



NMPHA Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Lands Acknowledgement Statement

We ask that you pause to reflect on, acknowledge and honor that we in New Mexico are on the homelands of the Diné, Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, Sandia, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Zuni and Zia, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the Mescalero Apache Tribe and the Fort Sill Apache Tribe.

Indigenous Peoples comprise 14.5 percent of New Mexico's population, and experience the highest rates of health inequities and poverty conditions. Despite the fact that many of our Indigenous communities were forcibly removed from their homelands through genocide, religious inquisition and ethnic cleansing, Indigenous Peoples are still here persisting and resisting through ongoing colonialism and oppression. We see you, we hear you and we are committed to continue addressing systems of oppression that inhibit health equity in the State of New Mexico.

Established in 1917, the New Mexico Public Health Association emerged as one solution to mitigate the health needs of the State. Today, Indigenous people continue to be afflicted with the highest rates of health disparities. NMPHA recognizes that the data shows Indigenous peoples are not benefiting from healthcare services or live in a region that supports their health needs. The NMPHA Board will strive to elevate the health of Indigenous People by:

- Establishing and nurturing relationships with tribes, tribal entities, health councils and members.
- Advocating for policies and legislation with communities that address land, air and water rights.
- Supporting and promoting Tribally led Health Initiatives.
- Addressing opportunities to deconstruct structural racism, racial bias and systemic inequality and oppression.
- Providing technical and educational opportunities through Conference and event Forums.

Indigenous peoples have and will continue to lead and teach that the well-being of the Land is connected to the well-being of our spirit; it is the embodiment of our physical and mental health. As relatives on this Earth and to the original caretakers of this Land, we must aspire and acknowledge the cultural ways of knowing and wisdom that Indigenous peoples live and practice since time immemorial. Through these efforts, the NMPHA is reminded that this Land Acknowledgement will serve more than a performative gesture in the healing process of Indigenous people. We honor our ancestors and our grandchildren of tomorrow.

Adopted May 13, 2021

When to use this statement

This statement shall be used by NMPHA leadership during the opening at all large events and meetings (virtual and in-person), including the annual meeting and policy forum. By beginning our events in this manner, we are providing a structured way to acknowledge and show respect

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to Indigenous peoples throughout New Mexico, remembering our shared history and the work that must continue to achieve health equity for all who call New Mexico home.

RESOURCES

[A guide to Indigenous land acknowledgment](#)

[Guide to Indigenous Land and Territorial Acknowledgements for Cultural Institutions – Cultural Institutions Guide to Land Acknowledgements](#)

[Land Reparations & Indigenous Solidarity Toolkit](#)

[Brief Guide to Transferring Land.pdf](#)

[University of New Mexico Indigenous Peoples Land and Territory Acknowledgement White Paper](#)

[Museum of Indian Arts & Culture | Santa Fe, New Mexico](#)

[Governor Newsom Issues Apology to Native Americans for State's Historical Wrongdoings, Establishes Truth and Healing Council | California Governor](#)

[Social and Structural Determinants of Urban American Indian and Alaska Native Health: A Case Study in Los Angeles \(mededportal.org\)](#)

[Harvard Indigenous Design Collective: "Acknowledging Land w/ Dr. Meranda Owens" - YouTube](#)

Examples of Land Acknowledgement Statements

[Native Governance Center - The Land We're On](#)

[New Mexico State University- Memorial in support of NMSU's Land Acknowledgement Statement](#)

[University of New Mexico Land Acknowledgement Statement](#)

Stand in Solidarity with Native Nations

Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board: [About](#)

Capacity Builders, Inc.: [About](#) | [Donate](#) | [Volunteer](#)

Changing Woman Initiative: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Frack off Greater Chaco: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Healthy Native Communities Partnership: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

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Indian Pueblo Cultural Center: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Juniper Coffee + Eatery: [About](#) | [Eat](#)

Laguna Community Foundation: [About](#)

Native American Community Academy: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Native American Relief Fund: [Donate](#)

Native American Rights Fund: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

NB3 Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAP): [About](#)

Native Health Initiative: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Navajo Ethno-Agriculture: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Navajo Nation COVID-19 Relief Fund: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Navajo YES: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Nizhoni Soaps: [About](#)

Pueblo Relief Fund: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Pueblo Action Alliance: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Roanhorse Consulting: [About](#)

Red Mesa Cuisine, LLC.: [About](#)

Santa Fe Indigenous Center: [About](#) | [Donate](#) | [Volunteer](#)

Seeding Sovereignty: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Southwest Runners: [About](#)

The NDN COVID-19 Response Project: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

The Red Nation: [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Tewa Women United: [About](#) | [Donate](#) | [Volunteer](#)

Three Sisters Kitchen: [About](#) | [Donate](#) | [Eat](#)

Zuni Youth Enrichment Project: [About](#) | [Donate](#) | [Volunteer](#)