



New Mexico Public Health Association

"Promoting the health and well-being of all New Mexico"

NMPHA Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Lands Acknowledgement Statement

We ask that you pause to reflect on, honor, and acknowledge that we in New Mexico are on the stolen 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, and the Fort Sill Apache Tribe, the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the Mescalero Apache Tribe. Indigenous Peoples comprise 14.5 percent of our entire state's population, having lived here for thousands of years. However, many of our Indigenous communities were forcibly removed from their lands through genocide and ethnic cleansing by prior Spanish and Mexican settlers and governments, the State of New Mexico and United States Government. Indigenous Peoples are still here, persisting despite ongoing colonialism and oppression. We see you, we hear you, and we vow to continue working with you to dismantle systems of oppression that inhibit health equity throughout the State of New Mexico.

Established in 1917, the New Mexico Public Health Association emerged as the solution to mitigate the health needs of the State. Today, Indigenous people continue to be afflicted with the highest rates of health inequities. NMPHA recognizes that the data shows Indigenous people 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 relationships with tribal entities, health councils and members
- Advocating for policies and legislation that address land, air and water rights
- Supporting Tribally led Health Initiatives
- Addressing opportunities to deconstruct systems of racial bias and oppression
- Providing technical and educational opportunities through Conference and event Forums

Indigenous people have and will continue to teach that the well-being of the Land is connected to the fitness 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 to retain and advocate for the innumerable acts of cultural knowledge and wisdom that Indigenous people have practiced for 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.

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.nmpa.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 Wrongs, 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](#)

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](#)

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

Native American Relief Fund: [Donate](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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](#)

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](#)