



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** What are health councils?

**Answer:** Health councils, established in 1991 by the New Mexico legislature, help communities organize to identify and focus on local health priorities. The functions of health councils were reaffirmed in 2019 by the County and Tribal Health Councils Act ([HB 137](#)). Health councils are mandated to identify community needs, resources, and priorities; evaluate the community's system of care with an equity lens; and support education, programming and advocacy efforts to improve community health.

**Question:** What do health councils do?

**Answer:** [HB 137](#), the Council & Tribal Health Council Act, passed in 2019, outlines the [roles and responsibilities](#) of NM's health councils. The purpose of the Act is to encourage the development of community-based health planning councils to identify and address local health needs and priorities. Specifically, health councils are expected to:

- Monitor community health and health care
- Facilitate communication and collaborate with community members to develop programs, partnerships & networks to improve community health
- Advise county, tribal and state governments on policies that affect health
- Identify resources to improve community health

**Question:** How does the Dept. of Health support health councils?

**Answer:** The Dept. of Health, Public Health Division, and DOH Health Promotion Teams work with health councils to:

- Ensure the long-term viability of health councils
- Provide training and technical assistance
- Develop an evaluation system for health councils
- Administer funding to support health councils
- Adopt legislative rules to carry out the purposes of the County & Tribal Health Councils Act.

Question: Who can be a member of a Health Council?

Answer: Membership depends on the structure of the health council. Each health council is operated according to the health council bylaws that are specific to their county or tribal community.

Question: What is the Mexico Alliance of Health Councils?

Answer: The New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization supporting and advocating for New Mexico's health councils and their community partners. The Alliance offers training, coordination, convening, opportunities for collaboration and advocacy in support of health councils' role in promoting community health. Health Councils and supporters of health councils are eligible to be members of the Alliance. Currently there is no fee for membership, however sponsorships and donations are greatly appreciated. Contact [Sharon@nmhealthcouncils.org](mailto:Sharon@nmhealthcouncils.org) for information.

Question: Who can be a member of the Alliance?

Answer: Health Councils and supporters of health councils are eligible to be members of the Alliance. Currently there is no fee for membership, however sponsorships and donations are greatly appreciated. Contact [Sharon@nmhealthcouncils.org](mailto:Sharon@nmhealthcouncils.org) for information.