

HOUSE BILL 104

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH; CREATING THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH AND CLIMATE PROGRAM; CREATING THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY FUND; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public Health Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH AND CLIMATE PROGRAM.--

A. By January 1, 2025, the environmental health epidemiology bureau of the epidemiology and response division of the department shall establish a statewide public health and climate program.

B. In implementing the statewide public health and climate program, the environmental health epidemiology bureau

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1 shall:

2 (1) administer the public health and climate
3 resiliency fund to assist local communities in preparing for
4 and responding to public health emergencies related to ongoing
5 climate change and extreme weather events;

6 (2) help improve interagency collaboration
7 focused on:

8 (a) health equity;

9 (b) improving surveillance for assessing
10 excess injuries and deaths related to ongoing climate change
11 and extreme weather events;

12 (c) reviewing and recommending
13 appropriate updates to health and safety standards relating to
14 ongoing climate change and extreme weather events; and

15 (d) reducing health impacts of extreme
16 weather and climate adaptation in New Mexico;

17 (3) assist in the formulation of concrete,
18 coordinated and cohesive action plans supporting local
19 communities in building health resiliency to future climate
20 impacts;

21 (4) provide climate and public health
22 expertise to assist local community planning in:

23 (a) making health-informed decisions
24 about current and future climate impacts;

25 (b) integrating the latest climate and

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1 public health science into emergency preparedness programs;

2 (c) accessing federal and other funds
3 for climate adaptation;

4 (d) improving surveillance of health
5 care utilization and excess disease, injuries and deaths
6 related to ongoing climate change and extreme weather events;

7 (e) providing appropriate mechanisms for
8 rapidly assessing and reporting on excess disease, injuries and
9 deaths related to ongoing climate change and extreme weather
10 events; and

11 (f) identifying and implementing locally
12 appropriate interventions that prevent or mitigate the impacts
13 of climate change on health; and

14 (5) facilitate meaningful community engagement
15 within communities most harmed, or determined by climate
16 science as most likely to be harmed, by extreme weather
17 events."

18 SECTION 2. A new section of the Public Health Act is
19 enacted to read:

20 "[NEW MATERIAL] PUBLIC HEALTH AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY FUND
21 CREATED.--

22 A. The "public health and climate resiliency fund"
23 is created as a reverting fund in the state treasury. The fund
24 consists of appropriations, gifts, grants, donations, income
25 from investment of the fund and any other money distributed or

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1 otherwise allocated to the fund. The department shall
2 administer the fund. Money in the fund is appropriated to the
3 department for the purposes set forth in Subsection B of this
4 section. Disbursements from the fund shall be made by warrant
5 of the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to
6 vouchers signed by the secretary of health or the secretary's
7 authorized representative.

8 B. Money in the public health and climate
9 resiliency fund may be used by the department to make grants of
10 up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to a
11 political subdivision of the state or an Indian nation, tribe
12 or pueblo for the purposes of preparing for and responding to
13 public health emergencies related to extreme weather and other
14 climate impacts.

15 C. The secretary shall prioritize grant
16 applications that:

17 (1) emphasize planning, projects and
18 activities to benefit people in low-income and disadvantaged
19 communities;

20 (2) provide for integration of public health
21 concerns and recommendations with other local emergency and
22 climate adaptation plans, projects and activities;

23 (3) emphasize planning, projects and
24 activities that are also eligible for grant funds from state or
25 federal programs or help New Mexico become eligible for federal

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1 funds;

2 (4) involve local health councils as direct
3 participants in the planning process; and

4 (5) assess the appropriateness of potential
5 adaptation measures for a community, including the need for and
6 the possible implementation of:

7 (a) household and workplace safety
8 measures, such as air purifiers, weatherization, air quality
9 sensors, indoor thermometers and outdoor thermometers, at major
10 worksites and support initiatives to facilitate access to
11 energy efficiency and assistance programs;

12 (b) cool-air, smoke, flood and wildfire
13 shelters;

14 (c) backup generators and electricity
15 storage facilities in libraries, government buildings, schools
16 and community centers; and

17 (d) fire safety measures such as
18 clearing brush for the elderly and people with disabilities,
19 widening roads for evacuation and burying power lines.

20 D. Not less than fifty percent of the total grant
21 funds approved by the secretary shall be awarded to political
22 subdivisions with total human populations equal to or less than
23 one hundred thousand.

24 E. There shall be no requirement for matching funds
25 for eligibility for grant applications pursuant to this

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1 section."

2 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATIONS.--

3 A. One million one hundred thousand dollars
4 (\$1,100,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
5 department of health for expenditure in fiscal year 2025 to
6 support the statewide public health and climate program within
7 the environmental health epidemiology bureau of the
8 epidemiology and response division of the department of health.
9 Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
10 fiscal year 2025 shall revert to the general fund.

11 B. Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) is
12 appropriated from the general fund to the department of health
13 for expenditure in fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the
14 public health and climate resiliency fund. Any unexpended or
15 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2029
16 shall revert to the general fund.

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