



New Mexico Primary Care Association's Statement on Discrimination, Inequity and Injustice

Community Health Centers are rooted in the 1960's civil rights and social justice movement. In New Mexico and across the nation Community Health Centers (CHCs) have continuously served the most vulnerable and underserved in their communities for over 50 years. CHCs repeatedly demonstrate resiliency as they respond to their communities and the historical trauma suffered by their patients. Now while facing a pandemic, we find ourselves in a period of increased tension and unrest and we are reminded that systemic racism is still present in our country.

The New Mexico Primary Care Association (NMPCA) in partnership with our Health Centers, other Primary Care Associations and our National Association of Community Health Centers mourns the senseless killings in recent weeks, and other acts of violence. We are also touched by the health disparities among people of color and those who are in poverty. We stand together with our colleagues and communities to call attention to systemic racism and the need for justice and equality for all. We will strive to facilitate change to protect and improve the lives of all people, particularly through our community-based health care system.

For over 50 years, CHCs have worked to mitigate the impact of inequity, building community-based systems of care that address physical, dental, and behavioral health needs of all. As NMPCA provides support to the CHC system of care, we will address the social determinants of health and support solutions that impact the health and well-being of our communities. CHCs will continue to provide care to all regardless of ability to pay or documentation status. NMPCA is committed to addressing disparities, inequity, and injustice in our own system and working to find solutions that result in systemic change. In these days of uncertainty and unrest, we will work together to create a more equitable society.