



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.

