

# New Mexico Together for Healthcare (NMT4HC) - Network Meeting Report

New Mexico's strength depends on protecting the health, dignity, and economic security of all families. Recent policy changes and action by the federal government threaten each of these aspects. In response, New Mexico Together for Healthcare hosted network meetings in northern and southern New Mexico. At these gatherings, families from across the state shared how federal action will impact their communities.

New Mexicans across different regions, backgrounds, and experiences expressed a unified message—**our state cannot thrive when families cannot access quality, affordable healthcare, put food on the table, or live without fear.**

## Healthcare Coverage & Access to Care:

New Mexicans are deeply concerned by federal cuts to healthcare and the impact to the state's healthcare system and infrastructure:

- ▶ **Loss of coverage:** Families will lose their healthcare coverage, especially Medicaid, or face unaffordable out-of-pocket costs, which will force them to delay or forgo necessary care. This loss of coverage will impact access to care including services critical to childhood development, maternal health, chronic disease management, and mental health support.
- ▶ **Increased administrative burdens:** Policies like six-month Medicaid recertification requirements are especially difficult for seniors, people with disabilities, and those in rural and frontier communities.
- ▶ **Healthcare provider shortages:** With the federal cuts, New Mexico's healthcare provider shortage will get worse. "Healthcare providers will move away" as hospitals face financial strain and provider burnout accelerates.
- ▶ **Rural hospital closures:** Communities already struggling with limited access will see clinics close and emergency services disappear.
- ▶ **Preventable suffering and death:** Without access to cancer treatment, chronic disease management, prenatal care, or preventative services, health outcomes will worsen dramatically.

🗣️ **I want lawmakers to understand that healthcare in New Mexico is not an option. If we want this state to thrive, we need healthy families.** — *Southern NM participant*

## Food Security:

Cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), including work requirements will increase food insecurity and ignore New Mexico's realities:

- ▶ **Infrastructure gaps:** Rural and frontier communities lack public transportation, accessible childcare, and local job opportunities for helping meet work requirements.
- ▶ **Challenges for people with disabilities:** "It's hard for people to get approved for disability, so sick people will have to continue to work."
- ▶ **Increased hunger:** Children, elderly residents, and homeless populations will be hit the hardest.
- ▶ **Strained resources:** Food pantries and community organizations are already stretched thin and cannot absorb increased demand.

●● **Families who are already struggling will be forced to go without.** — *Northern NM participant*

## Immigrant Families:

Attacks on immigrant communities harm everyone:

- ▶ **Economic impact:** Small businesses will close, consumer spending will drop, and local economies will shrink.
- ▶ **Workforce shortages:** Construction, healthcare, agriculture, and service industries will lose essential workers.
- ▶ **Climate of fear:** Families will avoid seeking healthcare, reporting crimes, and participating in community life. Mixed-status families face impossible choices about accessing benefits they're entitled to.
- ▶ **Community division:** Fear and stigma will replace solidarity and mutual support.

●● **La comunidad inmigrante es base para la economía, al verse atacada de esta manera, será catastrófico, aumento de pobreza y extrema violencia, etc.** — *Southern NM participant*

## Action Steps

These issues do not exist in isolation. They create cascading effects that impact all New Mexicans. Our state policymakers must listen to community voices and use state resources strategically to support all New Mexicans and mitigate these harms.

- ▶ **Protect and expand access to healthcare coverage**
- ▶ **Support rural healthcare infrastructure**
- ▶ **Invest in workforce development, including paid training opportunities**
- ▶ **Increase access to trade schools, vocational training programs, and education grants**
- ▶ **Maintain critical investments in childcare access**
- ▶ **Improve transportation infrastructure**
- ▶ **Pay livable wages**
- ▶ **Defend immigrant families**

