

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.

How do I determine if I need a Letter of Support from a Tribally based entity? Where the work (activities/ efforts) for which you seek funding will take place determines whether you will need the Letter of Support (LOS) when submitting your application to Con Alma, simply answer this question:

Will the efforts/activities for which you seek funding take place within a sovereign nation's community?

- If your activities will take place within New Mexico's sovereign nations jurisdiction (inclusive of pueblos, tribes, nations or reservations), or if you will be using facilities or services within sovereign nations, then “yes” a LOS is required.
- If you will not be working within the jurisdiction of, and you will not be using facilities or services provided by New Mexico's sovereign nations, you do not need a LOS, even if your activities will involve or benefit people from these communities.
- If your activities (engagement, services) are inclusive of and/or involve American Indian/Alaskan Native populations but take place elsewhere (that is, outside Tribal jurisdiction) and you will not be using facilities or services provided by New Mexico's sovereign nations, you will not need a LOS.

What should the Letter of Support say and where do I upload it? The LOS must indicate that the respective sovereign community/ies are aware of, in support of, participating in, and/or providing permission of the efforts/activities you are seeking funding towards. The LOS is uploaded using the application's Attachment Tab.

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? The LOS is due at the time you submit your application. *If the LOS is not submitted when due, the application will be considered incomplete and will not be further considered for funding.*

What if I need additional time to obtain the Letter of Support? If you do not have the LOS at the time the application is due, you may instead upload a document stating **why** you need the additional time. The Program Director will then contact you to determine if an extension can be provided. *An extension is not always possible. However, if an extension is provided and your Letter of Support is not submitted by the new due date, your application to Con Alma will be considered incomplete, and will not receive further consideration).*