and give priority to Native American Kinshippers (as Native Americans experience addiction to illegal substances at a high rate) and give priority to US citizens.

On 9.2.25.6 Objective

This portion of the proposed rule states:

The purpose of the program is to assist kinship caregivers in learning about, finding and using programs and services to meet the needs of the children they are raising and their own needs . . .

Please note, currently in my experience with Las Cumbres, CASA, and Presbyterian Family Services; my needs nor my young cousin's needs weren't met. If the pool of support is coming from what is currently available, I'm concerned and it's concerning.

Currently a kinshipper,

Rhonda Naranjo-Denipah