

**New Mexico Health Equity Partnership  
Grant Year-End Reporting Form  
Period: March 1, 2020 – February 29, 2021  
Due March 31, 2021**

**Evaluation logic model outputs and outcomes designed by MCHE (please fill in the blank). If you will no longer be completing an activity connected to one of the outputs or outcomes or weren't able to because of COVID-19, please note this. We realize that work looked very different this past year due to the pandemic.**

**COVID-19 response:** Please share key outputs and outcomes-based what you have identified for your mutual aid work (# of packages of food distributed, culturally appropriate types of foods delivered, key partners involved etc.).

March 28, McKinley CHE and McKinley Health Alliance organized a conference call with 20 participants who were interested in creating a mutual aid to assess interest. We asked Indigenous Lifeways, Inc., to serve as the fiscal agent and did agree. Five organizations united and began distribution in April 2020. Please visit for more information; <https://ourindigenouslifeways.org/>

- **Over 4,000 volunteer hours**
- **7,595 Navajo, Zuni, and mixed-status families fed throughout McKinley County.**
- **Procurement of food and quickly established a supply chain early stages of the pandemic.**
- **Provided educational materials on local 2020 Census, Voting efforts, and housing rights.**
- **Masks and supplies donations throughout the country.**
- **Featured in USA Today, MS Magazine, Gallup Independent, and Navajo Times.**
- **\$ 403,767.86 raised for food, gas, and recovery effort through grants, solidarity donations, and PayPal**
- **8,000 First Aid Kits**
- **3,000 Gatorade**
- **\$25,000 for 4 homes without clean water systems from Dig Deep see <https://www.navajowaterproject.org/>**

---

**McKinley is a great community connector!** Robert F. Kennedy Jr. helped us and we connected him to McKinley Mutual Aid, Provided advice on what funders to request rapid response funding. Connected Deb Haaland to the Nuclear Free Futures Award to receive her award, she provided an acceptance speech for us. Connected Strengthening Nations to Navajo Hopi Relief Fund, and they are now helping with distribution in Gallup and services the surrounding areas and in Arizona.

---

*If the work below is no longer relevant, please just say so and note how the work/partners got weaved into your COVID-19 responses efforts.*

**McKinley Worker Justice Coalition**

Wage theft – Somos Gallup is part of McKinley Mutual aid. NMSJEI is involved with Somos Gallup. Overtime, bill. Outside of the WKKF scope of work, Strong Families – Forward Together and NMSJEI are sharing bills. They also have \$500-\$800 for messaging on COVID-related information in Spanish, Navajo, and English. This will focus on the worker's justice minimum wage.

NMSJEI serves McKinley County, NM, where the American Indian population is 77% and where 38% of families live in poverty, a situation deeply rooted in the Doctrine of Discovery, history of colonization, and deep structural inequities. We participate as a core member of

NMHEP and engage our community to take collective action through "issue education" and by providing information and instruction regarding the process and procedure for working successfully within various public and policy change arenas. We then organize and mobilize our cadre of informed and equipped community members to improve their lives. Guided by the community leaders we mentor. Through the collaborations we establish, we enact change by building capacity and empowering individuals, communities, and organizations to lead and impact equitable policy change. Rooted in community leadership and collaboration, NMSJEI helps create safe spaces whereby McKinley county residents can collectively reclaim and grow their voices. We have provided environmental literacy training on the Water Equity Climate Resilience; Water Policy framework. One thousand and one (1,100) community members participated in public health and uranium forums from January to March 2020. Younger generations have been building a dynamic family and community movement through art with youth. Communities are developing their ability to reflect and find solutions for pressing issues impacting their access to the spectrum of health equity. Uranium workers and have an interest in workers' rights forums. Inter-sectional relationship building helps build trust and peer learning through informal conversations.

- Provided financial literacy training to 0# workers.
- Participation rates increased by 20% by nurturing relationship building through 4 # family-centered events.
- 4# focus groups held on how to recruit more volunteers from communities we work within Gallup/McKinley
- 24 # outreach activities with Strong Families, Somos Gallup, McKinley Health Council for base building. (McKinley Mutual Aid)
- 33 # community members participated in workers' rights forums.
- Y\_\_ N\_\_ In progress\_\_ (How do you know?)Workers Right Forum 20 people attended at the library in Gallup NM and 13 on the Zoom call.
- Y\_x\_\_ N\_\_ In progress\_\_ Increased sense of community responsibility as we build the power base. There are more local organizations and individuals networking more due to the increased need for masks, food water, and hygiene supplies. We have different working groups that we see are coalescing through McKinley Mutual Aid and NM HEP.
- 0 # families have increased financial independence life skills.
- Y\_\_ N\_\_ Workers and their families have gained a sense of independence and motivation. (How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_)Workers have gained back stolen wages in the amount of over \$300,000 to the complainants. Those wins are huge and have given more hope to other workers to file complaints. Somos Gallup has also been hosting Minimum Wage forums virtually and we also MMA delivers food, water, cleaning, and hygiene supplies to the mixed-status folks and ensured they had enough boxes for the 30 families.

### **McKinley Uranium and Health Outcomes**

McKinley CHE – Uranium HIA outcomes. Hearings on uranium impact. Last March 6, 2020, in Crownpoint NM, was the last community meeting. Was supposed to do community forums and plan the people's tribunal. Raised \$6,000 for Red Water Pond. Another outgrowth of the HIA is the NM First zoom webinar with a panel (Krystal, social justice fellow) discussing the impacts of uranium mining. As a result of the panel, this sparked the interest to have a **statewide network** to sift out policy issues that can be addressed.

Barriers are lack of adequate or abundance of financial and resources needed to actuate "change." There is a lack of understanding from the philanthropic sector regarding real-life community living conditions. We also have a rich culture and want to switch the poverty lens narrative towards bold, fierce, and indigenous-led in our region. Long-term investments in communities are needed for at least 20 to 30 years to see some change.

Geographically, we reside within the region of the 1979 "Church Rock Tailings Spill," the second-largest uranium-related accident in the United States. (Breach of a dam released more than 1,100 tons of uranium mining wastes/tailings along with 100 million gallons of radioactive water into the Pipeline Arroyo and then traveled downstream along the Rio Puerco. The effects of which are still felt by our communities).

- Provided environmental literacy training to 50 # community members in Gallup and McKinley County on the Water Equity Climate Resilience; Water Policy framework.
- Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ In progress\_\_\_ Policy Link added uranium cleanup to their agenda.
- Participation rates increased by 20% by nurturing relationship building through 4# family-centered events.
- 4 # focus groups held on how to recruit more volunteers from communities we work within Gallup/McKinley
- 8 # outreach activities held with Conservation Voters of NM, Strong Families, Somos Gallup, McKinley Health Council for base building.
- \_\_\_ # of community members who participated in public and uranium forums.
- Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ In progress\_\_\_ Strengthened long-term relationships with other local, state, and national networks for clean-up of the uranium mines.
- (How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_)
- Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ In progress\_\_\_ Increased knowledge and understanding of environmental and Dine Fundamental laws. (How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_)
- 15 # families have increased their confidence and attitudes towards advocacy processes. Through the monthly zoom meetings, we have updates from USEPA, Navajo EPA, and Southwest Research and Information Center that share information on metal studies and project updates from the Native American Superfund Center.
- Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ In progress\_\_\_ (How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_) Monthly Meetings and emails from NM Environmental Law Center.

### **McKinley Access to Healthy Food**

Food – Working with NM First's food and agriculture group. Focus areas for NMSJEI include pre-school gardens, healthy soil, community farms, and solar. Sunshine is building a learning center. They are working collaboratively with Spirit Farm and have learned how to compost, chickens, plant, harvest, make soap, sell produce and sheep and pig meat. Many local residents purchase from Skeets Farm. We are also part of the NM First Community Town Hall Planning team, also the NM First Food, Ag, and Water Working Group. They have helped us with information for the farmers and water users.

- Provided food literacy training to 10 families.
- Increased participation rates by 5% by nurturing relationship building through family and healthy food-centered events.
- 12 # focus groups held on how to recruit more volunteers from communities we work within Gallup/McKinley

- 24 # Outreach activities held with Indigenous Lifeways, Health Earth Summit, Strong Families, Somos Gallup, McKinley Health Council for base building for healthy food access as a health promotions community outreach and food delivery
- 7 # community members participated in healthy soil workshops and ancestral healthy foods.
- Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ In progress\_\_\_ Strengthened long-term relationships with Shima Learning Center, Work in Beauty and Skeets Farm. (How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_) attendance at the online webinars is well attended, we are connecting and informing our networks to assess the interest in farming, seed saving, making compost, and gardening.
- Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ In progress\_\_\_ (How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_)
- 10 # Families have increased health food knowledge and individual life skills. . (How do you know? Attend food and healthy soil workshops on Facebook Live with Shima Learning Center. We have been working to find the funds to expand their work with local farmers.
- Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ In progress (how do you know?) the farmers have monthly calls and we stay updated on the various food justice initiatives.

List priority communities/populations worked with: Navajo, Zuni, Immigrant, and unsheltered relatives in Gallup, McKinley County

40# parents and youth/children educating decision-makers on issues of importance to them

### Narrative Questions

#### What are you most proud of in your work?

We help connect people and communities doing similar work in advocacy. Our organization provides resources to the indigenous community on conducting a health impact assessment on uranium exposure and health outcomes in McKinley county. The community testifies and organizes with the training we have provided since 2014 and 2019. Our board members and volunteers participate in Dineh ceremonies at sacred sites as part of continuing our cultural ways of life. We have youth participate with earth offerings, sacred mountain offerings, water offerings and learn to pray for themselves.

- Creative and able to be a connector
- Intergenerational connections – know people
- Ability to Nurture Long-term relationships
- New generation – Chris Hudson, Zunneh-bah Martin, and Krystal Curley are “homegrown” they have been mentored by our community for 16 years through Undoing Racism Training, Project Trust and They both are very connected with the community. They are able to build trust and have credibility because generations before shared their experiences.

#### What are you learning?

We learned that until we obtain at least \$10 million dollars that will be intentionally used for community building. Our plans need funding like this one;

- o Zoom Community Conversations: 4 Calls
  - o One face-to-face meeting (CDC Guidelines Adherence)
  - o The recordings of individual stories of racism and healing in digital and written formats to be used as the beginnings of the Indigenous, black, and People of Color archives.
  - o **Archives:** Coordinate with the Octavia Fellin Public Library to establish a section on Racism and New Mexico History.

- o Create Grassroots Truth Telling Studio-future service to provide CV19 Stories and Life Experiences

The training will be on creative community engagement methods (due to the Covid-19 pandemic), including distributive community organizing, visual recording messaging, and ensuring indigenous-speaking families and communities have access to these training with translators. We are using land acknowledgment of indigenous lands to bring the language of the earth mother and father universe through our prayer offerings and share our indigenous knowledge for socio-natural healing.

- We can do more together. The importance of trust, being fair and honest can make the difference – mutual respect.
- The best practice of getting real community involvement is being done by Strong Families and Forward Together Action. They invested in the communities with advocacy training, how to speak to decision-makers, and learning the legislative process. We hope to replicate the model and have social justice workers help with community building
- On a personal level, Anna owned the decolonization process. She used to work at a government which was very rigorous – having to supervise, do conference calls, reports – the workload was so much. She has learned how she can step back. She doesn't have to be a hardass all the time. Even more so with COVID, she can step back and see how to interact. There is healthy conflict – that is life. The magnet (women – good) and electronic (male – negative). Have to have balance and navigate it. There is also personal growth of spirituality of our team members

#### What challenges do you face?

Barriers are lack of adequate or abundance of financial and resources needed to actuate "change." There is a lack of understanding from the philanthropic sector regarding real-life community living conditions. We also have a rich culture and want to switch the poverty lens narrative towards bold, fierce, and indigenous-led in our region. Long-term investments in communities are needed for at least 20 to 30 years to see some change.

- Getting more clear on roles with the McKinley Health Alliance. They want to be the HUB and the question becomes how do the organizations fit? Chris is doing a great job on the operating guidelines.
- Participation with the team is a challenge. It is always the same suspects that show up at MCHA. This is a challenge everyone; MMA. Indigenous Lifeways is the fiscal agent for MMA and there is little participation. Roanhorse Consulting is asking who makes the decisions? There is consensus versus rapid response and strategy, even militaristic. Had to reassess the 500 names requesting food, we work with the senior centers, WIC, etc., and are now at the stage of trying to grow.
- The question is where do Indigenous people get their justice? MMA leaders really know people and talk to people, where other folks are just delivering. There is an opportunity for MMA to grow and manage with other folks. Via the gap analysis, there is participation from people, health alliance, MMA.
- We are not adapting or adopting the western concept of mutual aid that has been put out there that is white-centered. Based on cultural teachings, food and water are always provided to visitors and help those in need of food.

#### What opportunities do you see?

We are collaborating with NM Health Equity Partnership, NM Public Health Association, NM Indigenous Women Council, NM First, Navajo communities, Strong Families, Forward Together, McKinley Health Council, Deconstructing Racism New Mexico. There are community agreements that we created together to ensure it's a safe space for sometimes tricky conversations. The collaborators above all are addressing policy work that impacts our region.

There are many opportunities to create local and regional plans in uranium clean, new workforce, and many spaces to make justice financial investments. More people are interested in our town halls and community conversations; due to the tsunami of injustices during the pandemic, there needs to be more community awareness. McKinley's pre-covid **hunger rate was 21%; now it is 28%**, the poverty rate is **38%**. Investing in the community to provide hotspots, smartphones, iPad, laptops, and training on advocacy, is the first step in movement-building, and it's all about the base. Forward Together is a great model that recently had four state bills pass due to the 30 legislative fellows that operated under a 501C4. We feel that expanding this type of training is truly effective movement building.

Our approach is the community is the experts, and they lead the conversations, planning, and creating tactics. The role we play is to connect them with the resources and what training is requested.

- Need to create a long-term strategic plan, brainstorming, and strengthening relationships. Partnerships with NM Public Health Association, NM First, NMHEP, and other organizations slowly coming together. Having folks at a statewide level learn about McKinley Collaborative for Health Equity has helped with funding. Learned a lot from NM First, Forward Together, and T4B. It is so beautiful to see organizations support each other at the legislature. A lot of these partnerships have already been created. Aligning folks statewide has an impact on policy change. Encourage people to run for office.
- Continuing to nurture cross-cultural learning and opportunities is so important. Need to focus on how to continue nurturing.
- There is so much opportunity to collaborate with NM First and have good alignment and structures. HEP brings tools like HIA more voice to community empowerment. Having a HUB of NGOs in alignment to build Social Justice HUB. Also, the NM Environmental Public Health Network and not sure about Tewa Women United. It would be helpful to map out connections and opportunities for collaboration – community-based to policy.
- Preparing the idea of having a funding plan for HEP and three communities and Las Vegas – like a wish list and for your headquarters at HEP budget for you and more staff and marketing to other funds. Different funders now collaborating. Need larger grants (RWJF, Ford, Rockefeller, foundations in Santa Fe) and smaller grants immediately as part of the funding resources plan. Consulting opportunities: Own pool of graphic harvesting. Social impact assessments include cultural pieces, gap analysis, policy change, HUB for HIAs, communities.
- Entrepreneurial is another opportunity: Kits to sell, zoom webinars where you have to pay, any types of marketing, etc.
- Want to leave behind a strong foundation with deep roots of multigenerational legacy building. Shared examples of her mother (warrior) who was instrumental and kind and her brother who was a veteran and marine. Some of us are nurtured to be warriors and move magically through different eras regardless. Truth-telling, visioning the path, dream casting of the future.

**What benefits do you experience being part of HEP and working with the other place-based teams?**

- Going back Bernalillo county place matters and Jordan Johnson with McKinley CHE planted the seeds. The McKinley Community Health Alliance was part of working with Jerry to get the grant. It brought tools and techniques and built capacity. We transformed into a non-profit and have new board members. We want to go statewide to educate on social justice and undoing racism. Christina and Ophelia are bringing a Consortium against Racism. We have a responsibility to expand for more equitable living conditions. The community to advocate with local folks, Navajo, Zuni, and

immigrants. There is an abundance of resources and people who want to be proactive. We also planted strong messaging on Health Impact Assessments and organized it collectively. Graphic harvesting has also been a cornerstone in communicating complex concepts.

- HEP brought a framework and springboard on how to decolonize processes. HEP has provided more space for liberating thoughts. We are not afraid to say the benefits and challenges – it is safe with the staff. Jessi, David, and other staff have provided partner meetings around the state. Learning opportunities such as the homeless project in Las Cruces. The folks from Las Vegas learned about uranium mining. Cross-cultural appreciation is so important and equitable in storytelling through the lens of the community.
- Jessi is really resourceful and creative. We have communication lines. Jessi is respectful of our time and works around our schedules. There has been a recent openness of the Santa Fe Community Foundation embracing a decolonizing process and are more open to social justice. HEP has grown relationships with influencers and funders.

**What have been the key ingredients to our collective success?**

- Narratives of people of color, have long been depicted and only focused on the deficits from the western lens. We are creating narratives that focus on root causes of success, strengths of the community, rich in culture and roots and our own roots. Safe conversations. I respect Kari in her honesty. I speak very direct with the volume turned up. Other folks would get resentful. The key ingredient is having a safe space to talk and share experiences. We all have privilege. It has been a hard journey to get where I am. Looking for a change and understanding each other's struggles (i.e. son shot in the head twice, daughter sexually assaulted, using cocaine, treated a certain way for not talking their language – it is all very hurtful). Young people need a voice and the Hispanics and Zuni. Discrimination doesn't create balance.

**List other funders supporting your work:**

**Con Alma Health Foundation, NM Foundation, Decolonizing Wealth**

**List advocacy partners you are working with to advance policy:**

**McKinley Health Alliance, NMDOH, Indigenous Lifeways, Somos Gallup, Eastern Navajo Dine Against Uranium Mining, NM Environmental Public Health Network, Voices for Children, Con Alma Health Foundation, Strong Families, Together for Brothers,**

**NM Thrive, Dine Food Sovereignty Alliance, NM Environmental  
Law Center**

**Budget:** Please submit budget actuals based on the line items outlined in your professional services agreement for the period March 1, 2029 – February 29, 2021.