

# 2012 Sierra County Health/Healthcare Needs Assessment Fact Sheet

## **What is a Health/Healthcare Needs Assessment?**

A Health/Healthcare Needs Assessment looks at **Community Health** (things like housing, employment, clean air and water, obesity rate, crime rate, level of substance abuse) and **Healthcare** (medical services that are covered by Medicare and most health insurance). The community's health/healthcare need is measured by looking at the health resources we have and the resources we need to become a healthier community. The gap between what we have and what we need is identified in the needs assessment.

## **Who is conducting the Needs Assessment?**

The Health/Healthcare Needs Assessment is a collaborative effort between the Sierra County Health Council and Sierra Vista Hospital who are working with Dr. Mark Kittleson, NMSU College of Health and Social Sciences, and Sharon Finarelli, Sierra Information Services, LLC to conduct the Needs Assessment.

## **What is the purpose of the Needs Assessment?**

- To involve stakeholders, consumers and local community leaders in identifying health and healthcare needs in Sierra County.
- To improve the delivery of Health and Healthcare services in Sierra County, NM.

## **How is the Needs Assessment structured?**

- There will be a series of eight community focus group meetings and eight community forums conducted at various times and at various venues throughout the county during the Spring of 2012.
- A Healthcare Survey will also be administered.

## **How can community members be involved?**

- Volunteers are needed to serve as Community Forum Facilitators who will provide support and group facilitation during the series of eight community forums. **Facilitator training will be held on February 22, 2012.**
- Community members are needed to participate in focus groups and community forums

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*If you would like more information on the Needs Assessment process or if you need information on volunteer opportunities:*

*Please leave a message on the Needs Assessment Talkline at 894-3469 or email SierraNeeds@aol.com*

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