



Office of the Governor

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Governor launches effort to enhance demographic analysis, state services for LGBTQ+ New Mexicans**

SANTA FE – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Monday signed an executive order directing executive state departments to begin collecting voluntary self-identification information pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity, an advance long-sought by LGBTQ+ advocates that will provide the state with data to improve the provisions of service to a traditionally underserved population.

The effect of the order will be to enhance the capacity and ability of state agencies to address health disparities and identify and remove barriers to effective care for non-conforming and traditionally underserved individuals, as well as enhance services and outreach to those groups of people.

“If we want to solve a problem, we first need information about what’s causing it,” said **Gov. Lujan Grisham**. “If we are to address inequities that LGBTQ+ New Mexicans experience in their interactions with state government, we must first have the information about where those breakdowns are occurring. This voluntary mechanism for demographic analysis is a tool the state of New Mexico can and will use to improve its service to traditionally underserved New Mexicans. I’m proud to have the chance to initiate that process.”

“Equality New Mexico applauds and thanks Governor Lujan Grisham for this Executive Order, which makes New Mexico a national leader on the issue of sexual orientation and gender identity data collection,” said Executive Director **Marshall Martinez** of Equality New Mexico. “LGBTQ people have always known that we face inequities in health, economic stability and education. This will finally give the state of New Mexico the data we need so that we can bridge these gaps. This is a first crucial step toward addressing some of the life or death issues for queer and trans people.”

“Including the demographic information for the LGBTQ+ community on all state forms demonstrates an acknowledgement of our community,” said Sen. **Carrie Hamblen**, who sponsored an analogous piece of [legislation](#) in the spring 60-day legislative session that

successfully advanced through the Senate. “I’m grateful this executive order will put into place the representation that is overdue and to start compiling necessary data that will be used to determine resources and services that are desperately needed and deserved.”

"I'm honored to have worked on this policy with Equality New Mexico and Senator Hamblen this last session," said Rep. **Brittney Barreras**. "By finally collecting this data we will have the tools to bridge gaps in services for our LGBTQ siblings across the state."

“I am grateful to the governor for her commitment to signing this order into effect and I am glad we continue to make progress as a state in broadening inclusivity and how we serve underserved communities,” said Sen. **Leo Jaramillo**.

Under the order, information that is voluntarily provided about sexual orientation and gender identity may only be used for demographic analysis, coordination of care, quality improvement of government services, conducting research and guiding policy and funding decisions. Protections about individual identification are likewise written into the order, as well.

An unsigned copy of the executive order is attached to this news release; signed by the governor Monday at an event in the Cabinet Room, the final copy is being attested by the Secretary of State’s Office.

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# State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Governor*

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-048**

### **DIRECTING EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS TO COLLECT VOLUNTARY SELF-IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION PERTAINING TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Mexico seeks to improve its demographic analysis of LGBTQ people residing in New Mexico;

**WHEREAS**, requests from State agencies for voluntary information pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity will assist with improving the State's demographic analysis and conducting approved research;

**WHEREAS**, the voluntary data regarding sexual orientation and gender identity may already be required to fulfill reporting requirements or funding decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, the voluntary data will be used to identify and rectify barriers non-conforming or traditionally underserved individuals may face when accessing State services and resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Mexico do hereby **ORDER** all executive departments to begin collecting voluntary self-identification information pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity as soon as practicable and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. An executive department shall only use information voluntarily provided about sexual orientation and gender identity for demographic analysis, coordination of care, quality improvement of its services, conducting approved research, fulfilling reporting requirements or guiding policy or funding decisions.

2. Any self-identification information pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity information collected by an executive department shall be collected in accordance with state and federal law.

3. Executive departments shall not report demographic data that would permit identification of individuals or would result in statistical unreliability. Reports on data collected pursuant to this Order may be aggregate categories at a state, county, city, census tract or zip code level to prevent identification of individuals, facilitate comparisons and identify disparities.

4. Voluntary data may be available to the public in accordance with state and federal law, except for personal identifying information, which shall be deemed confidential and shall not be disclosed.

**I FURTHER ORDER and DIRECT** as follows:

1. This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until renewed, modified, or rescinded.

ATTEST:

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
THIS 16TH DAY OF AUGUST 2021

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT  
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR