



**Brief Timeline of Health Council Funding Process in the 2015 Legislative Session
Lessons for 2016
April 20, 2015**

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| August 2014 | Meeting with DOH to urge inclusion of health council funding in the proposed DOH budget. It wasn't included. |
| November 2014 | Meeting with Governor's staff to brief them on the work of the health councils, in an effort to prevent a veto an appropriation for the health councils (The Governor had vetoed a \$100,000 additional appropriation for the health councils in 2014.) |
| December 2014 | Don Tripp (past sponsor of the health council legislation) was elected Speaker of the NM House of Representatives. Speaker Tripp spoke to Rep. Clahschilliage about carrying the bill, and she agreed, and pre-filed HB99. Senator Morales agreed to sponsor an identical Senate version and pre-filed SB99. |
| January 26, 2015 | Then NMAHC organized a "Public Health Day at the Legislature," with over 23 organizations and agencies participating, and with speakers from the Legislature, the Department of Health (including the DOH Cabinet Secretary), the health councils, and other organizations. |
| February 2015 | NMAHC was notified that the House Appropriations and finance Committee had included \$200,000 for health councils in HB2, the House budget bill. |
| Early March 2015 | We discovered that the language in HB2 read, "funding for tribal councils" rather than "funding for county and tribal health councils". Senator Morales tried to get the language changed, but was too late for amendments. |
| Second week in March 2015 | Chris Debolt, Grant County Health Council Coordinator, spoke with Susie and Tony Trujillo about the issue. Tony, who is a lobbyist for Freeport Moran Mining Co., spoke with David Abbey, Director of the Legislative Finance Committee, who changed the language to read, "for county and tribal councils to identify local community health needs." David Abbey noted that using "councils" rather than "health councils" should not be a problem, since the appropriation was directed to the Department of Health, to be used for health purposes. |
| Third week in March 2015 | The budget passed the Senate and House and went to the Governor. The session ended on March 21. We asked the health councils to generate calls to the Governor to ask her not to line-item veto the \$200,000 appropriation. We also sent a letter to the Governor, with copies to her staff, asking her to leave the funding intact, noting the approximately 1,000 people in New Mexico are members of health councils and are counting on her support to health improve the health of NM communities. |
| April 9, 2015 | The Governor signed the budget and left the \$200,000 funding for the health councils intact. |

Lessons for the 2016 Legislative Session:

1. Seek to have full funding of the health councils included in 2016 DOH budget request submitted to the Governor:
 - The health councils are a key component of the state’s public health infrastructure, working to identify and address local community health needs.
 - New Mexico is seeking accreditation from the National Public Health Accreditation Board; this accreditation is based in part on a sustainable system of health councils.
 - The health councils are working with the Departments of Health and Human Services to re-design the state’s health systems as part of the Federally-funded State Innovation Model (SIM) initiative.
2. Seek to have funding of the health councils included in the 2016 Legislative Finance Committee budget proposal.
3. Closely monitor all steps of the legislative process, including the language inserted at each stage of the process—taking nothing for granted.
4. Continue to maintain close working relationships with legislators and their staff, the Governor’s staff, the LFC, and the Department of Health.
5. Facilitate active involvement of the health councils at all levels, including testifying at committee hearings, contacting legislators, and contacting the Governor.