

# Public Health Partnership San Luis Valley Colorado

## Exploring sharing agreements to improve public health services throughout the San Luis Valley region of Colorado

The San Luis Valley is a six-county rural, intermountain valley in south central Colorado with approximately 46,000 residents in a land area the size of Connecticut (all population statistics derived from U.S. Census Bureau, 2012).

SLV residents present with higher rates of chronic disease, obesity, poverty, and lack of education than for the state overall (all health statistics data derived from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Health Statistics Section, 2012).

The valley economy relies on agriculture, tourism and its role as a regional government center. Three of the six counties are designated as frontier with fewer than six people per square mile. About half of residents are Hispanic and half are non-Hispanic white. The estimated median annual household income in the region is \$33,660 compared to the Colorado median of \$55,735. The percent of children living in poverty is extremely high, ranging from 29 to 45% in five of the six counties. Approximately, 27% of residents are uninsured (Belansky, Garcia, Marshall, Puma, Scarbro, & Swart, 2010) and many rely on Medicaid for access to health care.

The SLV is identified as a Health Professional Shortage Area and a Medically Underserved Area, two key federal designations that identify areas with severe health care provider access issues and areas in need of assistance with health care delivery.

Each county in the SLV Partnership houses a single county public health agency governed by a board of health with members - elected officials (County Commissioners) - designated by statute. The Rio Grande County Board of Health also includes three at-large chairs.)

Contact San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership Coordinator Kimberly Bryant 719-588-4527 [kbryant@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:kbryant@saguachecounty-co.gov)

Visit our website: [slvphp.weebly.com](http://slvphp.weebly.com)

## PROCESS AND MILESTONES COMPLETED

- Team Mission & Vision
- SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- Organizational Chart
- Website
- Newsletters
- Communication Plan
- Strategic Plan
- Summary of Shared Services
- Environmental Health Program
- Operating Agreement
- Inter-Governmental Agreement
- LOGO

## OUR PARTNERS

- Della Vieira; Alamosa County Public Health Department
- Connie Edgar; Conejos County Public Health and Nursing Service
- Vivian Gallegos; Costilla County Public Health Agency
- Tara Hardy; for Mineral County Public Health Agency
- Emily Brown; Rio Grande County Public Health Agency
- Marcy Gardunio; Saguache County Public Health Agency