

# CENTER FOR HEALTH INNOVATION

ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 2019



## ABOUT

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This annual report covers the activities conducted by the Center for Health Innovation (CHI), and its programs, from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

## CONTENT

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The information in this report was compiled by our staff and summarized by our communications project specialist, Kendra Milligan. Photographs are by CHI staff or made available by our partners.

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## MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT

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# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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The Center for Health Innovation (CHI) was founded over a decade ago as a vision of Charlie Alfero, who at that time served as the Chief Executive Officer at Hidalgo Medical Services (HMS). CHI spun off of HMS and became an independent 501 (c) (3) nonprofit in 2015. In 2017 CHI was designated as New Mexico's only Public Health Institute by the National Network of Public Health Institutes. CHI listens to and works with communities and uses data, innovative programming, policies and system change to improve social justice and equality, especially for those who are often underserved and underrepresented.

Have we made a difference?

We believe we have. This Annual Report shares our work, impact and stories from the communities we work with. Change does not come easily, but we have made an impact with the support of our innovative Board of Directors, dedicated and talented staff, and the support of our many communities, coalitions, advisory groups and partners.

Thank you for your continued belief in our mission.



**SUSAN WILGER**

Executive Director





# TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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CHI would like to express our gratitude to our supporters, who without their investment our organization would never attain the successes that we do.

We are grateful for the tireless efforts of our board: Dr. Magdaleno Manzanarez for his leadership as president of the board; Frank Chaires for his fiscal insights as vice president; Katy Estrada for her keen eye which has kept our financials sterling as Secretary and Treasurer; Dr. John Andazola for his dedication to bettering access to health care in our state; and Rudy Martinez and A. Manuela McDonough for their tireless dedication to see the rural and underrepresented sectors are brought to the forefront of our work.

Also, we want to express our deep appreciation for our 209 community advisors who donate their time on the 11 coalitions and councils which offer their expert insights into their communities' unique strengths and diverse challenges so that CHI can better serve their populations.

Finally, thank you to our talented and dedicated staff for their efforts and accomplishments in 2019. Without our staff this report would be blank instead of filled to the brim with accomplishments. They work to bring all of New Mexico to the table. With our staff's aid and the continued support of our state's residents, CHI hopes to achieve our vision of thriving communities with healthy people.

Learn more about CHI at:

## CHI Advisory Groups

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Cibola Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

FORWARD NM AHEC Advisory Board

Hidalgo County Health Council

Luna County Health Council's Coalition Against Teen Substance Use

Southern NM AHEC Advisory Board

New Mexico Community Data Collaborative Program Advisory Group

NM Public Health Leadership Team

Rural Community Opioid Response Program's Consortium and Community Advisory Group

Unified Prevention Coalition for Doña Ana County

Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Grant County

# OVERVIEW

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As New Mexico's designated Public Health Institute, the Center for Health Innovation (CHI) is dedicated to working with communities to advance health and social justice through innovative and effective policies and programs for all the residents in our state, and beyond.

How do we do this?

We engage with New Mexicans of all ages, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds to create informed solutions to the challenges facing New Mexico's residents. We accomplish this by offering a unique mix of cutting-edge research, community collaboration, innovative programs and health care workforce development.

Last year, we were informed by 11 local community coalitions from around the state, which were comprised of over 209 individuals! Next year we expect to add to our key stakeholder numbers as we transition the New Mexico Community Data Collaborative into the CHI Team.

We were proud to receive funding from the U.S Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Communities Opioid Response Program to engage 16 southern New Mexico counties to meet their prevention, treatment and recovery needs in a community-driven comprehensive assessment process.

New Mexico Department of Health funded our academic detailing program to train opioid prescribers regarding best practices for clients with non-cancerous pain management in 17 southern counties. CHI looks forward to expanding this innovative program state-wide in 2020.

## CHI by the Numbers

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1 State

2 Area Health  
Education Centers

4 Prevention Programs

11 Community  
Advisory Groups

33 Counties Covered

209 Local Advisors

5,631 Individual  
Contacts

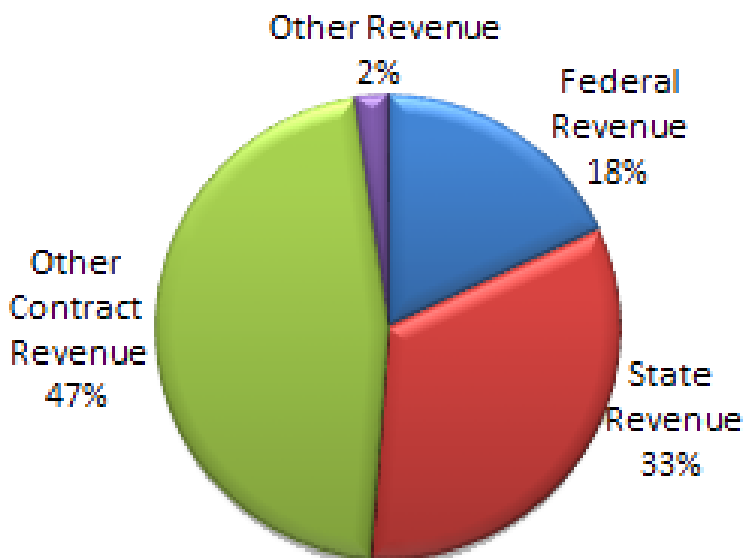
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

CHI has a diverse funding portfolio with support from the State of New Mexico, federal grants, private foundations and other revenue generating contracts. Our fiscal year spans from January 1 to December 31.

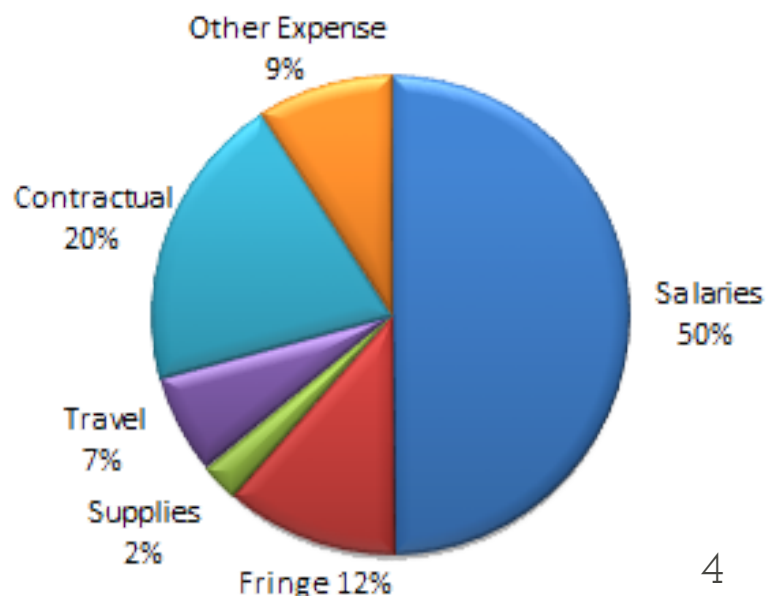
In Fiscal Year 2019, CHI generated \$1,573,892 in revenue. A majority of our funds, 47 percent, were from other contract sources. For the same period, CHI reported \$1,573,815 in expenses. A majority of our expenses, 50 percent, were staff salaries. CHI believes in giving back to our communities and accomplishes this by prioritizing feet-in-the-ground staffing to better serve the diverse and unique populations found throughout New Mexico, and beyond.

For Fiscal Year 2019, CHI posted a net income of \$76.

## FY2019 Revenue



## FY2019 Expenses



# HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Our two Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), FORWARD NM AHEC and Southern AHEC, serve 17 counties in southern New Mexico. These AHECs work to expand and retain the health care workforce through education, promotion and support. Our philosophy is to "grow our own" youth into the health care professionals of the future and fill the state's gap in health care providers, all-the-while we aid the current workforce to gain the continuing education required to stay at the top of the health care field!

How do we accomplish this?

- **Promoting careers in health care to youth**
- **Aiding student residencies at health care facilities**
- **Hosting teen health academies**
- **Overseeing the AHEC Scholars program**
- **Expanding continuing educational opportunities for health care professionals**



AHEC  
by the Numbers

17 Counties

104 AHEC Scholars

49 Academy Students

50 Student  
Rotations/Residencies

140 Dream Makers  
Health Career Club  
Participants

2,198 Health Career 101  
Participants





The 2019-20 AHEC Scholars at their annual orientation conference in Albuquerque, NM.

Our AHEC staff works with schools districts throughout the southern-half of New Mexico and in 2019 presented to over 2,300 teens the opportunities and benefits of pursuing a career in health care will gain them. Our AHECs go further than in-class presentations! We offer summer programs that gave 49 students STEM education so they will be successful with our Teen Academy for Health Sciences and our Health Careers Academies!

Next, our AHECs offered 50 current and aspiring college students chances to shadow health care professionals in their communities to experience the first-hand details of the profession.

At the college level, 104 students in clinical health programs can joined the AHEC Scholars program to gain more insights and experience by working directly with health professionals to solve hypothetical and real-life medical cases!

Finally our AHECs are dedicated to expanding the knowledge base of our current health care professionals, and communities, by offering cutting-edge training on topics that address the needs of our state like Question Persuade Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention and the Opioid Pain Management and Opioid Use Disorder Conference in Ruidoso.

In 2020, we will offer Community Health Worker certification to regional high school students, and Lupus diagnosis education and awareness training.



# PREVENTION

CHI administers four local prevention coalitions in Cibola, Doña Ana, Grant and Luna Counties. These coalitions work to change environmental norms and institutional policies to prevent adverse behaviors in youth. Our prevention programs are locally-lead and tailored through strident yearly assessment to focus on the unique strengths and challenges faced by their specific community. No two programs are alike, just like no two counties are alike!

Our Unified Prevention (UP!) Coalition for Doña Ana County was one of only two coalitions in the nation honored for their efforts by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) during Red Ribbon Week!

Part of this was due to the community reporting a 68 percent decrease in parents and guardians providing alcohol to minors, and a 25 percent decreases in sharing prescription medications.

Our four programs also partner closely with national, state, regional and local law enforcement to host DEA Drug Take Back Days, especially in rural communities where chances to dispose of medications safely might be available towns away.

## Prevention Coalitions

Cibola Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

Luna County Health Council's Coalition Against Teen Substance Use

Unified Prevention Coalition for Doña Ana County

Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Grant County



First Lady Melania Trump (right) presents then CHI Prevention and Community Collaboration Director Marisol Diaz (center) with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's 2019 Red Ribbon Week Award for Community Coalitions for the efforts of the Unified Prevention Coalition for Doña Ana County.

# Prevention by the Numbers

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1 National Award

4 Counties

153 Local Advisors

49 Academy Students

693 Pounds of  
Medication Collected

969 Attendees to  
Town Halls

4,151 Calls for Police  
Service Mapped

Over 693 pounds of medications were disposed of during by residents during the two DEA Drug Take Back Days hosted in April and October. Proper disposal keeps expired and unused medications from the risk of being misused. Our Coalition Against Teen Substance Use aided in building partnerships to reopen the Deming drug disposal kiosk in Luna County, the only one available for a county larger than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined!

Our Youth Substance Abuse Coalition of Grant County hosted a "Brain Worthy" Town Hall bring together community leaders and informed youth to discuss with families the reality and toll underage drinking takes on the community.

Youth and parents came together with our Cibola Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition to create a Parent's Handbook to educate the community about the dangers of opioid misuse.

Our UP! Coalition conducted cutting-edge research by mapping alcohol outlets and calls for service for select crimes in Las Cruces. While sharing the results with the community, they were asked to expand the mapping project to the entirety of Doña Ana County. Look for the resulting mapping effort and report in 2020!

The panelists on "Brain Worthy: A Case Against Underage Drinking" town hall that was sponsored by the Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Grant County.





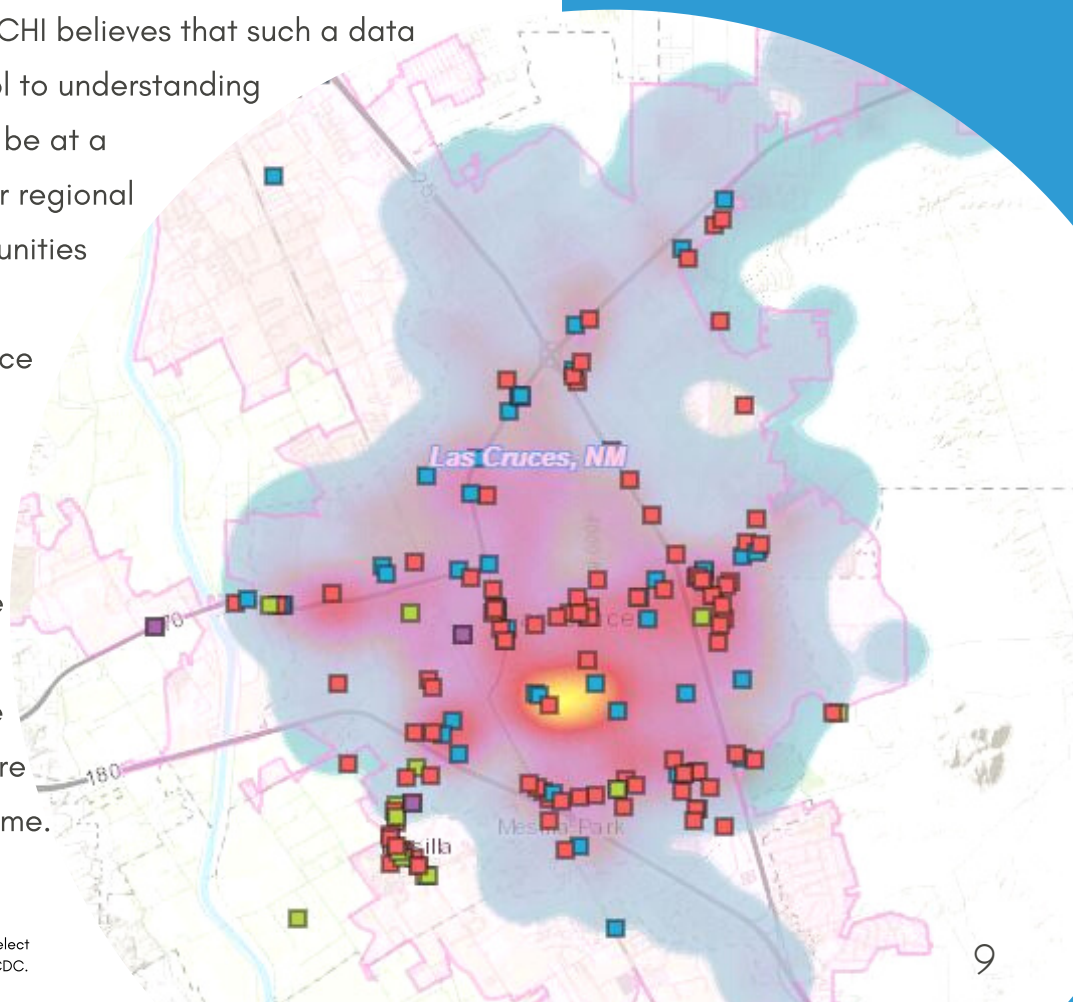
# NEW MEXICO COMMUNITY DATA COLLABORATIVE

*CHI Welcomes the New Mexico Community Data Collaborative to Its Service Portfolio!*

The New Mexico Community Data Collaborative (NMCDC) is a public, place-based data warehouse that has been at the forefront of utilizing cloud-based platforms for interactive mapping and collaborative information sharing since 2011. NMCDC began its transition to CHI in 2019 that will be completed in 2020.

This innovative data commons shares cross-sector data to assess population needs and assets beyond the individual and interpersonal levels and at a much finer geographic granularity than what is usually available or intended when we use the all-purpose term “community.” CHI believes that such a data commons is an essential tool to understanding context in detail, whether it be at a neighborhood, community or regional level. NMCDC allows communities to plan and implement interventions that will produce desired outcomes in real settings.

NMCDC is working to integrate with CHI to ensure public access to multi-sector data, to have a voice in state policy, and to explore ways to be sustained over time.



# RURAL COMMUNITY OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM

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In June 2019, CHI was awarded a one-year planning grant from HRSA. The Rural Community Opioid Response Program (RCORP) provides resources to:

1. Build the regional capacity to meet the prevention, treatment, and recovery needs of rural residents in 16 counties in southern New Mexico.
2. Apply a community-driven approach to guide a comprehensive assessment process.
3. Develop strategic, workforce development, and sustainability plans and implementation strategies to leverage existing strengths and address gaps in services and care.

These activities are implemented through partnerships with a formal Consortium (See members below) and also a Community Advisory Group (CAG) of local stakeholders.

A comprehensive Needs Assessment was completed, as was the Strategic Plan. A Workforce Development and Sustainability Plan will be developed in 2020!

RCORP Consortium Members:

- Center for Health Innovation
- Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE)
- New Mexico Behavioral Health Workforce Development Coalition
- New Mexico Human Services Department - Behavioral Health Services Division (HSD/BHSD/OSAP)
- New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH)
- Western New Mexico University (WNMU)
- Eastern New Mexico University at Roswell (ENMU)
- New Mexico Behavioral Health Providers Association
- New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions
- Emergency Services Outreach, Inc. & The Center for Advanced Medical Training
- New Mexico Attorney General's Office

## RCORP by the Numbers

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1 Needs Assessment

17 Counties

12 Consortium  
Members

37 Community  
Advisors

# ACADEMIC DETAILING

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CHI piloted the Academic Detailing program with 10 individual providers to offer best practices and support information to opioid prescribers in rural southern New Mexico. After successfully providing non-cancerous pain management detailing at 19 separate sessions, CHI trained four additional detailers and expanded training services to a broader region: Hobbs, Roswell, Las Cruces, Ruidoso, Estancia, Grants, Los Lunas and Socorro.

CHI was notified that the program was so successful our funder, New Mexico Department of Health, wants like to expand the program statewide in 2020!

A provider who successfully completed five-hours of Pain Management Continuing Medical Education through our Academic Detailing program said, "I'm feeling much more confident and took on a NEW patient who needed pain management, which I had previously refused to do! I'm feeling much more confident as a result of working together with my academic detailer."





# FOOD AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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One of CHI's main public health concerns is access to essential, nutritionally adequate and safe food for everyone. To address food insecurity and promote access to locally-grown healthy food CHI supports food policy, and administers the Healthy Kids New Mexico (HKHC) program and three food pantries in Hidalgo County, NM.

Located in the southwest corner of the state, Hidalgo County is the size of Connecticut with a population of only 4,240. Over 25 percent of residents live in poverty, so the food pantries offer an important supplement for families to access adequate food.

In 2019 the HKHC program engaged youth healthy eating activities, created parks and public walking paths so all residents can have active lives, developed community gardens, and provided education on food preparation and healthy eating for all ages

CHI explores the impact of health disparities, nutrition, worker rights, food systems and climate change on food access through its active involvement with the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council, and the Food, Hunger, Agriculture and Water work group. CHI supported these policy initiatives:

- NM Grown Fruits & Vegetables for School Meals
- Market Opportunities for Farmers, Ranchers and Agribusiness
- Healthy Soils
- NM Grown Fruits and Vegetables for Senior Citizen Meals Program and Senior Centers
- Agricultural Workforce Development

Healthy Kids Healthy Communities brings together residents of all ages to build active living opportunities .

## Food Security by the Numbers *(Monthly Average)*

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88 Households Served

182 People Fed

6,613 Pounds of  
Food Distributed

3,119 Pounds of  
Fresh Produce  
Distributed



# HIDALGO COUNTY HEALTH COUNCIL

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In 2019 Hidalgo County Health Council (HCHC) focused its efforts on suicide prevention, youth substance use prevention, and improving fitness and nutrition. These priorities were based on community input and community-based data.

Achievements include:

- Compiled statistics for suicide prevention, which discovered that Hidalgo County had the highest suicide rate in the state at 64.8.
- Hosted a community forum to discuss the findings on the prevalence of suicide and steps to address the issue.
- Sponsored a Youth Mental Health First Aid workshop that taught prevention techniques in the context of overall mental health first aid.

# NONPROFIT SUPPORT SERVICES

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CHI offers support services to other nonprofits whose missions are unified with ours. Under contractual agreements, CHI provides fiscal, human resource management and communications support to the National Center for Frontier Communities (NCFC) and the New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium (NMPCTC).

