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 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.

www.nmpha.org
PO Box 26433, Albuquerque, NM 87125
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

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center: About | Donate

Juniper Coffee + Eatery: About | Eat

Laguna Community Foundation: About

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