



The Statewide Public Health and Climate Program and Community Resiliency Fund

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The Case for Legislation

1. New Mexico is getting hotter

Temps in New Mexico have **risen more than 2°F** over the last century

2. Heat harms health

Heat is the **deadliest form of extreme weather**, associated with many more deaths than hurricanes, tornados, flooding, or drought

3. Heat is an equity issue

New Mexico is one of the states **most vulnerable** to the harmful impacts of heat



The Case for Legislation

4. Our state agencies lack capacity to address heat and protect health and equity

NM Health has a **0.2 FTE** Program Manager dedicated to climate and health, and heat is just one of the threats requiring attention.

5. There is an **opportunity to increase New Mexican communities' capacity to address heat and protect health and equity**



History of the Legislation

NMDOH applied for CDC BRACE* funding in 2021 (\$2.5 million)- not awarded

* Building Resilience Against Climate Effects

New Mexico Public Health Infrastructure Task Force Recommendation (HM2, 2021)



History of the Legislation (cont.)

[HB 42 / SB 5](#) (2023) and [HB 104](#) (2024)

Create a Public Health and Climate Program at NM Health (\$1.1 million/year)

- 6.5 FTEs: epidemiologists, Tribal liaison, health equity specialist and medical director
- Conduct surveillance and evaluation of strategies
- Develop and implement communications, including warning systems and culturally appropriate health education
- Community engagement
- Training and technical assistance



History of the Legislation

[HB 42 / SB 5](#) (2023) and [HB 104](#) (2024)

Establish a Climate Resiliency Fund (\$10 million/5 years)

- Assist local communities in preparing for and responding to public health risks and threats related to climate change, including heat
- Respond to local needs
- Grants up to \$250,000, over five years, no match required
- Dedicate at least 50% to small communities (<100,000 pop)
- Grants could be used to leverage federal or other funds



Examples of Community and Tribal Grants for Heat Relief

Community assessment and planning

Home and workplace safety supplies

- Heat and air quality monitoring devices
- Air conditioners: heat pumps or window A/C
- Box fans (with added filter for air purification)
- Systems for supporting high risk populations, i.e. co-morbidities



Examples of Community and Tribal Grants for Heat Relief

Cooling centers and supplies

- Shade structures
- Personal cooling kits
- Water fountains
- Bus stop conversions: shade, seating, water
- Back-up generation: solar or other
- Emergency cooling equipment for heat-related illness





Thank You

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