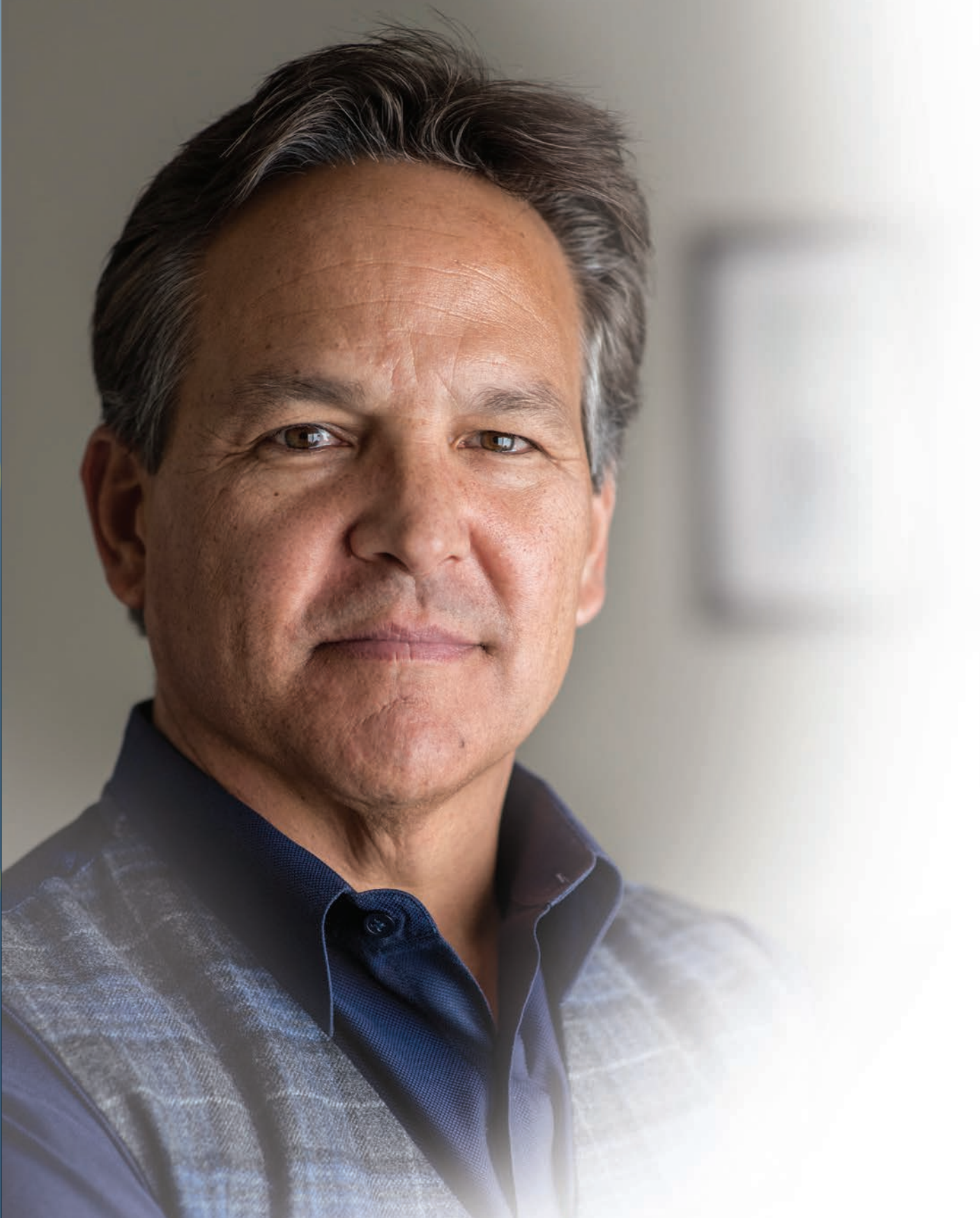


Healthcare Plan



Democrat
Governor

APODACA

New Mexicans deserve an AFFORDABLE, QUALITY, and ACCESSIBLE system of health care.

We deserve health care within the budgets of working families that promotes physical and mental well-being; supports people who are experiencing a health crisis; and that sustains those who live with chronic conditions as well as their families.

The centerpiece of Jeff Apodaca's health care plan is passage of the New Mexico Health Security Campaign, that will provide single-payer health care to all New Mexicans who are not already receiving Medicare, Indian Health Services, or Veteran's Administration health care.

Jeff's healthcare vision for New Mexico is clear: people need to feel security that they will get the care they need, when they need it, without fear of going bankrupt or sacrificing other necessities to pay for it. People who are experiencing a healthcare crisis should be focusing their energy on their well-being, rather than spending precious time and resources worrying about and often battling for services. Each of the three essential pillars of healthcare – AFFORDABILITY, QUALITY, and ACCESS – must be tackled to ensure that the health care needs of New Mexicans are met, that outcomes are enhanced, and safety is improved.

Apodaca's plan to invest in healthcare and pass the New Mexico Health Security Act will create jobs and stimulate economic growth. New Mexico can become a model for delivery of tele-health and tele-medicine services and a desirable destination for medical tourism.



Apodaca is committed to AFFORDABLE health coverage and care for all New Mexicans. Apodaca supports the New Mexico Health Security Campaign model of single-payer healthcare coverage for those not already receiving federal health care programs.

★ Health insurance coverage premiums are sky high. The prohibitive cost of insurance plus high rates for medical services creates an unmanageable predicament for New Mexicans.

- 40% of New Mexicans are on Medicaid, and about 20% are on Medicare. Still, about 250,000 New Mexicans are uninsured, or cannot afford their co-pays or insurance premiums, and continue to use the hospital emergency room instead of primary care. This raises costs for everybody.
- The New Mexico Health Security system will provide coverage for all New Mexicans for the same total amount we're spending now. We can achieve this because we will no longer be paying 14% of our premiums to insurance companies to profit off people's illnesses. Nationally, Medicare only spends .6 on administration. Even if New Mexico is less efficient in our administration, we'll see 12-13% more health care delivered to patients.
- Everyone in the state will now have access to the same level of care and benefits received by state employees.
- We will ensure affordability for all New Mexicans and will not increase premiums for our seniors.
- Annual wellness visits will be fully covered. Co-pays will be reasonable.
- As with Medicare, supplemental policies will be available for those who choose enhanced coverage.

★ Exorbitant costs for prescription drugs will be curtailed with efficiencies in the provision of generic medications from proven and safe sources.

- The New Mexico Health Security Act will create a patient pool of 1.7 million New Mexicans. The enhanced power of negotiating prescription drug prices for such a large pool will result in significantly lower drug prices for New Mexicans.

★ **Cost-cutting or budget-balancing will never compromise patient care.**

- Because doctors and hospitals will now only have to deal with a single-payer, they'll no longer need to have a large staff in their billing departments to deal with many different insurance companies and their conflicting policies. Doctors and hospitals will see substantial savings from significantly reduced staff who's only job is trying to get paid. This will free up more money for hiring actual health care providers.
- Reasonable and fair reimbursements to physicians and other providers are essential in order to attract and retain the medical clinicians we need, and will never be reduced for the purpose of balancing the state budget.
- Hospital services are already stretched thin. Hospitals will never be put in a position of reducing staffing or services in order to cut state medical expenditures.

★ **Reducing malpractice litigation will reduce the insurance burden for physicians and other medical providers. Since these costs are built in to rates for services, reducing claims will have a positive impact on overall healthcare costs.**

- When a medical error or injury occurs, patients need prompt and compassionate resolution. Apodaca will pilot a proven program of alternative medical dispute resolution.
- Physicians and providers will have access to services that encourage their participation in resolution before litigation.
- Apodaca will explore additional measures to discourage nuisance claims.

Apodaca will aggressively tackle the most significant health care issue in our state: opioid addiction.

- ★ We will continue and expand productive practices that address opioid use disorders, including access to and training for use of NARCAN spray to reverse overdose.
- ★ We will legalize recreational cannabis, and expand medical cannabis for use in treating opioid addiction. States that have legalized recreational cannabis have seen a 25% reduction in prescription opioid deaths.
- ★ We will continue prescription monitoring, ensuring that patients whose medical conditions legitimately require use of opioids have access as medically necessary, balanced with sufficient levels of monitoring.
- ★ We will work with our Attorney General to prosecute “pill mills” and unnecessary prescriptions of opioids that profit unethical doctors and drug companies acting to keep patients addicted to opioids.
- ★ Apodaca also supports expanded use of methadone and buprenorphine as proven, effective treatments for opioid use disorders.
 - Apodaca will expand methadone clinics by incentivizing provider organizations and ensuring that regulatory requirements are proportionate with surrounding states.
 - Apodaca supports programs that specifically address the addiction issues of post-partum women.
 - Apodaca will remove barriers to effective addiction treatment, such as inpatient requirements that disallow admittance of patients receiving life-saving alternative medications.
 - Apodaca will ensure sufficient reimbursement for these medication therapies to be administered to addicted persons in jail.

★ **Apodaca advocates decriminalization of non-violent addicted offenders.**

- 14, 30, or 60 days of treatment for addiction is insufficient. Apodaca will increase long-term rehabilitative care for addictive disorders to 2 years.
- Instead of incarceration, Apodaca envisions rehabilitation and training centers that, within 2 years, incorporate treatment with education and job training. New Mexicans whose non-violent offenses are related to their addictive disorder will have an opportunity to learn skills that will lead them to apprenticeships and well-paying jobs.

★ **Education and preventive services will be prioritized. We need to come together as a state to address the root causes that contribute to addiction disorders, particularly socioeconomic and mental health issues. Preventive services must be community based, culturally relevant, and community driven.**

Apodaca's health care plan addresses the whole person, including the mental and emotional needs of New Mexicans. Apodaca will fully restore and expand mental and behavioral health services.

- ★ Apodaca's health care plan integrates behavioral and mental health services into medical coverage provided by the Health Security Act.
- ★ We will attract psychiatrists, psychologists, and mental health counselors to deliver services in every part of our state.
- ★ Behavioral, mental health, and suicide prevention services will be community based and culturally sensitive.
- ★ We will ensure that providers in New Mexico put people before profits. We will support providers with ties to New Mexico.
- ★ Apodaca's plan supports behavioral and mental health services in our schools by hiring more nurses, school counselors, mental health counselors, and social workers, particularly in those schools with the highest levels of risk factors for addiction.
- ★ The human rights of people with mental disorders must be fully protected.
- ★ Consumers of behavioral and mental health services and their families will be engaged in the evaluation and improvement of policies and services.

Apodaca's health care plan enhances the QUALITY of health care for New Mexicans:

★ By attracting the health clinicians and professionals we need.

- Apodaca will enact and fully fund a 7 – year student loan repayment plan for family physicians, specialty doctors, nurses, and physician's assistants (as well as teachers and other professionals in critically needed fields) who are committed to staying in New Mexico and serving in underserved areas.

★ By building on the strengths of our signature institution for medical education, the University of New Mexico Medical School, and by building capacity to train more medical professionals.

- ★ **By developing partnerships and alliances to attract medical tourism to our state, focusing on in specific areas of expertise, such as -----, -----, and -----.**
- ★ **By becoming a center for excellence in tele-medicine and a hub for creative service delivery models, especially to our rural areas.**
- ★ **By expanding the medical cannabis industry, and supporting research and development related to medical marijuana.**

The heart of Apodaca's health care plan is ACCESSABILITY of QUALITY and AFFORDABLE health care services throughout New Mexico, for all New Mexicans.

★ We will fill our gap in medical providers by actively attracting, recruiting, and retaining medical professionals:

- + 300 additional physicians, including primary and specialty care;
- + 3,200 additional nurses;
- + 1,600 additional Certified Nurse Practitioners and Physician's Assistants.
- More nurses, CNP's, and PA's means better patient safety, improved patient experience, and higher quality services.

★ We will build the capacity of the University of New Mexico Medical School to train more medical professionals.

- Expand UNM Medical School's nursing, nurse practitioner, and physician assistant programs.
- Increase the number of UNM medical residents in primary and specialty care by 100 additional residents per year.

★ We will support branch and on-line education programs around the state for training nurses and nurse practitioners in rural areas.

★ The presence of additional medical personnel will foster \$600 million dollars of economic growth in New Mexico. These resources will be put back into our economy to help fund our loan forgiveness program.

★ The Apodaca administration will reduce the administrative burden on our medical providers. For example, procedures for Prior Authorization are burdensome to clinicians and worrisome for patients. These procedures will be streamlined, and criteria will be transparent and published. This will reduce administrative costs and will reduce the uncertainty and wait time for patients to receive medically necessary medications, diagnostics, and procedures.

- ★ Apodaca will ensure that our Federally Qualified Health Centers, which provide services in our underserved and rural areas, are fully funded.
- ★ Apodaca will utilize private and public partnerships to expand hospitals and urgent care centers around New Mexico.
- ★ Apodaca will invest with private capital and public partnerships to expand Veterans Administration Hospital healthcare and behavioral health programs. We will ensure that full and timely services are available to all New Mexico veterans.
- ★ Apodaca's health care plan puts New Mexico at the center of innovation in Tele-Health and Tele-Medicine.

- Apodaca will fully fund deployment of Tele-health and Tele-medicine in New Mexico.
- The infrastructure needed to support Tele-health throughout the state will generate jobs and economic development.
- UNM Project ECHO® (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is one model with exceptional outcomes and unlimited potential. This program links specialists with primary care clinicians in local communities to amplify access to best practice.
- Our Tele-Health and Tele-Medicine plan will enable earlier intervention, improve patient outcomes, reduce costs, and provide better patient experiences.

- ★ New Mexico can be a national leader in Tele-Health, Tele-Medicine, community health, and other creative, innovative health care delivery models.

APODACA

TOGETHER WE CAN TURN NEW MEXICO AROUND BY CREATING

- 225,000 New Jobs for New Mexico
- \$1.8 billion in new tax revenue annually
- Equal pay for women
- Reinstate the Commission on the Status of Women
- Higher wages for all New Mexicans
- 3% annual raise for state employees
- Medicare for All New Mexicans
- Pay increase for teachers and education support staff
- 41,000 new trade skill jobs
- Year-round preschool
- Early family intervention
- Job training for telecommuting jobs
- 300 new doctors
- 3,200 new nurses
- 1,600 new physician's assistants
- Earned family and medical leave
- Grown and expand our middle-class



TOGETHER WE CAN TURN NEW MEXICO AROUND

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