

LFC Requestor: KLUNDT, Kelly

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS

Section I: General

Chamber: House

Category: Bill

Number: 75

Type: Introduced

Date (of THIS analysis): January 21, 2025

Sponsor(s): Elizabeth Thomson

Short Title: County and Tribal Health Councils Funding

Reviewing Agency: Agency 665 - Department of Health

Analysis Contact Person: Arya Lamb

Phone Number: 505-470-4141

e-Mail: arya.lamb@doh.nm.gov

Section II: Fiscal Impact

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation Contained		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26		
\$0	\$43,000.00	Nonrecurring	General Fund

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26	FY 27		
\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-recurring	Fund Affected
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

Section III: Relationship to other legislation

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: None

Companion to: None

Relates to: None

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None

Section IV: Narrative

1. BILL SUMMARY

a) Synopsis

HB 75 proposes to appropriate 43 million dollars from the general fund to support county and tribal health councils statewide to carry out the functions as stated in the County and Tribal Health Councils Act. This is done by providing funding for:

- Salaries and benefits of staff positions
- Expand county and tribal health councils' capacity to provide services.
- Expand county and tribal health council operations and functions,
- Assist in the coordination and navigations of essential services through various collaborations.
- Increase community outreach and engagement programs to improve community awareness and understanding of county and tribal health council services.
- Increase public health intervention, prevention, and education efforts.
- Facilitate collaboration and networking with health care stakeholders across the state.
- Support policy and advocacy efforts aimed at advancing health equity.
- Provide funding for the cost of running county and tribal health councils to include overhead expenses, travel, and supplies
- Cover other indirect expenses

In addition, HB 75 provides NMDOH with one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to contract with a nonprofit organization to provide training, technical assistance and other supports to county and tribal health councils.

Is this an amendment or substitution? Yes No

Is there an emergency clause? Yes No

b) Significant Issues

Evidence suggests that comprehensive, community-based health plans that clearly identify and address local health needs and priorities lead to road maps that can inform policies and resource allocation to improve systems and local health outcomes. Evidence also suggests that participatory planning frameworks, cross-sector collaboration, addressing social determinants of health (SDOHs), and steering organizations are integral to effective public health planning.

In 2019 the legislature passed HB137, creating the County and Tribal Health Councils Act. The purpose of the County and Tribal Health Councils Act is to improve the health of New Mexicans by encouraging the development of comprehensive, community-based health planning councils to identify and address local health needs and priorities. HB137 also clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of Health Councils (HCs) and the Department of Health.

Pursuant to HB137, HCs must *monitor* health and health care programs and services in order to identify potential gaps and to reduce potential duplication, *collaborate* with other entities to develop programs, networks, partnerships and coalitions as necessary to improve health, *advise* the board in its jurisdiction and other entities regarding policies that affect health, *facilitate* communication among local jurisdictions, state agencies and other entities, and *identify* additional public and private resources to improve health. HCs do not currently provide healthcare or health services as referenced in the 43 million appropriation in HB75.

HB137 requires that DOH work with health councils to develop benchmarks, expectations, and mechanisms to ensure the long-term viability and effectiveness of HCs, *provide training and technical supports as necessary*, administer funding to support the work of the health councils, including local health council staffing, training and technical support, and monitor and evaluate contracts for HCs to ensure that their work is being executed and evaluated. HB75 would require DOH to contract with a nonprofit organization to “*provide training, technical assistance and other supports to county and tribal health councils*”, which are activities currently statutorily required of DOH and conducted by the DOH Health Promotion Program.

In addition to providing training, technical assistance and any other requested support to Health Councils and Tribal Health Councils, the DOH Health Promotion Program spent months collaborating with Health Councils and community partners to develop and produce county specific Community Health Improvement Plans and scopes of work (SOW) for each Health Council. Each Health Councils is on a different level in the development of their program and services. Health Councils should be required to submit a project plan with clearly outlined and attainable goals that meet the requirements of the County and Tribal Health Council Act. DOH is encouraged by the strong partnership in establishing a system for improved accountability, evaluation, and structure, which will support continued growth and stability by providing the Health Councils with the skills to clearly demonstrate the work completed.

In New Mexico there are currently 33 Health Councils and 10 Tribal Health Councils, of which 42 Health Councils receive funding from NMDOH. HC budgets vary from a low of \$72,000 to a high of over \$1,100,000. Some HCs only utilize NMDOH funds while others have received funding from counties, grants, and other sources. DOH has engaged HCs routinely to establish a methodical approach to assessing their various stages of development

and streams of funding to better advocate for their budget needs. This information would be unique to each HC and would provide the agency with a budget needs assessment for each HC. A prudent needs assessment would balance the particular phase of development of each HC (which indicates realistically how much funding the HC could implement within a FY) with an accounting of its various streams of funding, to arrive at a budget recommendation for each HC for state general funding. Agencies are required to carefully justify their budget requests to the legislature to ensure responsible utilization of taxpayer dollars. The department is not aware of the calculation or methodology used to arrive at a 43 million dollar request for additional funding to HCs.

Since the passage of the County and Tribal Health Councils Act time there have been efforts to allocate additional funding for the health councils. In 2024, the legislature appropriated three million (\$3,000,000) from general funds to NMDOH which was allocated to county and tribal health councils for expenditure in FY25, in addition to \$643,965 in the department's base budget for HCs. The amount proposed in HB 75 would reflect a 90% increase in funding. The DOH requested an additional 3 million for HCs this year, which was reflected in the executive budget recommendation. The LFC recommendation does not reflect the agency's request to support 3 million in additional funding to HCs.

(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9396714/>)

(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9603758/>)

(<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28542061/>)

(https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/abstract/2017/07001/the_impact_of_community_input_in_community_health.7.aspx)

(<https://phaboard.org/accreditation-recognition/version-2022/>)

(<https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/pages/articleviewer.aspx?year=2005&issue=09000&article=00002&type=Fulltext>)

2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?

Yes No

If yes, describe how.

HB 75 could potentially create duplication or confusion of roles as it appropriates 1 million to a nonprofit that would be tasked with activities currently describing in statute as being the responsibility of the DOH.

Is this proposal related to the NMDOH Strategic Plan? Yes No

Goal 1: We expand equitable access to services for all New Mexicans

Goal 2: We ensure safety in New Mexico healthcare environments

Goal 3: We improve health status for all New Mexicans

Goal 4: We support each other by promoting an environment of mutual respect, trust, open communication, and needed resources for staff to serve New Mexicans and to grow and reach their professional goals

HB 75 would allow NMDOH to continue their work throughout the State of New Mexico and reach all communities with the needed services and resources.

3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?
 Yes No N/A
- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH? Yes No

4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH? Yes No

HB 75 would require NMDOH to oversee distribution of funds as well as reporting requirements. This work is currently completed by our health promotions team.

5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

None

6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill? Yes No

7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written? Yes No
- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)? Yes No
- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?
 Yes No
- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs? Yes No

8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

None

9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

HB 75 would provide funding to Health Councils and Tribal Health Councils throughout New Mexico. This has the potential to impact hard to reach communities in our rural areas as well as allowing a local focus on the health issues impacting individual communities.

10. ALTERNATIVES

None

11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

If HB 75 does not pass, health councils will not receive funding from the State of New Mexico.

12. AMENDMENTS

Section 1 (A) (2) to read: ‘individual health councils may use up to twenty percent (20%) of funding to contract with a nonprofit organization to provide supports to county and tribal health councils.’”