

THE DISABILITY COALITION
Advocating for People with Disabilities of All Types

Disability Rights Awareness Days
Pre-legislative-session Forum

Saturday, January 10, 2026
CNM Workforce Training Center
5600 Eagle Rock Ave., Albuquerque, NM 87113

8:30 Sign-in opens

9:00 Forum begins

Welcome and introductions
Ellen Pinnes, The Disability Coalition

State budget: Overview and disability agencies/programs
Jim Jackson, Chair, The Disability Coalition

Behavioral health: Update on SB 3, BH Reform & Investment Act
Esperanza Lucero, Behavioral Health Integration and Reform Administrator, Administrative Office of the Courts

Education: Update on the *Martinez/Yazzie* case
Laurel Nesbit, Senior Attorney, Disability Rights New Mexico

Break

What's going on in Washington: the Trump Administration and people with disabilities
Ellen Pinnes

Preview of disability-related legislation in the 2025 legislative session
Jim Jackson

Wrap-up

Lunch

Featured speaker: Rep. Kathleen Cates
Insights into disability policy and the legislative process

1:15 – 2:15 **Concurrent sessions – Round 1**

- Financial Scams and How to Avoid Them
New Mexico Department of Justice
- Filing an Effective Special Education Complaint with the NMPED
Disability Rights New Mexico
- How to Tell Your Story Throughout the Legislative Process
Center for Self-Advocacy

2:15 – 2:30 *Break*

2:30 – 3:30 **Concurrent sessions – Round 2**

- Paid Family Medical Leave Act
Southwest Women's Law Center
- Disability Discrimination and Accommodations in Employment
CWA Local 7076
- Telling Your Story to Communicate Your Family's Needs
Parents Reaching Out

The Disability Coalition's activities, including this event, are supported by the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Council through Federal Program funding from the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Additional funding is provided by other members of the Coalition: The Arc of New Mexico, Disability Rights New Mexico, Independent Living Resource Center and New Vistas. Points of view or opinions expressed by presenters do not necessarily represent the views of ACL/HHS, the U.S. government, the DDC, or The Disability Coalition.