

Our Partners

Con Alma Health Foundation is one of only 13 local foundations in the U.S. to be recognized with a 2012 national Innovation Fund grant awarded by the Convergence Partnership. The Partnership consists of eight funders who share the goal of changing policies and the environment to achieve the vision of healthy people living in healthy places.

Convergence Partnership (national)

Ascension Health

The California Endowment

Kaiser Permanente

Kresge Foundation

Nemours

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Rockefeller Foundation

W. K. Kellogg Foundation

*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
(technical advisors)*

PolicyLink (project managers)

*Prevention Institute & PolicyLink (policy research,
analysis & strategic support)*

*Grants are made through the Convergence Partnership Fund
at the Tides Foundation from partner contributions.*

New Mexico Funding Partners

Con Alma Health Foundation

McCune Charitable Foundation

New Mexico Community Foundation

Notah Begay III Foundation

PNM Resources Foundation

Santa Fe Community Foundation

Simon Charitable Foundation

Healthy People, Healthy Places Steering Committee

Mark Childs, *University of New Mexico*

Rita Condon, *NM Department of Health*

Yolanda Cruz, *NMHEP, SF Community Foundation*

Nelsy Dominguez, *Farm to Table*

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Tina Garcia-Shams, *Simon Charitable Foundation*

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Health in New Mexico*

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Healthy People, Healthy Places 2012-2015

*Promoting Health & Equity through
Built Environment & Food Access Policies*



*"Where we live, learn, work and play can have a
greater impact on how long and how well we live
than medical care...our zip code may be more
important to our health than our genetic code."*

—Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Issue Brief 7, Dec., 2009

Place Matters

The conditions in which people live influence their overall health—but the choices we make are limited by the choices we have. The Healthy People, Healthy Places Initiative aims to address inequities in local environments and to serve as a catalyst for systemic change to improve health equity in New Mexico.

Health Equity

"Health equity is assurance of the conditions for optimal health for all people."

—Camara Jones

Health equity is achieved when all individuals, regardless of their economic or social background, have the same access to quality health services and a chance at a better life. However, NM lags behind, particularly in rural areas, communities of color, and underserved populations such as the elderly, immigrants, border communities, and veterans.

- Hispanic and American Indian adults are over twice as likely to be without health insurance as whites
- More than one quarter of New Mexico's immigrant population lives below the poverty line
- 21.2% of adults aged 60 and older are food insecure, one of the highest percentages in the nation
- U.S.-Mexico border area ranks last in per capita income and first in percentage of uninsured children
- Rural residents are nearly twice as likely to die from accidental injuries, in part due to longer emergency response times

Demographic trends show worsening health and equity indicators, as underserved populations continue to grow and resources are further stretched. Focusing on fundamentals such as prevention, nutrition, health promotion, and holistic health is crucial for tackling New Mexico's health care challenges.

Project Goals

Healthy People, Healthy Places:

- promotes equity and health by improving the built environment and access to healthy food, with a focus on low-income, rural, and culturally diverse communities
- supports the preservation and enhancement of cultural and spiritual assets in the community
- develops capacity by creating a long-term commitment to equity-focused policy efforts

Broadly defined, built environment refers to manmade surroundings that include buildings, public resources, land use patterns, the transportation system, and design features – that have profound consequences for individual and community health.

The project supports collaboration among stakeholders and provides technical assistance, mini-grants, and targeted support for local endeavors. We bring together people from organizations across the state and plant seeds of support through mini-grants and technical assistance to foster a multi-sector and multi-field approach to support healthy people & healthy places.



Moving Forward

Systemic change requires sustained effort. Through the Healthy People, Healthy Places Initiative, we hope to spur further discussion about the importance of place in health equity, and ultimately, changes in policies to support more equitable living situations for underserved populations.

"We envision a New Mexico with safe walking paths and locally grown food available to everyone. We imagine a state where new policies help families make healthy choices, and elders share their cultural and traditional practices with children and their families."

—Wanda Padilla, Con Alma Health Foundation Community Advisory Committee (CAC)