

Tribal (Sovereign Nation) Jurisdiction / Letter of Support

Why do we ask this question? Con Alma Health Foundation respects New Mexico's sovereign nations (inclusive of pueblos, tribes, or reservations) and honors the right of sovereign nations and their communities to be aware of, participate in, and/or give permission in advance of efforts and activities that will be taking place within their jurisdictions, or that may use facilities or services within their communities.

Sovereignty (*definition*) – The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) notes that “sovereignty” refers to a legal word for an ordinary concept—the authority to self-govern. Tribal sovereignty, the right for tribes to make their own laws and be governed by them, predates the establishment of the Federal government and the U.S. Constitution.

If you will not be working within the jurisdiction of, or using facilities or services provided by New Mexico's sovereign nations, you may select “no”, even if your activities will involve or benefit people from these communities.

If your activities will take place within New Mexico's sovereign nations jurisdiction (inclusive of pueblos, tribes, nations or reservations), or use facilities or services within sovereign nations, click “yes”. You will be expected to provide a “Tribal (Sovereign Nation) Letter of Support” that indicates that the respective sovereign community/ies are aware of, in support of, participating in, and/or providing permission of efforts/activities.

Is there a need for any **other type of permission**? In some cases, sovereign nations require specific permits to conduct health related surveys. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ascertain and obtain any required permit if one is required by the respective sovereign community you are proposing to work in. Because Con Alma Health Foundation does not fund “human subject research”, an Institutional Review Board (IRB) process (or its equivalent) is not necessary.

Who to ask for a Tribal (Sovereign Nation) Letter of Support? Endorsement can be obtained from either an official Tribal/Nation authority (e.g. Council, Governor/President, Chapter House, Project/Program, or other official department relevant to the efforts/activities you are proposing) **or** from a community-based group located within the respective sovereign community (e.g. Native-led 501c3 nonprofit, group, or collaborative).

When is the Tribal (Sovereign Nation) Letter of Support due? At the time you submit your application, or in certain cases by June 1st. If the Endorsement is not submitted when due, the application will be considered incomplete and will not be furthered considered for funding.

Upload a Tribal (Sovereign Nation) Letter of Support that confirms the respective sovereign community (inclusive of New Mexico's pueblos, tribes, or reservations) where your efforts and activities will take place are aware of, in support of, provides permission, and/or are active partners. This will be required in the Attachments tab of your application.

(If you need additional time to obtain and submit the Tribal (Sovereign Nation) Letter of Support, upload a document stating **why** you need the additional time. An automatic extension is provided until June 1st. *If your Letter of Support is not submitted by June 1st your application to Con Alma Health Foundation will be considered incomplete, and will not receive further consideration.*)