



PROJECT DESCRIPTION (RWJF)

Providing Emergency Assistance During the COVID-19 Pandemic (COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Project)

Purpose:

Con Alma Health Foundation, the state's largest private foundation dedicated solely to health, was awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) as part of its \$50 million effort to provide humanitarian aid to help some of the families and communities feeling the greatest strain under the COVID-19 health emergency. Using a health equity lens, Con Alma will award grants to address short term needs in New Mexico as a result of COVID-19 and will focus on long-term policy and systemic change strategies that address health disparities and advance health equity as part of an equitable recovery.

Grant Period: May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021

Amount: \$1,000,000

Deliverables:

1. Deployment of emergency funds to address basic needs in New Mexico, especially for those most affected by COVID-19.
2. Coordination/collaboration with others working on COVID-19 to leverage resources, reduce/eliminate duplication of efforts/services, and identify and focus on addressing unserved and/or underserved needs and gaps.
3. A plan for the equitable recovery of COVID-19 through our framework as a health equity foundation and focus on long-term policy and systemic change strategies to address health disparities and advance health equity.

Outcomes:

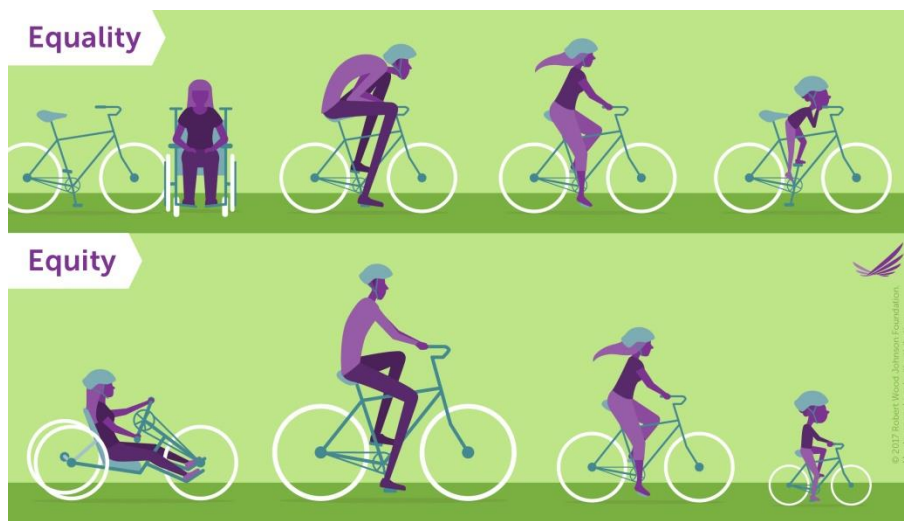
1. Immediate humanitarian relief for those most affected in New Mexico by COVID-19.
2. An increased capacity in NM for stakeholders to mobilize and leverage resources to address COVID-19 on both a short-term and long-term basis, including a stronger, more resilient health care safety net for individuals, children, and families, especially those most impacted.
3. Equitable recovery and increased health equity through an increased understanding of the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in NM, especially for people of color.

Background: As a health equity foundation, Con Alma Health Foundation normally focuses its grantmaking and program initiatives on activities that promote systemic change to advance health equity; however, these are not normal times. The COVID-19 crisis underscores that people of color—and other underserved populations—are being disproportionately affected as a result of unequal economic and social conditions. The COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Project will grant funds to eligible organizations to address both short-term needs and strategies towards an equitable recovery.

The impact of COVID-19 underscores that people of color—and other underserved populations—are disproportionately and negatively impacted largely as a result of unequal economic and social conditions. Toward that end, the COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Project will award funds to eligible organizations around the state to address short-term needs in NM as a result of the COVID-19 and to “hub” organizations (i.e. a nonprofit that has a coordinating role) that helps align, support, and augment community-based efforts that ensure an equitable recovery.

Equity:

Con Alma's work aims to move beyond equality and health disparities by focusing on the root causes or social determinants of health (also known as social conditions). It requires broadening the definition of health to mean one's overall quality of life including socioeconomic factors such as education, and income and wealth inequality, along with a willingness to address racial and social inequality.



Project Strategies:

- Coordinate and collaborate with others working on COVID-19 to leverage resources, and reduce/eliminate duplication of efforts/services
- Ensure that organizations and stakeholders are involved in the process
- Identify underserved populations such as people with disabilities, those impacted by homelessness, immigrants, undocumented workers and others impacted by COVID-19
- Commit to community self-determination, self-definition, involvement, and collaboration
- Focus on serving people of color, tribal, and rural communities
- Establish a project team to develop/implement a plan for the equitable recovery from COVID-19

Key Partners/Collaborators:

Con Alma Health Foundation is pleased to partner with the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership (NMHEP), an initiative at the Santa Fe Community Foundation, on this project. NMHEP will assist with project coordination. The NMHEP engages a statewide network to advance health equity in New Mexico.

From Con Alma Health Foundation (CAHF):

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Con Alma builds partnerships, advocates for all and invests in systemic change to improve health in New Mexico.