



PROJECT DESCRIPTION (WKKF)

COVID-19 Relief for Immigrant Communities in New Mexico

Purpose:

Con Alma Health Foundation, the state's largest private foundation dedicated solely to health, was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) to establish and manage a fund providing direct assistance to New Mexicans who are immigrants, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but unable to access federal and state relief; and to create awareness about the structural barriers to their well-being.

Grant Period: June 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Grant Amount: \$500,000

Outcomes:

1. The development and implementation of a fund aimed at providing direct assistance to New Mexicans who are immigrants, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but unable to access federal and state relief.
2. An increased awareness about the structural barriers to the well-being of immigrants and the immigrant community in New Mexico.
3. An increased capacity of stakeholders to mobilize and advocate for the immigrant community, especially children and families in New Mexico.

Background:

New Mexico is a place of great physical beauty, deep diversity, proud cultural traditions and community-based values; however, structural inequities have made it susceptible to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although rich in culture and diversity, our state is poor in resources and our systems were fragile to begin with and are made worse by or are a specific result of COVID-19.

The project's focus is immigrant communities in New Mexico which have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 due largely to structural inequities and are unable to access federal and state relief. Immigrants also are disproportionately represented in essential frontline industries yet do not receive essential benefits, which directly impacts their ability to take care of their children and families.

The COVID-19 crisis underscores that New Mexico's immigrant populations are being disproportionately affected as a result of unequal economic and social conditions. The *COVID-19 Relief for Immigrant Communities in New Mexico Fund* will award grants to eligible organizations to address both short-term needs and strategies towards an equitable recovery.

Goals & Strategies:

- Establish a project team (comprised of Con Alma staff members and Health Equity Partnership members) to assist with project coordination.
- Establish an Advisory Committee with diverse stakeholder representation, including immigrant-led/immigrant serving organizations to help guide the project.
- Develop and implement communications and outreach plan and material to disseminate information how to access fund aimed at providing assistance to New Mexicans who are immigrants, affected by the COVID-10 pandemic but unable to access federal and state relief.
- Establish fund, grant guidelines and application process to provide direct assistance to New Mexicans who are immigrants, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, unable to access federal and state relief.
- Seek funding partners to support a monetary match for W.K. Kellogg Grant.
- In partnership with the Project Team, Advisory Committee and other stakeholders, develop a plan on how to increase awareness about the structural barriers to the well-being of immigrants, and how to build the capacity of stakeholders to mobilize and advocate for the immigrant community, especially children and families in New Mexico.

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 NM.

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.