

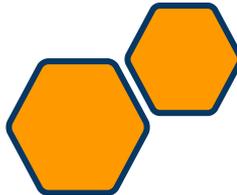
# New Mexico's County and Tribal Health Councils

*Value to our State's Public Health Infrastructure*

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Susan Wilger, NMAHC - Interim Executive Director  
Gerilyn Antonio, NMAHC - Tribal Liaison

Legislative Health & Human Services Committee  
September 15, 2022



# Presenters



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# Overview of Presentation

- I. HM 2 Taskforce Recommendations
- II. New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils : Who We Are
- III. Health Council Priorities & Community Impacts
- IV. Acoma Pueblo and McKinley Community Health Alliance
- V. Impact of Underfunding
- VI. Opportunity to Invest

Questions and Feedback



# HM 2 Public Health Taskforce Recommendations

## OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN NEW MEXICO'S PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2021 the Legislator passed H.M. 2, establishing a Public Health Task Force to study New Mexico's public health infrastructure and make recommendations for improvement.

The task force recommends fully funding County & Tribal Health Councils and NMAHC to:

- ✦ BUILD THE CAPACITY OF HEALTH COUNCILS
- ✦ MOBILIZE DIVERSE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
- ✦ STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY VOICE

A study conducted in 2003 indicated:



# About Us: New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils

## *Mobilizing Communities for Health*

**Our mission:** is to improve the health of all New Mexicans by supporting and strengthening county and tribal health councils, advocating for health equity, and by providing a strong voice for community and public health.

**What we do:** The Alliance offers training, coordination, convening, opportunities for collaboration and advocacy in support of health councils' role in promoting community health. Health Councils and supporters of health councils are eligible to be members of the Alliance.

The Alliance has 3 strategic focus areas:

- 1** PROMOTING EQUITY AND INCLUSION
- 2** SUPPORTING CAPACITY BUILDING FOR HEALTH COUNCILS
- 3** BUILDING OPERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE ALLIANCE



# Building Access to Services:

## House Bill 137

### 2019 County and Tribal Health Councils Act:

County & Tribal Health Councils were **established in 1991** by the New Mexico legislature

The functions of health councils were **reaffirmed in 2019** by the County and Tribal Health Councils Act (HB 137)

*County and Tribal Health Councils are mandated with the following tasks:*



Listen to, communicate with, convene, and engage diverse community members in order to...



Review local data, assess the health of the community, and consider root causes for gaps in well-being, in order to...



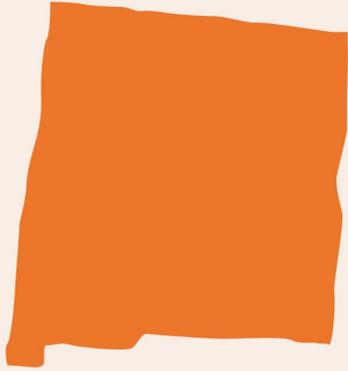
Plan towards community-prioritized solutions to improve health and equity for all, and...



Advise local and state government on policies to improve community health, based on collaborative work.

# New Mexico

## Centralized, Statewide Health Department



NEW MEXICO IS  
**1 of only 6 states**

**WITH A CENTRALIZED, STATEWIDE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, RATHER THAN COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL-BASED HEALTH DEPARTMENTS.**

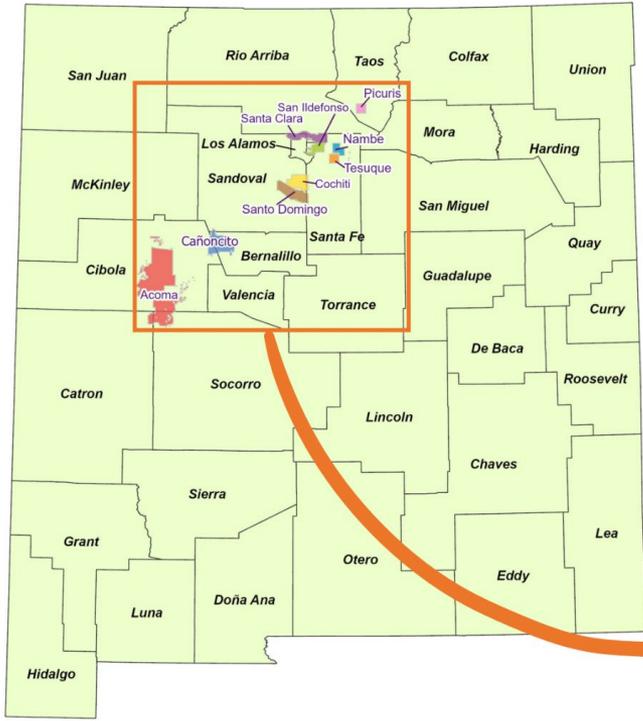
- Critical need for health councils to play a key role in **community- based health assessments, planning, and action** at the local level
- Community- based health improvement is a **fundamental function of health departments and criteria for public health accreditation**

*NMDOH Public Health Division and its regional public health promotion teams work closely with County & Tribal Health Councils to develop vital partnerships to improve population health and decrease health disparities*

new mexico  
of Health Councils **ALLIANCE**  
mobilizing communities for health



# County and Tribal Health Councils



THERE ARE...

**33** COUNTY HEALTH COUNCILS & **9** TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS



LOCATION OF TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS IN NEW MEXICO

## Tribal Health Councils

- Pueblo of Acoma
- Canoncito Band of Navajos
- Pueblo of Cochiti
- Pueblo of Nambe
- Pueblo of Picuris
- Pueblo of San Ildefonso
- Pueblo of Santa Clara
- Pueblo of Santo Domingo
- Pueblo of Tesuque

# Value of Community

## *Voice and Representation*

Live in and come from the communities

Serve as great **advocates**

**Connect** with the community

**Understand** health-related disparities

Health care, health **promotion**, and disease **prevention** education, services

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### New Mexico's Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations

Tribal  
Sovereignty

Leadership  
Authorization

Self  
Determination

Tribal Processes  
& Procedures

Timeline

Cultural  
Understanding &  
Competence

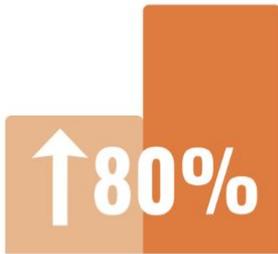
Historical  
Context

Native language,  
traditions, &  
beliefs

# All Pueblo Council of Governors

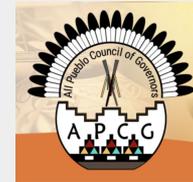
**SINCE NMAHC CREATED A TRIBAL LIAISON POSITION IN 2021, THE NUMBER OF TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS HAS INCREASED FROM 5 TO 9**

TRIBAL LEADERS & A GROWING NUMBER OF LEGISLATORS INDICATE TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS ARE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO NEW MEXICO.



The APCG supports the partnership of NMAHC and the Pueblos.

Former Governor of Tesuque and APCG Chairman Mark Mitchell encourages and invites all the Pueblos to consider joining NMAHC in the future if they choose to do so.



**NMAHC Goal:**  
Partner with 2 Tribes, Pueblos, or Nations per year

# County and Tribes

## Tackling COVID-19 Pandemic

In 2021, 37 of the 42 County and Tribal Health Councils received **\$50,000** each distributed annually for 2 years. This allowed them to collaborate locally to assess, plan, and act to address the COVID-19 crisis.



### IMPACT OF INCREASED FUNDING

In the first 8 months of receiving increased funding:



**100%** OF HEALTH COUNCILS ESTABLISHED A HEALTH EQUITY COMMITTEE TO ADVISE ON EQUITY, TACKLE HEALTH DISPARITY & ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES.



**100%** OF HEALTH COUNCILS HELD VACCINE TESTING EVENTS AND DISTRIBUTED INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 RISKS & RESOURCES WITH LOCAL PARTNERS TO MEET BOTH EMERGING & LONG-STANDING HEALTH CARE CHALLENGES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

As a part of their vaccine equity work, between **October 2021** and **April 2022**:

HEALTH COUNCILS PARTICIPATED IN

**473**

VACCINE EQUITY  
EVENTS

HEALTH COUNCILS DISTRIBUTED

**24,886**

PANDEMIC RELATED INFORMATIONAL  
ITEMS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

HEALTH COUNCILS REACHED

**345,665**

NEW MEXICANS



# County and Tribes

## *Health Councils Community Impact*

HEALTH COUNCILS COORDINATE LOCAL SERVICES, RESULTING IN:



**COLLABORATION**



**DUPLICATION**



**COST  
SAVINGS**

HEALTH COUNCILS SUPPORT LOCALLY DRIVEN AND COLLABORATIVE HEALTH ASSESSMENT, PLANNING AND ACTION, INVOLVING:



**COMMUNITY MEMBERS**



**HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**



**STATE AGENCIES**



**VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS**



**SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES**

HEALTH COUNCILS SECURE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR NEW MEXICO COMMUNITIES THROUGH COLLABORATIVE GRANT PROPOSALS.



# County and Tribes

## Health Councils Community Impact

HEALTH COUNCILS ADVOCATE FOR POLICY CHANGES AND SERVICES TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES ACROSS AREAS OF:



**MENTAL HEALTH**



**PANDEMICS & EPIDEMICS**



**SUBSTANCE USE**



**THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

HEALTH COUNCILS ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES BY FOCUSING ON ROOT CAUSES SUCH AS:

- ▶ structural racism
- ▶ policies that result in conditions which make certain populations more vulnerable to health risk factors, including lack of insurance, insufficient plumbing or electricity, etc.

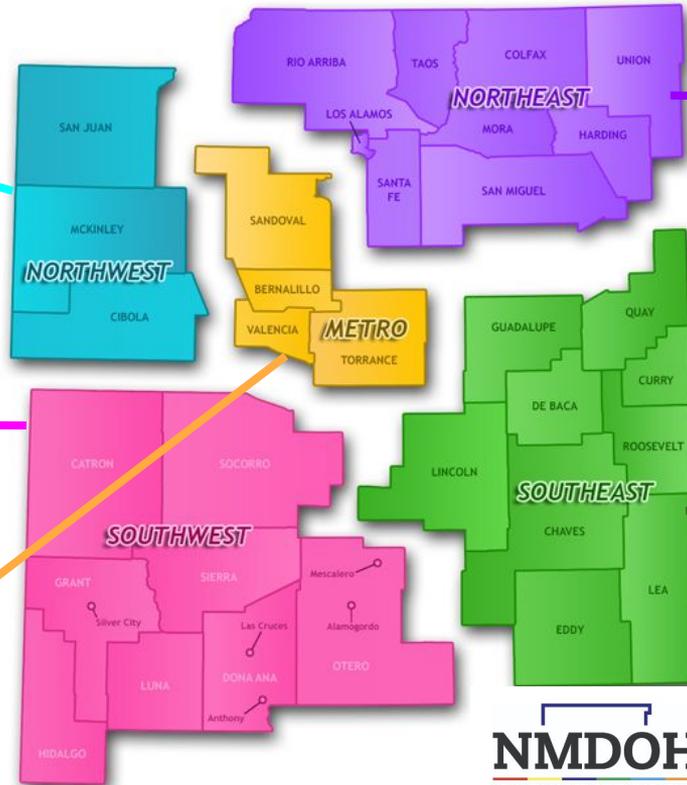
# Health Council Health Priorities

## NMDOH Regions

- Alcohol Abuse
- Child Abuse/ ACEs- Bullying
- Physician Recruitment and Retention
- Healthy Food and Nutrition
- Sexual Violence/ Assault
- Mental/ Behavioral Health
- Obesity/ Diabetes
- Substance Abuse
- Suicide
- Food Access
- Underage Drinking
- Racial, social, and economic injustices impact on population health

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- Sexual Violence/ Assault
- Substance Abuse
- Suicide
- Underage Drinking

- Child Abuse/ ACEs- Bullying
- Physician Recruitment and Retention
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- Sexual Violence/ Assault
- Mental/ Behavioral Health
- Obesity/ Diabetes
- Substance Abuse
- Suicide
- Food Access
- Underage Drinking



- Access to Care
- Alcohol Misuse & Underage Drinking
- Behavioral and Mental Health
- Child, Youth, & Individuals at Risk
- Diabetes
- Healthy Foods
- Low Birth Weight Babies
- People in Crisis or Poverty
- Substance Misuse
- Suicide Prevention
- Transportation
- Veterans Services

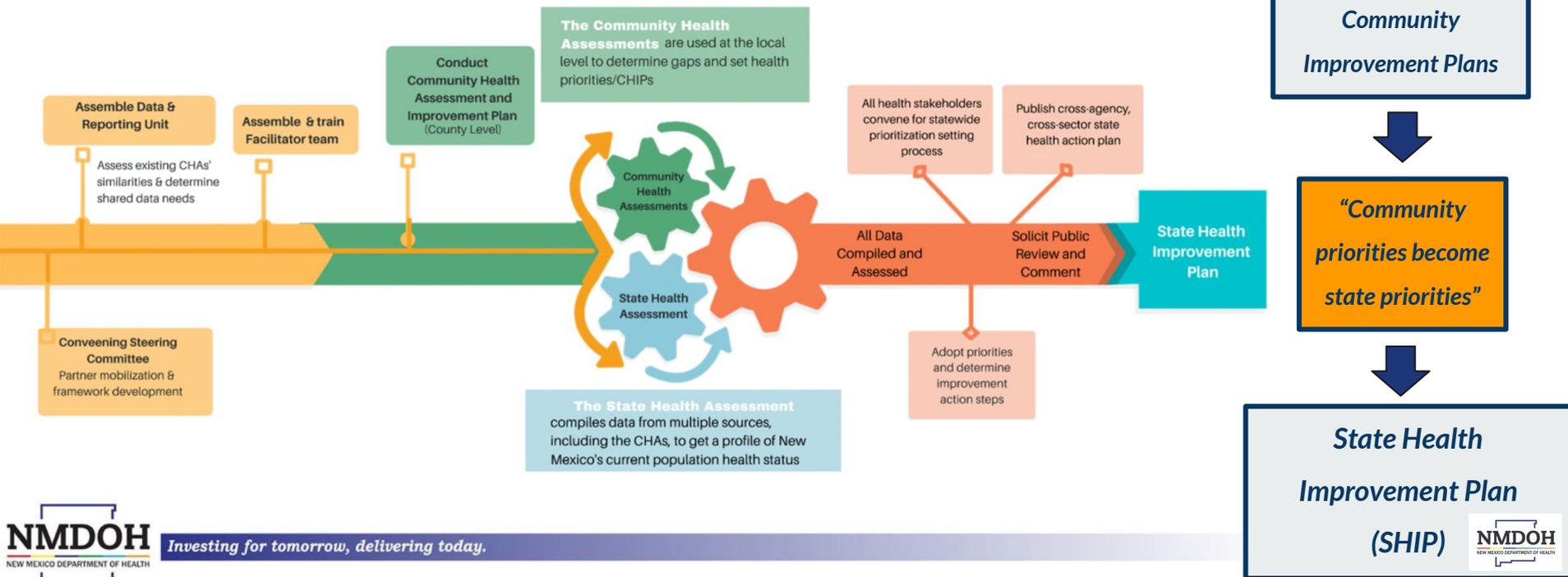
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- Obesity/ Diabetes
- Substance Abuse
- Food Access

# NMDOH CHIP/SHIP Process

## County and Tribal Health Council Involvement

### New Mexico's - State Health Improvement Plan Process

Adapted from Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework



# Stories from Health Councils

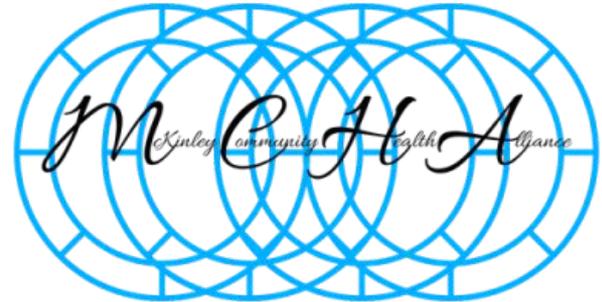
**Pueblo of Acoma**

Teresa Meehan



**McKinley Community  
Health Alliance**

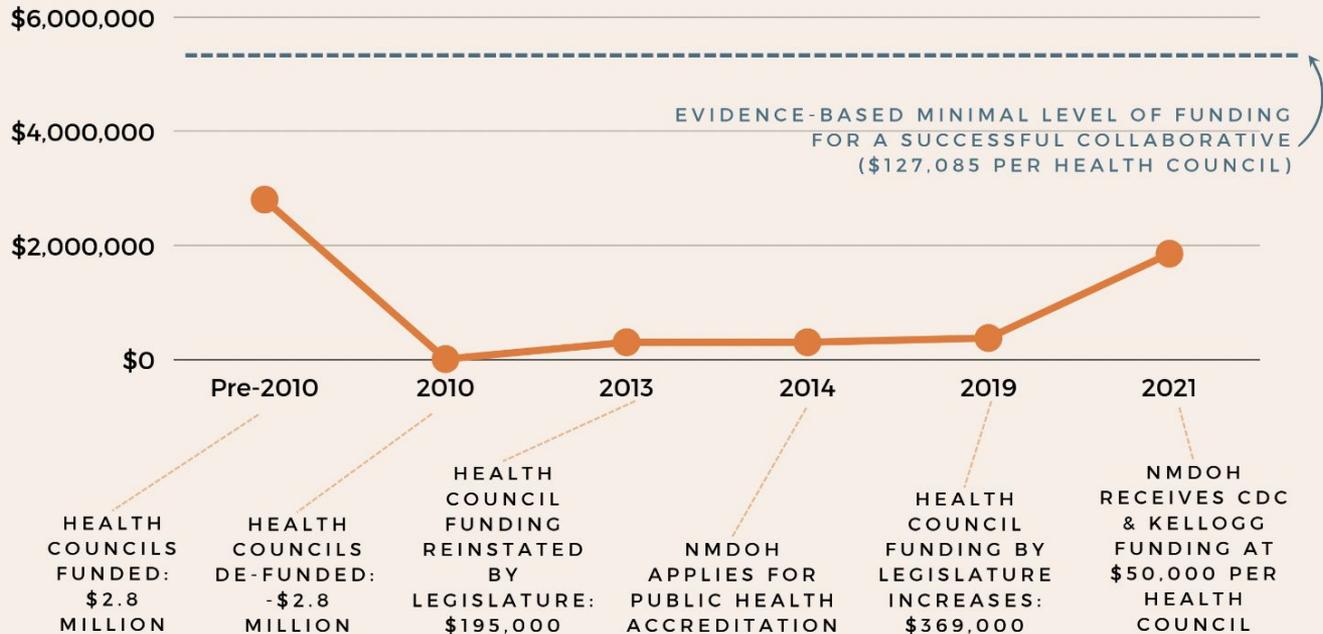
Christopher Hudson



# County and Tribal Health Councils

## History of Underfunding

### NM COUNTY & TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCIL FUNDING OVER TIME



# County and Tribal Health Councils: *Underfunding*

## Statute

*County and Tribal Health Councils are mandated by House Bill 137 to fulfill their roles and responsibilities with **LIMITED** funding*

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### **FY 2022:**

NMDOH: \$9,461 per Health Council per year

### **FY 2023:**

NMDOH : \$12, 952 per Health Council per year

### **FY 2021 - 2023 (2 year grant):**

CDC & Kellogg Foundation Funding: \$50,000 per Health Council/ year

From 2013 to 2022, County and Tribal Health Councils received only 3-7% of what would be considered an evidence-based adequate level of funding from the state, only about \$4,000 - \$9,461 per health council per year.

# Opportunity to Invest

## *New Mexico's Public Health Infrastructure*

**ACTION NEEDED: INVEST IN NEW MEXICO'S PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY-DRIVEN HEALTH PLANNING AND SOLUTIONS.**

**SUPPORT THE \$6.3 MILLION FUNDING PACKAGE, WHICH INCLUDES:**

**\$5,500,000**

**TO SUPPORT EACH COUNTY & TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCIL AT \$125,000 PER HEALTH COUNCIL PER YEAR**

**WITH ROOM TO FUND 2 ADDITIONAL HEALTH COUNCILS EACH YEAR**

**+**

**\$800,000**

**TO CONTRACT WITH A THIRD PARTY (EX. NEW MEXICO ALLIANCE OF HEALTH COUNCILS)**

**TO PROVIDE STATEWIDE ANCILLARY SERVICES TO ALL COUNTY & TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS**

\*This amounts to a \$5,767,000 increase over the FY23 level of funding

# Questions and Feedback



*Questions  
Feedback*

*Please reach out to New Mexico Alliance of Health  
Councils for additional questions and comments!*

