



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **First Year Success: Collaboration for Equitable Health Builds Momentum in Albuquerque, New Mexico**

(Nationwide, U.S.) – The Collaboration for Equitable Health is proud to announce a successful first year in Albuquerque, New Mexico building momentum toward improving community health. The collaboration, a combined effort of the American Heart Association®, the American Cancer Society®, the American Diabetes Association® (ADA), and the University of Michigan School of Public Health, powered by Bank of America, remains committed to driving change in health outcomes in Albuquerque.

This nationwide initiative, operating in 11 key U.S. cities, works hand-in-hand with Albuquerque communities to tackle long-standing health disparities impacting Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian American, and Native American communities. The collaboration’s concerted efforts have already begun to make waves, with the first year’s progress as a testament to the power of unity and collaboration.

Over the past 12 months, the collaboration has built a robust team of dedicated professionals, with 20 new staff members hired across partner organizations, underscoring the commitment to deploying the best expertise to address health disparities. Through numerous community listening and strategy sessions, collaboration partner teams are ensuring the voices of community members are heard and their insights shape collaboration work. This community-driven approach defines the collaboration’s commitment to equitable health solutions.

“With 188 leaders and partners from diverse health and community organizations, we are fostering powerful collaborations across 11 cities,” said Nikki Mitchell, market executive for Bank of America New Mexico. “By combining our strengths, all the collaboration partners are working to effect meaningful change in health outcomes across diverse communities.”

In Albuquerque and surrounding rural communities and pueblos, the ADA is deepening its commitment to health equity by partnering with local community-based organizations, including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central New Mexico, which serves predominately Latinx and Native American youth.



Through this partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs, the ADA has been able to raise awareness of diabetes and healthy living among community members by implementing Project Power, a no-cost lifestyle change program that empowers adults and children to take charge of their health, reduce their risk for type 2 diabetes, and learn how to manage and thrive with type 2 diabetes.

This year, the partnership included the implementation of Project Power for youth, serving kids ages 5–12 during the club's summer programs in Albuquerque's South Valley, Edgewood, Moriarty, the town of Bernalillo, and Santo Domingo Pueblo. The Boys & Girls Clubs promoted healthy choices and nutrition education, increasing physical activity, and building family engagement and peer relationships throughout these communities as an included benefit of the Boys & Girls Club low-to-no-cost programs.

Looking forward, the ADA will continue this important work with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central New Mexico to bring healthy lifestyle programming to youth where the need is the greatest. According to the New Mexico Department of Health, in 2022, 31% of kindergarten and 42% of third grade students were overweight or living with obesity. The majority of these students identified as Native American or Hispanic<sup>1</sup>, underscoring the importance of this partnership, as our two organizations work together to best serve our communities.

“In just a single year, the collaboration has made significant strides in advancing health equity,” said Andra Beatty, director of development and communications for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central New Mexico. “In the state of New Mexico, where childhood wellbeing is ranked last, every partnership is not just a step forward, but a testament to the momentum we're building towards a healthier, more equitable future for our young people.”

Identifying and partnering with more than 90 on-the-ground nonprofits and community health clinics as grant recipients, the collaboration invests directly in disease-specific interventions at a grassroots level. This approach ensures resources are targeted where they are most needed, supporting the communities at the heart of the collaboration's mission for health equity.

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<https://www.nmhealth.org/data/view/chronic/2763/#:~:text=In%202022%2C%2031%25%20of%20kindergarten,overweight%20or%20obesity%20in%202021.>



Moving into its second year, the Collaboration for Equitable Health remains dedicated to its commitment to fostering healthier futures in Albuquerque and across the U.S.

For more information about the Collaboration for Equitable Health, visit [collaborationforequitablehealth.org](http://collaborationforequitablehealth.org).

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### **About the Collaboration for Equitable Health**

The American Heart Association®, the American Cancer Society®, the American Diabetes Association®, and the University of Michigan School of Public Health will specifically focus on the leading causes of death in communities of color—**heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes**—and improving health outcomes more broadly. This four-year initiative, launched in 11 cities, is tailored to meet the needs of each community based on collected data.