

Los Alamos County Health Council



FY 23 Health Council Proposal for House Junior Funding



LOS ALAMOS
where discoveries are made

Please note, if the submitted proposal of activities is approved, the expectation is the activities identified within this document are to be completed by the end of fiscal year submission deadline. Any changes outside of what is proposed **MUST** be requested and approved by the Northeast Region Health Promotion Program Manager prior to implementation. Payment will not be made for activities/strategies that are not proposed below without prior approval.

Health Council Coordinator Signature_____ Date_____

Please be as detailed as possible when answering the following questions.

FY23 HEALTH COUNCIL PROPOSAL FOR HOUSE JUNIOR FUNDING

1. Explain the organizational structure and role of the health council and its members (Refer to Health Council bylaws).

The Los Alamos County Health Council (LACHC) became a formal Board via Los Alamos County Council resolution in December of 2019. The LACHC consists of fifteen (15) members who are selected to represent a broad spectrum of diverse community interests and are appointed by County Council to serve two (2) year terms.

The LACHC is tasked with developing recommendations to the County re: comprehensive health planning, coordination of health resources, and identification of needs, services, projects and programs that can affect community health.

The Health Council is directed to monitor health and health care programs and services in order to identify potential gaps and to reduce potential duplication; collaborate with other entities to develop programs, networks, partnerships and coalitions as necessary to improve health; advise County Council regarding politics that affect health; facilitate communication among local jurisdictions, state agencies and other entities; and identify additional public and private resources to improve health in its respective jurisdiction.

2. Briefly describe the health council priority(ies).

LACHC's primary priority is to develop a 5-7 year comprehensive health plan for the Los Alamos County community to include more specific goals and priorities to ensure that all residents have equitable access to quality health and human support services.

The second priority is to establish a process for identifying outcomes and measures as a standard practice for the LACHC.

These two priorities were selected as a result of a self-assessment conducted by health council members, Social Services Division staff, and community partners in early 2022. These priorities form the basis of the LACHC's FY23 Capacity Building Action Plan.

3. Provide a general overview of the initiatives the health council plans on achieving this year and how they will address health council priority(ies).

In FY22 during the initial stages of the comprehensive health planning process, two immediate needs were identified that are integral to supporting the health and well-being of the Los Alamos County community and developing a stronger, more equitable and accessible continuum of care for all residents: 1) a website and resource directory to raise awareness of the LACHC and existing resources and 2) a more robust and effective referral system to help navigate residents' access to programs and services.

With this proposal, the LACHC aims to explore options for establishing an online platform for hosting information re: the LACHC and the process and eventual product of the comprehensive health planning initiative, developing a comprehensive resource directory, and options for developing and maintaining a coordinated network of local and regional organizations to support the health and well-being of Los Alamos County residents.

These actions are responsive to community feedback that residents are largely unaware of available services and have difficulty navigating access to the support they need, as well as provider feedback that organizations struggle to reach prospective clients and are unsure if residents connect to the resources to which they have been referred. The proposed initiatives build upon previous LACHC priorities and identified gaps, namely increasing awareness of available services and creating a resource directory and a more coordinated referral system for the community.

4. Explain why the health council has chosen this particular initiative. Is it evidence-based? Is it a best practice? Please provide sources.

These initiatives both represent best practices in the field of health and human services and are connected to the existing goals and priorities of the LACHC.

Developing and maintaining a resource directory is one of the primary strategies of the 100% New Mexico Initiative designed to ensure that all residents have access to 10 vital services for surviving and thriving. It has long been noted that Los Alamos County lacks a one stop platform to house current information on all services available to community residents. Social Services Division (SSD) staff and LACHC members have had preliminary discussions with SHARE New Mexico, the state's largest, most up-to-date and comprehensive resource directory, regarding the possibility of developing the capacity of Los Alamos County to utilize this resource. With this proposal, LACHC aims to further explore and develop this partnership.

Unite Us is a closed loop referral system that is being utilized by communities around the state including project CONNECT, a collaboration between the City and County of Santa Fe. CONNECT is a network of community navigators who link residents to resources and services through a shared technology platform, Unite Us. This is a new model of care that engages community members and providers, saves time and resources, increases the rate of successful referrals, and improves client experiences by more smoothly navigating their health care journeys. In addition, it helps communities track data including service usage and outcomes, as well as emerging needs and gaps. With this proposal, LACHC aims to gauge the interest and readiness of Los Alamos County providers and partners to establish a shared referral network. Social Services Division staff have engaged in preliminary discussions with Santa Fe CONNECT whose staff is willing to share the toolkit they developed while establishing their standards and protocols, structure, and process of their project. SSD staff have also attended a demonstration of the Unite Us platform. From previous community health profiles and the recent health gap analysis, it is clear that Los Alamos County could benefit from creating a stronger, local and regional referral and coordination system to increase residents' access to care.

5. Provide detailed steps on the activities to occur each month from the start of the initiative until it is completed.

Proposed FY23 Activities:

- Utilize House Junior Funding to contract with an individual to complete the proposed activities in collaboration with SSD staff and LACHC members

Initiative 1):

- Explore the capacity and utility of New Mexico SHARE to serve as an informational platform for the Los Alamos County Health Council and an online resource directory connecting Los Alamos County providers and residents to local and regional resources and services
- Explore additional options for resource directories as needed
- Present findings to the LACHC and Los Alamos County Council for feedback and approval
- Should this option be selected, begin to engage community providers and partners in utilizing the New Mexico SHARE platform to house updated information on available resources and services
- Develop and implement a public awareness and education program to raise awareness and promote utilization of the informational platform and resource directory

Initiative 2):

- Consult with Los Alamos County providers and community partners to determine interest and readiness for establishing a coordinated referral network

- Explore the possibility of utilizing Unite Us as a shared technology platform to establish a local collaborative of community health navigators designed to link residents with local health care supports and increase access to a larger regional network of resources and services
- Explore additional options as needed
- Present findings to the LACHC and Los Alamos County Council for feedback and approval
- Should this option be selected, explore partnership with Santa Fe CONNECT and begin to develop agreements with a limited set of Los Alamos County community partners to pilot the collaborative utilizing the start up tool kit provided by Santa Fe CONNECT

6. Who are the partners, subcommittee members, health council members, stakeholders, champions etc. who will be involved in the process of completing deliverable 5 in the health council Scope of Work (SOW)?

LACHC Comprehensive Health Plan Subcommittee: Cameron Counters (Chair), Robert Dryja, Rachel Light, Philip Gursky, Kristine Coblentz

Los Alamos County Health Council Board Members

Los Alamos County Council Board Liaison, Keith Lepsch

Los Alamos County Non-Profit Organizations, Health Care Providers, and Community Partners

Los Alamos Medical Center

Los Alamos County Community Services Director, Cory Styron

New Mexico DOH Health Promotion Coordinator, Audie Nadler

New Mexico DOH Health Promotion Specialist, Candice Wilhite-Quiroga

SHARE New Mexico, Wendy Wintermute

Project CONNECT, City of Santa Fe, Christa Hernandez

Unite Us New Mexico, Jessica Hildago Holland

7. Explain how the health council will measure short term and long term successes in the coming year.

The LACHC will measure short term and long term successes by tracking completion of the activities above, measuring levels of engagement and interest in the proposed outcomes, and adjusting activities in response to feedback and suggestions. The final metrics for success will be the establishment of efficient and functional systems to meet identified gaps, namely a community resource directory and a more formalized network of coordination and referrals. Utilization of both the resource directory and the referral system will be tracked as an additional indicator of success.