



Santo Domingo Health Council Fact Sheet 2022

The Santo Domingo Health Council is in its initial year of establishment and challenges of a Health Council funded by the NM Dept. of Health. The Pueblo of Santo Domingo requires authorization of all committees, organizations, groups representing the Pueblo and community be properly vetted through tribal leadership process. The authorization of the Health Council will allow for tribal specific advisory governance of health services, planning, development and monitoring of current and future health services at the community-based level. The Health Council is currently authorized to work with tribal health partners, operate and administer current health programs as funded and established and in the development of governance roles and responsibilities. A small group of existing HOPA members have been integrated into the Health Council opportunities with the need to recruit new members and training needs. Due to Covid-19 impact and the Tribal Public Health Emergency Declaration by the Tribal leadership, it has been a challenge to meet, gather, establish deliverables and infrastructure limitations in a fledging Health Council.

Below is a summary of the partnerships planned, developed and funded to begin health and healthcare organization development with the new Health Council.

The \$9,462 DOH NM Alliance of Health Council funding is the basis of tribal authorization of Pueblo Health Council activities and development. In this initial base year funding in a Covid environment has allowed additional learning, partnerships, collaborations, capability to talk, plan and grow as a Health Council.

Vaccine Equity funding will allow the Health Council to promote and inform the community members on vaccine equity. The funding will allow the Health Council to work towards building healthier, better Covid-informed and services in the Pueblo. Each Health Council will receive approximately \$50,000 per year for 2 years with the possibility of a 3rd year of funding. This funding is in addition to the \$9,462 provided by DOH for FY2022.

The SD Health Council was authorized to seek Community Health Worker (Community Health Representative-CHR) Covid-19 training to educate and hire additional staff on Covid literacy, services such as testing, quarantining, wrap-around services with addition community specific training from the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board epidemiology program.

The previous existence of the HOPA Coalition was used to provide governance over a Tribal Injury Prevention grant from the Indian Health Service. The funding coincides with the State Santo Domingo Health Council funding and allows for collaboration of the HOPA Coalition as the Health Council. The allows for uniformity and a single Governance in overseeing the grants and services. From this unification, an injury assessment, survey and services have been established for the Pueblo with local health partners. This existing program allows for Council meeting reports, updates and goal setting.

New DOH mortality and morbidity data for Santo Domingo Pueblo including tribal injury data has been requested and provided to the Pueblo by DOH epidemiology dept. The most recent data available from IBIS was used in this database research. This data will allow for Health Council presentations and overall department planning.
Actual covid work as testers, quarantine, housing, referrals, transportation

Covid-19 cases in the 2021-2022 in the Pueblo has increased and nearly 30 deaths have occurred. Some Health Council members are also direct care providers and the priorities by Tribal Leadership mandated the Council activities include Covid-19 services. The required testing, community engagement, referrals to additional analysis and vaccines and out of Pueblo placements. In addition, quarantine, isolation, transportation, home visits, wrap around services such as food, coordination of services and providers became challenging and time consuming.

During this Public Health Emergency, the planning, implementation and recovery of Covid-19 cases was the priority for the Health Council.

It is expected that more organizational capacity development of the new Santo Domingo Health Council will be the priority in the new grant year.