



new mexico
ALLIANCE
of Health Councils

**ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY BY
INVESTING IN OUR LOCAL HEALTH
COUNCILS (COUNTY + TRIBAL)**



INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 29TH, 2023



ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY

VALUE PROPOSITION: THE INSTRUMENTAL ROLE OF HEALTH COUNCILS (LOCAL & STATEWIDE)

LOCAL TRUSTED HEALTH HUBS

- CONVENING + ENSURING LOCAL VOICES ARE CENTERED & HEARD
- CONDUCTING COMMUNITY & TRIBAL BASED HEALTH ASSESSMENTS
- IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLANS
- COLLABORATING WITH HEALTH CARE PARTNERS & ORGANIZATIONS TO ADDRESS LOCAL PRIORITIES
- HEALTH EDUCATION + PREVENTION

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM (DOH)

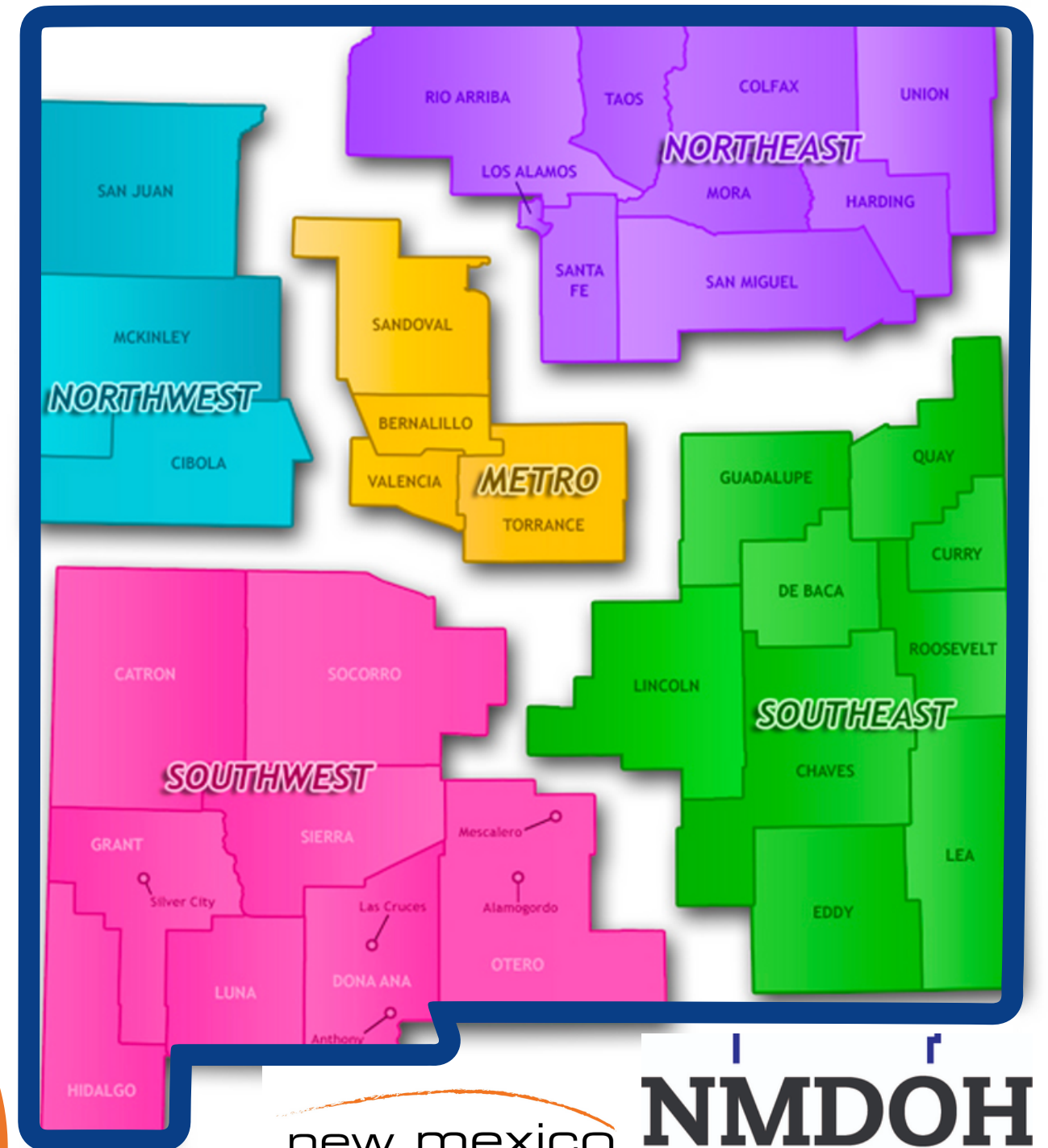
- INFORMS THE STATEWIDE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SHIP)
- WORKS IN CONCERT WITH NMDOH'S REGIONAL OFFICES (5 REGIONS)
- INFORMS PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES TO ADVANCE EQUITY
- KEY ROLE IN THE STATEWIDE CLOSED LOOP REFERRAL SYSTEM (MEDICAID) + RESOURCE DIRECTORY
- KEY ROLE W/ ACHIEVING PHAB ACCREDITATION FOR NM, NMDOH

Thanks to the CDC/W.K.Kellogg emergency response funding during COVID-19, Health Councils were able to serve New Mexico's most vulnerable Community members (Tribal, rural and border communities).

NEW MEXICO IS 1 OF 8 STATES WITH A CENTRALIZED PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM, HEALTH COUNCILS ACT AS THE LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH PRESENCE IN EACH COUNTY.

HEALTH COUNCILS REACHED OVER 340,000.00 NEW MEXICANS WITH EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS (COVID19). TRIBAL, RURAL, BORDER COMMUNITIES, MOST AFFECTED.

HEALTH COUNCILS ARE CENTRAL TO NM MEETING NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ENSURING ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IN THE COMMUNITY (PHAB). NM WAS LAST ACCREDITED IN 2015.



new mexico
ALLIANCE
of Health Councils

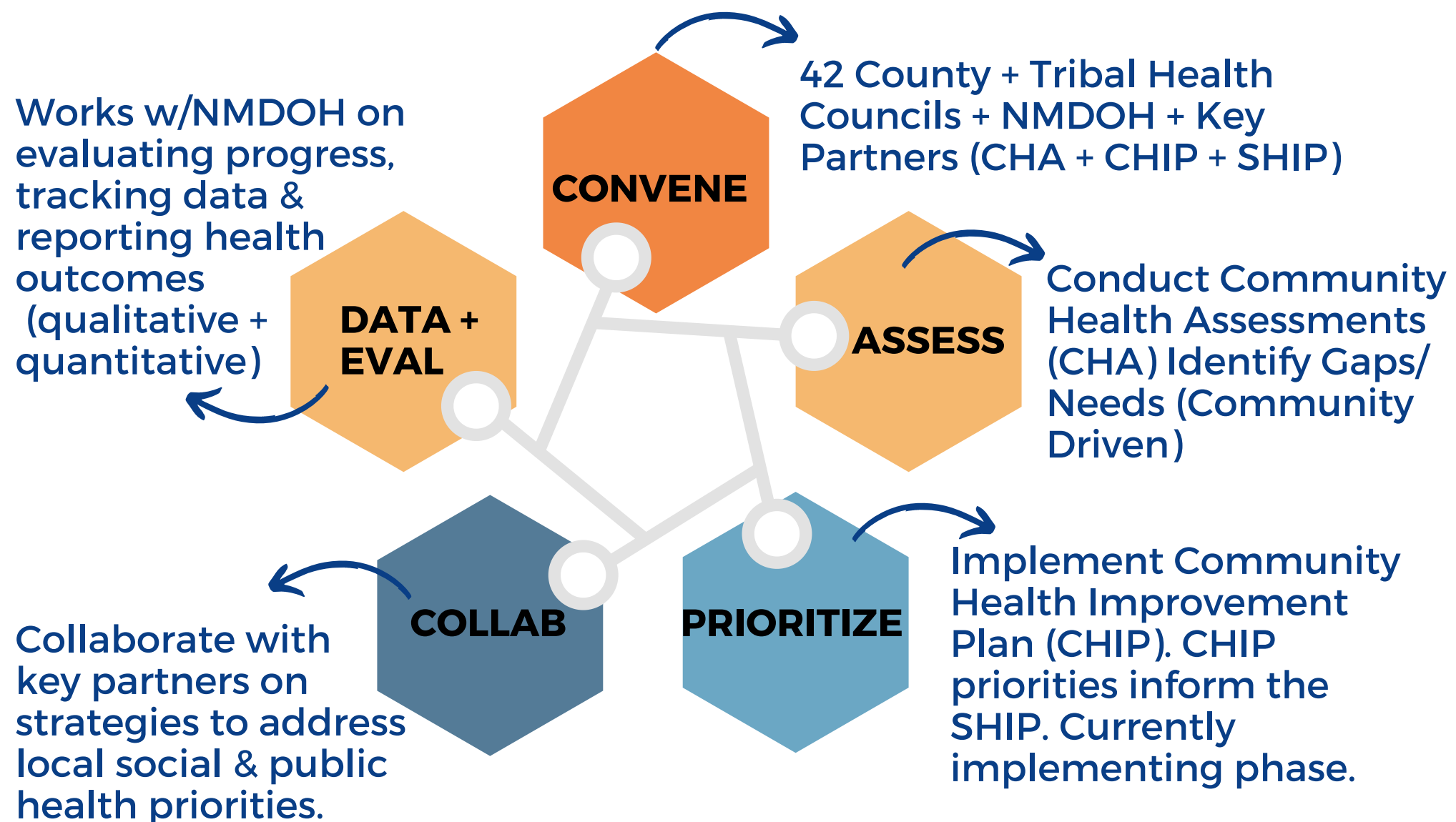
NMDOH
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

33 COUNTIES + 9 TRIBES

CHA + CHIP + SHIP CYCLE COUNTY + TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS

As of March 2022, 39 County and Tribal Health Councils engaged in a 12-month process of local-level community health improvement planning with the support and technical assistance from the New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils and regional New Mexico Department of Health staff. County and Tribal Health Council identified CHIP priorities to inform the NM SHIP process.

HEALTH COUNCIL CRITICAL ROLE IN PUBLIC HEALTH:



MARCH 2022
TO
JULY 2023



Intersectionality of Social Determinants of Health, Health Equity, and Root Cause

1. Defining health equity at the local level
2. Health disparities and the link to health outcomes
3. Declaring public health as a crisis
4. Defining social justice
5. Indigenous SDOH framework



Data Review and Prioritization Session

1. Conduct community health assessments
2. Other data collection
3. Data analysis
4. Conduct data review sessions
5. Identify health priorities based off data and stories collected
6. Identify goals and strategies



Overview: CHIP Process

1. Assess health council capacity
2. Conduct "visioning" activity



Partners and Community Engagement

1. Develop partnerships and collaborations
2. Community context
3. Review list of current and possibly partners



Evaluation + Outcomes

1. Activity to process measures
2. Identify milestones
3. Identify health outcomes

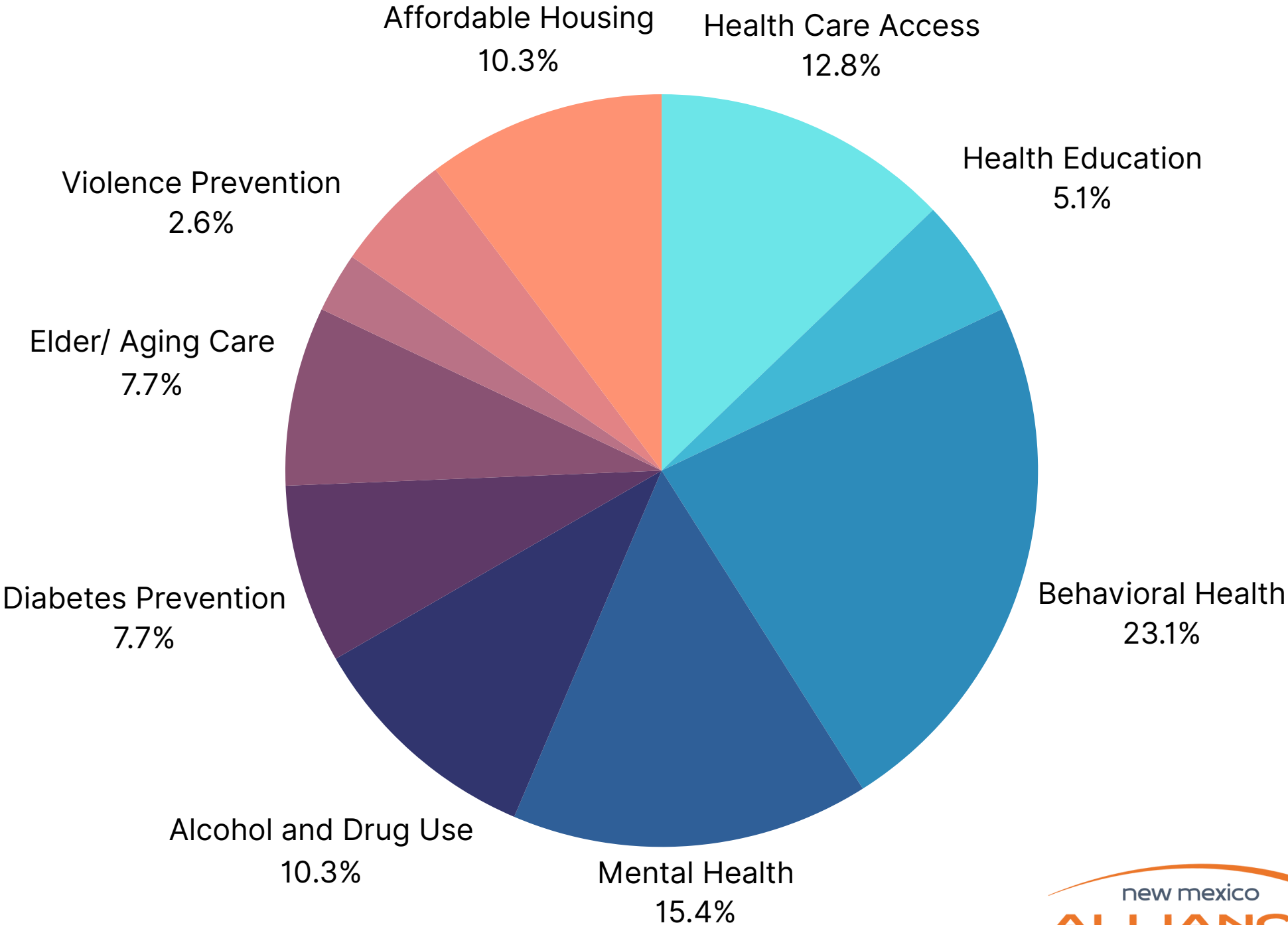
Implementation of County and Tribal Health Council
CHIP Action Plans + Informs New Mexico's Statewide Health
Improvement Plan (SHIP)

2023 New Mexico Community Health Priorities (CHIP)

Health Council Statewide Priorities As of August 1, 2023:

1. Behavioral Health
2. Mental Health
3. Access to Quality Health Care Services
4. Drug and Alcohol Use/ Alcohol Harms
5. Access to Safe and Affordable Housing
6. Diabetes Prevention
7. Older Adults / Elder & Aging Care
8. Access to Healthy Foods
9. Access to Quality Health Education
10. Violence Prevention

*****NMAHC is working with NMDOH, ECED and Behavioral Health Coalition to collaborate to identify alignment opportunities in service of community members across New Mexico.**





NEW MEXICO TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS

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



Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epi Center (**AASTEC**) provided **technical assistance with data collection, surveying, and analysis** in partnership with various tribal health council.



Tribal Health Council Health Priorities As of August 1, 2023:

1. Diabetes Prevention and Preventative Care
2. Behavioral Health
3. Access to Quality Health Care Services
4. Drug and Alcohol Use
5. Older Adults and Elder & Aging Care



Tribal CHIP action plans + priorities **reviewed, approved by Tribal Leadership and Council** by July 2023

The State Tribal Collaboration Act

Expanding partnerships with Tribal Leadership

Elder and Aging Care
12.5%

Health Care Services
12.5%

Behav Health
25%

Diabetes Prevention
37.5%

Alcohol Misuse
12.5%



TRIBAL HC PROFILE

Cañoncito Band of Navajos:

Priority: Behavioral Health

(Co-occurring substance abuse and mental health issues among Navajo community members living in Cañoncito Band of Navajos community)

Strategy Information and Education

Hosting lunch and learn sessions to bring awareness and education to health issues

- Jan - Present: 18 lunches and learning sessions hosted for community with lunch served.
- Average # of attendees ~27 community members

Lunch and learn topics: Heart health, Oral health, Diabetes nutrition, Hypertension Prevention, Parenting Support, Navajo Way of Life Philosophy, Gardening, & more!

Strategy Partnership and Engagement

Hosting cultural sessions for adolescent, youth and adult community members in partnership with local faith based orgs.

- Monthly since Jan 2023 - Present: 9+ cultural events to help alleviate stress, anxiety, and suicide thoughts
- Drumming sessions, singing sessions, setting up healing grounds with teepees

Strategies Data Collection/ Analysis & Built Environment

Developed new walking trails & Implemented QR Codes at the community's 3 walking trails

- Hosting monthly wellness walks on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays with health observance months
- Jan - Present: 3 walks/month = To date, ~27 walks hosted to community members; Average of about ~38 participants/ walk
- Tracking miles exercised by community members with incentives

FACTS + WHAT IS AT STAKE?

CDC/ W.K.Kellogg FUNDING ENDS ON MAY 31, 2024

HB137 Act



01

HB137 MANDATE, 2019

*** Formally the Maternal & Child Care Act of 1990. Revised in 2019, the purpose of the **County and Tribal Health Councils Act** is to improve the health of New Mexicans by developing a comprehensive, community-based health planning councils to identify and address local health needs and priorities. Access the [state statute here](#).

02

DEFUNDED SINCE 2010

County & Tribal Health Councils have been defunded since 2010. Federal programs/ New Mexico's Office of Substance Use Prevention at HSD all fund community coalitions to conduct health assessments, planning and support implementation at an average of **\$125,000 annually (per Health Council)**.

03

SYSTEMIC ISSUES DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING

- **Government to Government Relations**
- **Health Councils are the Voice of Community members**
- **The importance of supporting and investing in Tribes, Pueblos and Nations**

04

IMPACT: PUBLIC HEALTH DESTABILIZATION

NMDOH will lack the ability to carry out and complete community-based **CHA/ CHIP/ SHIP process, attain PHAB accreditation**, implement the statewide closed loop referral system and resource directory, all of this, and more will hinder health access and equity across the state.

What is at stake without State Funding...?

NMDOH + PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

Destabilization of Health Councils will hinder the ability to conduct community-based health assessments and planning, significantly impacting NMDOHs' CHA, CHIP and SHIP processes, as well as the **inability for the State to achieve its Public Health Accreditation.**

Progress and **relationships made with Tribal Health Councils** and partners will also be significantly hindered.

STATEWIDE EFFORTS: ACCESS

Health Councils are integral to the following statewide efforts, defunding will hinder progress made:

- Statewide **closed-loop referral** and resource directory
- Connecting **primary care providers** with local communities
- Critical collaboration in **addressing health outcomes** such as w/Behavioral Health Collaborative, ECE, Primary Care, etc.

HEALTH COUNCIL'S CAPACITY

When CDC/W.K.Kellogg funding ceases in **May of 2024**, Health Councils will instantly lose the capacity to **fulfill their mandate** and instrumental role in public health in concert with DOH. Staffing will be hindered (**96 roles statewide**), these include but not limited to Health Equity Promotion Liaison, Health Council Coordinator, Health Equity Specialist, Health Equity Program Manager, etc.



6.6 MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT IN 42 COUNTY & TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS (HB137)

On behalf of New Mexico's 42 Health Councils, NMAHC is kindly requesting and advocating for securing Adequate Funding for Health Councils at \$6.6 million (\$6 Million from State Funding and \$600,000.00 from Legislative Finance Committee.) This includes on an average \$142,800.00 per Health Council and \$600,000.00 to contract with a third party organization (example, NMAHC), to continue to provide statewide ancillary support to all County and Tribal Health Councils.

DATA POINT:

Currently, only a 1/4-time position is possible with traditional State funding (\$15,333). Without adequate funding, Health Councils' capacity and operations will cease, having an adverse effect on the community health improvement process (DOH), and meeting accreditation standards. De-funding Health Councils will hinder the strides made, trust built, and community engagement and impact achieved. This will result in an uptick of the harmful social determinants of health (SDOH) across our communities, the very SDOH that the state of New Mexico is seeking to address. **Without adequate funding for Health Councils, community members will suffer the most.**



ACCESS
PROPOSAL HERE

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

Deepest gratitude to our elected officials who are sponsoring a house bill for adequate funding for Health Councils, during the 2024 Legislative Session.



Rep. Liz Thomson
Bernalillo



Rep. Wonda Johnson
McKinley &
San Juan



Sen. Liz Stefanics
Bernalillo,
Lincoln, San
Miguel, Santa Fe,
Torrance &
Valencia



Rep. Anthony Allison
San Juan

The **New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils** is a statewide nonprofit 501c3 organization providing ancillary supporting and advocating for New Mexico's 42 County & Tribal Health Councils and community partners.



Tel: 505-226-2133 NMHealthCouncils.org
Valeria@nmhealthcouncils.org
Gerilyn@nmhealthcouncils.org



Valeria Alarcón, BS
**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**



Gerilyn Antonio, MPH
TRIBAL LIAISON



Anthony Yepa
**Tribal Member, Board of
Directors, New Mexico
Alliance of Health Councils**

