



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Community Health Workers (CHWs) are front-line Public Health champions and critical members of health and social systems of care. CHWs are everywhere: They are your family, friends, and neighbors, as well as trusted members of your community; and

WHEREAS, workforce development of Public Health Frontline workers include the CHWs, Tribal Community Health Representatives (CHRs), and Promotor(a)s de Salud is a critical public health priority, consistent with the mission of the New Mexico Department of Health to ensure health equity that benefits all New Mexico communities; and

WHEREAS, CHWs play an important role in reaching the most vulnerable areas of New Mexico, including rural and frontier New Mexico. CHWs are community connectors and navigators by creating linkages to resources as it relates to health and social systems of care; and

WHEREAS, CHWs are critically important in improving health through enhancing clinical outcomes and by addressing Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) of our socially vulnerable populations within New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, just as adverse social determinants can increase the risk of developing chronic conditions, communities that support healthy lifestyles can provide protection and resilience and help to lower this risk through connecting with CHWs, CHRs, and Promotor(a) de Salud; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH), Office of Community Health Workers (OCHW) is charged with workforce development through integration of CHWs into health and social systems of care. This charge is key in building and providing a competent workforce by offering core competency and specialty training opportunities for state CHW certification and re-certification; and

WHEREAS, NMDOH, OCHW is guided by the New Mexico CHW Act as confirmed by the State of New Mexico, 51st Legislature 2nd Session, 2014 Chapter 49, Senate Bill (SB) 58 and State Tribal Collaboration Act; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Department of Health's Office of Community Health Workers and the National Association of Community Health Workers play a distinct and critical role by leading efforts to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes for all New Mexico citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim October 2023 as:

“New Mexico Community Health Workers Month”

throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
7th day of September 2023.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the State of New Mexico.



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor