



Talking Points for 2019 Health Council Legislation

Now is the time (*before the Legislative Session begins*) to ask your New Mexico legislators for their support of two bills in the 2019 Legislative Session:

1. **Senate County and Tribal Health Councils Bill (HB137)**, introduced by Representative Liz Thomson
2. **House Health Councils Funding Bill (HB67)**, introduced by Representative Liz Thomson

New Mexico's county and tribal health councils are a unique success story. Since their creation by the NM Legislature in 1991, they have proven their effectiveness. The health councils have:

- Created comprehensive community health assessments and plans
- Developed hundreds of programs, services, and partnerships in their communities
- Identified gaps in services and reduced costly duplication of efforts
- Brought millions of dollars into their communities to improve health (\$4 for every \$1 invested by the State, according to a 2003 study)
- Influenced policies at the local, regional, and state levels
- Provided key support, communication, and collaboration for the NM Dept. of Health and other state agencies in serving local communities

This year marks a critical point in the history of New Mexico's county and tribal health councils. The health councils need full support and funding to realize their full potential, as described in the 2018 Senate Memorial 44 Task Force Report and Recommendations.

Now is the time to update and strengthen the structure, effectiveness, and sustainability of the health councils, given recent increases in state revenues and likely supportive leadership from a new state administration. (For additional information, please see the [Legislative Fact Sheet](#).)

It is critical for State Representatives to hear from their constituents regarding the importance and specific activities and achievements of their county and tribal health councils.

Suggested points to cover include:

- Where you live, and which county or tribal health council you are involved with
- What the major health and health care issues are in your community
- What your health council has been able to accomplish, either currently or in the past
- What your health council could accomplish with increased funding (e.g., what the health council could do with at least part-time staff support)
- Answer any questions legislators might have.
- Thank them for their time and their support.

THANK YOU!