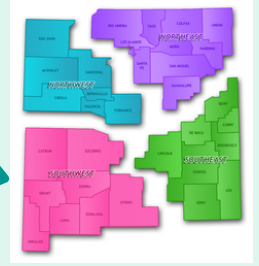


# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HEALTH RESEARCH



## Overview

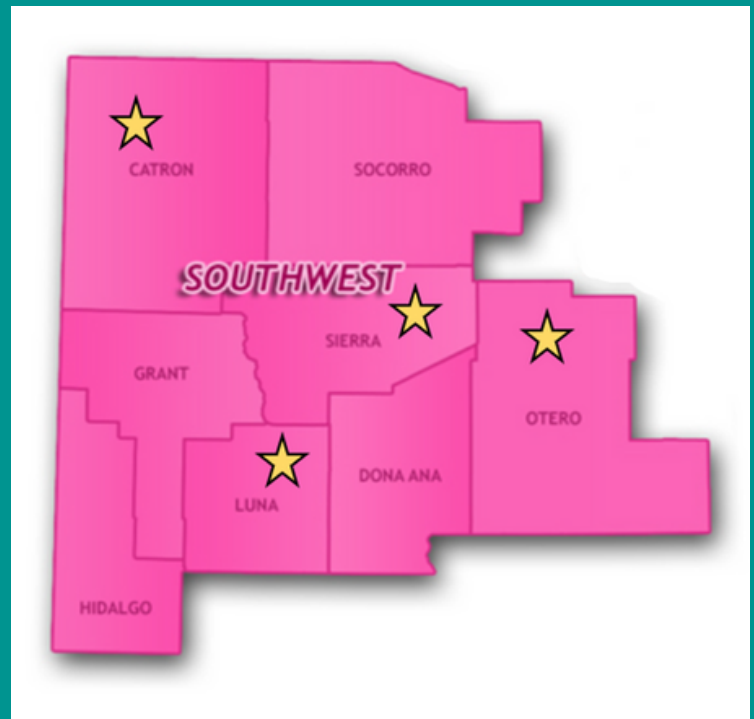
In April of 2023 the Integrating Special Populations Committee of the University of New Mexico supported a community conversation with folks in the Southwest region of New Mexico. The goal was to hear different perspectives on how to include diverse populations in health research.

The focus of the conversation was on:

1. What do communities want to know before agreeing to participate in research?
2. When a study is presented as an opportunity for your community, what things need to be addressed to see if it is a good fit?

## Who took part in the conversation

Cynthia Killough, a UNM community liaison, invited a selection of community members to take part in the conversation from health councils in **Catron**, **Luna**, **Otero**, and **Sierra** counties (designated with **gold stars** on the map). In total 9 community members participated and each were given \$80 in merchandise cards as a thank you for their time.



# What Community Members Shared

## 1. Recommendations for researchers:

- Find community influencers
- Get community buy-in first
- Be able to explain the direct benefit to current community members
- Recruit through health councils
- Be available to answer questions
- Be transparent
- Share data
- Provide training for community members on research in general
- Help find solutions to issues found through the research



## 2. Barriers to research participation:

- Internet access
- Research tends to only accommodate English speakers
- Distance to research facilities
- Time away from work



## 3. Things researchers need to consider when assessing project fit for community:

- Community interest and capacity to assist and be involved in the research
- Resources the community already have or would need for the research
- Facilities
- Available information of resources on health topics

## 4. Southwest culture considerations in New Mexico:

- People chose to live in rural areas
- Community members consist of:
  - i. Retired Military
  - ii. Snowbirds
  - iii. Senior Citizens
  - iv. US and Mexico Border Populations

