# RESOLUTION 2022-04

# REGARDING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES SERVICES

WHEREAS, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) states that no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination by a department, agency, special purpose district or other instrumentality of a state or local government; and

WHEREAS, Title II of the ADA requires that state entities take steps to ensure that its communications with people with disabilities are as effective as communications with others; and

WHEREAS, Title II of the ADA requires state and local governments to give people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from their programs, services, and activities; and

WHEREAS, these provisions of the ADA extend to the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD), which operates crucial services designed to support New Mexico families; and

WHEREAS, CYFD has not consistently met these ADA requirements in how it interacts with persons who are blind or visually impaired, including with individuals who are serving as foster parents:

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico assembled in convention in the city of Albuquerque this 28th day of August, 2022, that the National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico calls upon CYFD to undertake coordinated and systematic efforts to improve and enhance services and communications with persons who are blind or visually impaired; and that the National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico specifically calls upon CYFD to work to make sure that CYFD respects the rights of parents who are blind or visually impaired, including blind or visually impaired persons who are serving as foster parents.