

Anchorum Health Foundation unveils plan to pump \$25M to Northern N.M. community foundations

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Olivia Villalpando, left, of Vaughn and Stephen Rivera of Santa Fe, load up bread on the food mobile bus at The Food Depot before heading out to the Stage Coach Apartments on Friday.

Luis Sánchez Saturno/The New Mexican



Jerry Jones, president and CEO of Anchorum Health Foundation

The Anchorum Health Foundation tap is officially on.

The Santa Fe-based organization, whose leaders have been working for months on a plan for spending part of \$500 million flowing in following its predecessor's divestment from Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center, has now unveiled its first step: pumping \$25 million into five deeply rooted community foundations in Northern New Mexico over the next five years.

Those groups — Santa Fe Community Foundation, Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation, the New Mexico Foundation, Los Alamos Community Foundation and Taos Community Foundation — each will receive a share of \$5 million annually, with proportions determined by the groups' "capacity, size, and track record addressing health and wellness issues in their service area," Anchorum leaders announced in a news release Monday.

Anchorum Health Foundation President and CEO Jerry Jones said in an interview he is "just thrilled" about the plan.

"The community foundations that we've selected really are the experts in their communities," Jones said. "It's the value we have at Anchorum Health Foundation to not be prescriptive from here in

Takeaways

Anchorum Health Foundation will give \$25 million to five Northern New Mexico community funding organizations over the next five years as part of an ambitious, \$500 million plan to make the region healthier.

Santa Fe Community Foundation, Las Vegas Community Foundation, the New Mexico Foundation, Los Alamos Community Foundation, and the Taos Community Foundation will each receive a proportional share of \$5 million annually for the next five years.

Leaders of Anchorum, the successor of Anchorum St. Vincent, has worked for months on the plan to spend part of the half-billion dollars it's set to receive over a decade after divesting last year from Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center and its local clinics.

Santa Fe but to allow the work to be informed and done in these beautiful communities we're trying to serve."

Anchorum Health Foundation is the new face of Anchorum St. Vincent, a local nonprofit that for years held a half-share of Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center and its related local holdings. Last year, Anchorum St. Vincent transferred its share to Texas-based Christus Health in exchange for \$500 million over the next decade, which will be used to power an ambitious effort to make Northern New Mexico healthier.

That goal involves bolstering efforts to address social factors that influence people's health, like access to food or housing or education.

Jones said the five community foundations selected already are doing important work supporting and funding local nonprofits that tackle those factors at a grassroots level.

Funding details

Anchorum Health Foundation will give a collective \$5 million to five Northern New Mexico-serving community foundations annually for the next five years. The exact funding for each organization will vary based on the work they're doing.

The breakdown for the first year is:

Santa Fe Community Foundation: \$2.35 million for work in Santa Fe and Rio Arriba counties.

New Mexico Foundation: \$1 million for work with tribes, pueblos and Cibola, Guadalupe, Harding, McKinley, San Juan and Union counties.

Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation: \$750,000 for work in San Miguel and Mora counties.

Taos Community Foundation: \$750,000 for work in Taos and Colfax counties.

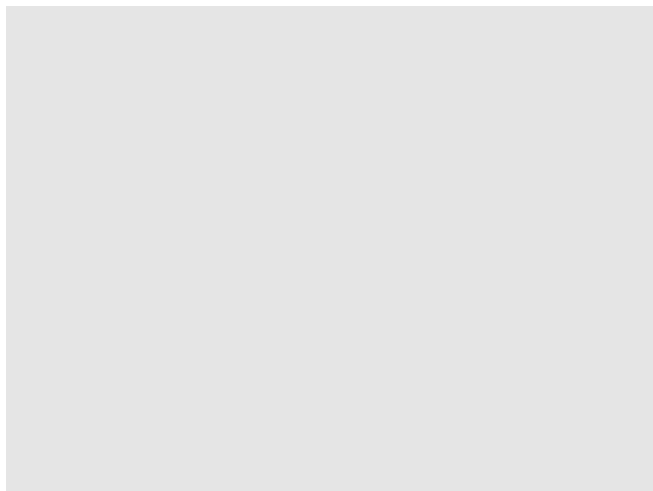
Los Alamos Community Foundation: \$150,000 for work in Los Alamos County.

"They're incredibly robust and incredibly important to building capacity of the nonprofit communities that are doing such great work in seniors and in the aging process, for kids and early adults, for early childhood and essentially the whole life spectrum," he said.

Jones said in addition to the money, Anchorum also will be funding placement of a fellow in each organization, whose exact role may differ based on each community foundation's needs.

"Each one of them will be very different, but the idea is these fellows will help build capacity of the foundation, building relationships and expanding relationships with the nonprofits, and [helping] to create some data points for us ... to understand more broadly what the needs are," Jones said, adding the community foundations will hire them.

Santa Fe Community Foundation — which in 2022 issued \$14.8 million in grants, according to its annual report — will be Anchorum's largest recipient for the 2025 fiscal year, in line for an expected \$2.35 million, Anchorum Health Foundation spokeswoman Maddy Mahony wrote in an email. That money will go to support nonprofits working in both Santa Fe and Rio Arriba counties.



Zamir Crispin, of Santa Fe, moves 370 pounds of bread to the freezer at The Food Depot. The Santa Fe Community Foundation, which helps support The Food Depot, is in line for a large grant from Anchorum Health Foundation.

Luis Sánchez Saturno/The New Mexican

Christopher Goett, Santa Fe Community Foundation's president and CEO, said Anchorum's approach of cementing relationships through both funding and the fellowship is "really innovative and smart."

"I'm not really dwelling on the number," Goett said of the exact dollar amount. "What I'm dwelling on is more the relationship and commitment from Anchorum Health Foundation, because that helps us further our reach in both Santa Fe County and Rio Arriba County."

For the New Mexico Foundation — which has a statewide presence that includes working with nonprofits and other grassroots organizations in tribal and pueblo areas — the \$1 million it will receive in the first year is a major boost, considering the \$3 million it issued in grants last year, said Nancy Pope, the organization's development and operations director.

"I think this approach from Anchorum is exactly the right approach for the communities, especially in Northern New Mexico and the Native communities that we work with," Pope said.

Rosemary Romero, chair of the New Mexico Foundation's board of directors and a former Santa Fe city councilor, said she sees enormous potential for furthering the foundation's work, which includes supporting organizations that provide early childhood education, housing and transportation.

"It's huge in a variety of areas, and I'm just feeling so hopeful of the opportunities to address some of those disparities," Romero said.

Jones said Anchorum leaders are optimistic the cash infusion will lead to more philanthropic giving to both the community foundations and the nonprofits they serve. "We hope ... that our funding will help catalyze other investments," he said.

For now, he said, the \$25 million plan is an important first step in the broader \$500 million plan.

"The reason we chose these community foundations is because we want them to be part of our journey and we want to be part of their journey for the next 10 years," Jones said.