### NM HEART PROGRAM

Dr. Sonja Koukel Extension Community & Environmental Health Specialist

- Health
- Extension
- Ambassadors in
- Rural
- Towns



### **Problem Statement**

- Rural counties have had the highest rates of premature death for many years, lagging far behind other counties.
- While urban counties continue to show improvement, overall rates of premature death are worsening in rural counties. (County Health Rankings, 2016)



### **Problem Statement**

- Individuals and families living in rural NM
  - 26 of 33 counties have fewer opportunities to engage in health-promoting programs due to limited community resources. (US Census Bureau, 2013)



# **NM HEART Program Goal**

### Increase the quality of life for all

New Mexicans through a volunteer program that enhances

Cooperative Extension's capacity to deliver health-related educational programming in rural areas.

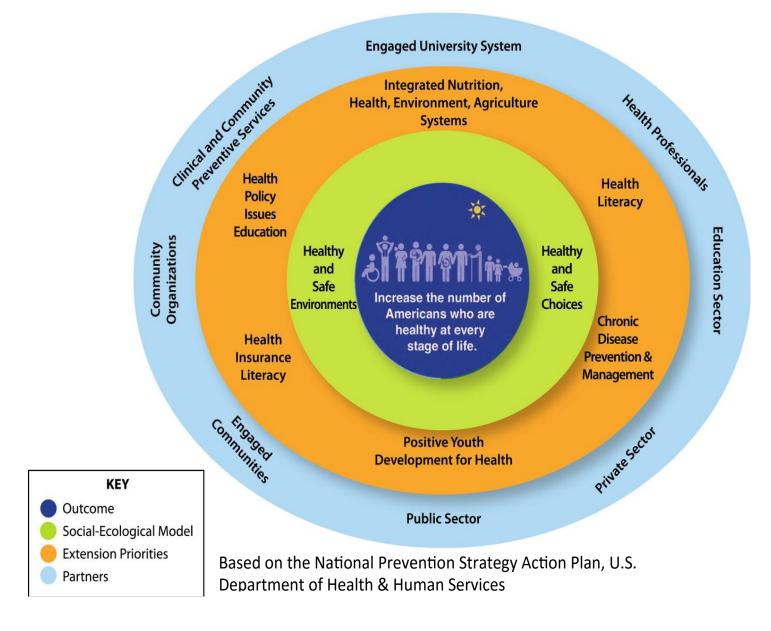


# **Program Specific Aims**

First of its kind in the state, **NM HEART** will extend the capacity of Family & Consumer Sciences county agents to provide strategies and evidence-based programs designed to promote a wellness approach to health.



### Cooperative Extension's National Framework for Health & Wellness



### Cooperative Extension Service Structure:

33 Counties

20 Family & Consumer Sciences Agents including Tribal Extension

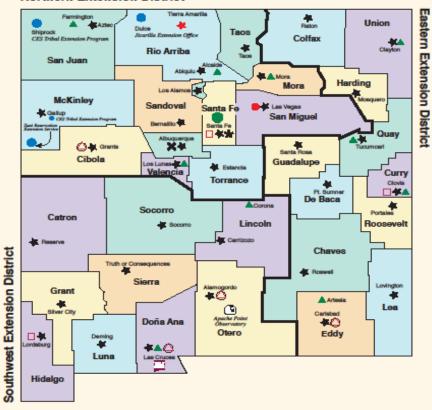
Dependent upon a volunteer system

#### **New Mexico State University**



Major Partners: State of New Mexico, USDA, New Mexico Association of Counties

#### Northern Extension District



#### **Facility Locations**

- County Cooperative Extension Service Offices
- Satellite County Offices
- Tribal Cooperative Extension Service Offices
- Agricultural Science and Research Centers
- ☐ Cooperative Extension Service District Offices
- ★ University Government Affairs
- NMSU Community Colleges

- \* Admissions Office
- Santa Fe Ranch Demonstration Site
- NMSU Main Campus
- Apache Point Observatory
- Memorial Middle School Agricultural Extension and Education Center

## **Program Description**

- Incorporates the national Master Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) Volunteer Program
  - Training and involvement focuses specifically on core areas of Extension FCS
  - Develops a program model that can be replicated in other states/regions
  - Builds capacity through recruiting/training and the utilization of volunteers

(www.masterfcsvolunteerprogram.info)



### **Program Innovation**

### • NM HEART Volunteers

- Develop leadership skills
- Increase availability of health programs in their communities
- Help strengthen local partnerships
- Assist in planning projects/programs to address local health needs
- Build communities that seek wellness solutions



## Program Approach

- County FCS Agents are trained in the Master Volunteer Program (MVP)
- Interested community members go through a selection process and are trained in the MVP
- Volunteers provide 40 hours of community service to earn Ambassador certification



## **Program Areas**

- Utilizes existing efforts
  - Statewide: Chronic Disease Self-Management
    Education Programs
    - Manage Your Chronic Disease Programs (MyCD)
    - MyCD Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP)
    - My CD Cancer: Thriving and Surviving (CTS)
  - National evidence-based programs:
    - Smoking Cessation (smokefree.gov)
    - Mental Health First Aid
    - Others



# **Program Areas**

- Future programs determined through
  - County Health Rankings (www.countyhealthrankings.org)
  - County Needs Assessments
  - NM Department of Health Reports
  - National Trends



# **Program Budget**

- Total Budget Requested: \$153,061(inc. F&A 33.2%)
  - Key Personnel: \$85,670
    - PI, Co-PI/Program Trainer, Evaluation Specialist, Graduate Assistant
  - Equipment: \$20,610
    - Dedicated laptops/technology training requirements
    - Duplication of materials/evaluation tools
    - Volunteer reinforcements (name tags, t-shirts)
  - Training Travel/Expenses: \$7,381
    - (5) Agents to Las Cruces



# **Program Sustainability**

- Evaluations
  - Measure impact
  - Demonstrate program value
- Multi-year funding sought
  - Provide growth
  - Expand statewide outreach
- Developed curriculum available statewide
- Established NMSU CES Signature Program



### Thank You!

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