



Affordable Care Act (ACA) Health Equity Provisions Achieving Equity in Health for Children and Families in New Mexico Through the Affordable Care Act*

*The Heart & Soul of
Health in New Mexico*

The 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) is much more than health insurance. The ACA sought to **expand access to care, bolster public health and prevention programs, and improve the health-care safety net**. A number of provisions under the ACA focused on reducing health disparities, particularly among racial and ethnic populations.

As such, ACA included provisions designed to increase health equity, especially for children, young adults and families. Health equity is ensuring that “everyone has an equal chance at living a healthy life regardless of a person’s ethnicity, income or zip code.” Inequities in health systematically put groups of people who are socially disadvantaged, underserved, or underinsured.

Con Alma Health Foundation’s report, “Achieving Equity in Health for Children and Families in New Mexico,” provides a point-in-time snapshot. The report provides a baseline from which to assess how the ACA and its equity provisions have been implemented in New Mexico. We summarize the health equity provisions below, and you can [link](#) to page 20 of the report for a more comprehensive summary.

Health Insurance Expansion

- Coverage Mandate
- Coverage for pre-existing conditions
- Young adult coverage
- Medicaid/CHIP expansion
- Required essential health benefits
- Open insurance marketplace
- Marketplace subsidies
- Employer Requirements and Tax Credits

Increased Health Care Access for:

- Children and Adolescents
- Women
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender
- Native Americans, Latinos, African Americans, and Asian/Pacific Islands Health
- Immigrants and Refugees
- People living by the U.S. border
- People living in rural and frontier communities
- People with disabilities

Improving the Quality and Efficiency of Healthcare

- Established the:
 - Office of Women’s Health
 - National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities under the National Institutes of Health
 - Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute
 - Workforce Advisory Committee
- Developed a National strategy for quality health care improvement
- Protects LGBTQ patients from discrimination in health care setting
- Cultural and linguistic competency and health literacy
- Innovative models of care
- Safety-Net
- Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and made permanent under the ACA
 - Health services with no cost sharing

Preventing Chronic Disease and Improving Public Health

- Preventative care covered without cost sharing (annual physical, immunizations, etc.)
- Mental health counseling/screening
- Substance abuse treatment

Community Living and Health Care Workforce

- Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood home visiting programs
- School Based Health Centers
- Primary care delivery sites in underserved areas
- Mandate to resolve the workforce shortage in rural areas
- Community Health Centers
- Community Health Worker training grants
- National Health Services Corp grants
- MD residency training grants in frontier and underserved areas
- Oral health professional trainings
- Accountable Care Organizations
- Patient Centered Medical Home support teams
- CMS Innovation Center to reduce cost growth and increase quality
- Community-based collaborative care network program

Transparency and Accountability

- 80% of premiums must go to patient services
- Improve availability of national health data
- Data collection standards including race, ethnicity, sex, primary language, and disability status and rural/frontier locations
- Collect and report Medicaid/CHIP disparity data
- Collect and report workforce diversity data
- Data analysis to monitor trends in social determinants of health/ disparities research

This summary was prepared by the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership (NMHEP), an initiative at the Santa Fe Community Foundation, for Con Alma Health Foundation's **Call to Action: Children at the Center (Health Reform in NM)** project based on the following Con Alma report:

*Cacari Stone, L. & Osterfoss, M. (2016), *Achieving Equity in Health for Children and Families in New Mexico Through the Affordable Care Act*. Con Alma Health Foundation & Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy, College of Population Health, University of New Mexico.

Call to Action: Children at the Center (Health Reform in NM)

Purpose & Project Objectives: To strengthen the healthcare safety net for children and families by identifying the most impactful next steps from Con Alma's report, "*Achieving Equity in Health for Children and Families in NM Through the Affordable Care Act*," and increasing the capacity of stakeholders around health care reform.

The following are **nine recommendations/solutions** for moving forward gleaned from the report.

1. Create a culture of health coverage for all New Mexicans
2. Prioritize community as a central force for achieving health equity
3. Promote leadership and ensure accountability
4. Make payment structures more equitable
5. Expand on successful outreach and enrollment that is culturally and linguistically aligned with New Mexico's diverse communities
6. Simplify eligibility and enrollment processes
7. Build on best practices and support systems innovations
8. Improve the collection of evidence for monitoring and tracking the progress of the ACA (*or other health care coverage*)
9. Tackle the social determinants of health and achieve child health equity in all policies

What you can do & How you can participate

Join in developing and identifying the next steps in making these recommendations real:

- ✓ Participate in Con Alma Health Foundation's **Survey**
 - ✓ Join the conversation during **April 19th convening in Albuquerque convening** (registration required)
 - ✓ Participate in **future small group discussions** (to be scheduled in diverse regions of the state)
- Visit Con Alma Health Foundation's website for information: www.conalma.org