



## Housing and Shelter Updated 4-27-20

### It's Hard to Stay Home When You Don't Have One

While it is hard to get an exact count on how many New Mexicans have no home to shelter in during this emergency, we can say that the numbers will no doubt increase and that the resources to assist will decrease.

**Stay in your home.** There are new protections in place for those who have lost income due to the COVID-19 emergency. The NM Coalition to End Homelessness has handouts that explain your rights to [stay in your home](#) and to [keep your utilities on](#) during this time.

- **Paying the mortgage.** If you are having difficulty paying your mortgage, the Federal Housing Finance Authority (FHFA) and the Federal Administration (FHA) have announced a **moratorium on foreclosures and evictions** for at least 60 days (beginning March 19<sup>th</sup>) to borrowers impacted by the coronavirus.
- **Paying the rent.** The New Mexico Supreme Court has ordered a temporary moratorium on evictions for those who are unable to pay rent during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Also, The **New Mexico Housing Authority** has halted all evictions from its properties, including low-income housing units.
- If you have received an eviction notice, call these numbers for assistance:
  - NM's COVID-19 general hotline at 1-833-551-0518
  - New Mexico Legal Aid - (505) 633-6694
  - Senior Citizens Law Office - (505) 265-2300, (Serves residents of Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia and Torrance counties who are 60 or older.)

**Finding Shelter.** Trina Wheeler, Housing Specialist for Magellan, PHS Centennial Care, provided an [updated list of shelters](#) as of April 16<sup>th</sup>.

- **Homeless Shelters.** According to a recent survey of shelter resources, the City of Albuquerque's [Westside Emergency Housing Center](#) is the only shelter still accepting new residents. Several cities, including Santa Fe and Albuquerque, have begun to offer housing in hotel and motel rooms. The [NM Coalition to End Homelessness](#) is working with other shelters to place vulnerable persons in motel or hotel rooms.
- **Domestic Violence Shelters.** A recent check of NM's domestic violence shelters confirms that these are open throughout the state, although some are cutting capacity to allow for physical distancing.

**How you Can Help.** The situation for those who are currently experiencing homelessness is grim. While additional help is expected from the Federal government in May, for now, Hank Hughes, Executive Director of the NM Coalition to End Homelessness, encourages New Mexicans who want to help to donate to their local shelters, either directly to the shelters or through the [Coalition website](#). In addition to financial donations, shelters are accepting donations of sleeping bags and tents. For a list of shelters and services in your area, enter your location in [this search](#).

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