



Challenges and Opportunities: Strategic Collaboration for Effective Change

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How are the children?

The State of New Mexico: Challenges

Total population of 1.9 million:

- ✓ 508,000 children
- ✓ 18.5% of total population living below poverty (350,000)
- ✓ 25.3% of children living below poverty – 47th in U.S.
- ✓ 47th in U.S. in number of high-school dropouts
- ✓ 26% of total population lacks health insurance
- ✓ 19% of children are uninsured; but 70% of **all** children lose coverage at some point during the year

The State of New Mexico: Growing Economy

Strong economic growth in past five years:

- ✓ Economy grew 8.8%
- ✓ More than 67,000 jobs added
- ✓ Currently low unemployment of 3.4% (vs. 4.7% nationally)

- ✓ 16th in nation in terms of small business ownership

- ✓ 8th in nation for working families, still below poverty

- ✓ Growing state budget; more than 11% in 2006

Disconnect

- Why hasn't prosperity benefited everyone?
- Does a growing economy guarantee equity?
- Where should we be focusing our efforts?
- Who needs to be on board?

President Franklin Roosevelt

“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have little.”

-January 1937

Are you a YOYO or a WITT?

✓ You're On Your Own

- ✓ Everyone fend for themselves to overcome universal challenges
- ✓ Growing economy is good for those already doing well

✓ We're In This Together

- ✓ Economic development and prosperity must create opportunity for everyone
- ✓ Collaboration will help everyone overcome universal challenges

We're In This Together

- ✓ Solutions should provide benefits to all
 - ✓ Individuals and society
 - ✓ Social, cultural and economic
 - ✓ Most vulnerable
- ✓ Leverage public and private resources
- ✓ Need both direct services and advocacy
 - ✓ Direct services: address immediate needs
 - ✓ Advocacy: work for systemic change
- ✓ Role of private sector



Early Childhood Development

- ✓ 21% of state spending is on “bad results” from poor investment in early childhood programs:
 - ✓ Special education
 - ✓ School failure
 - ✓ Incarceration
 - ✓ Welfare costs
 - ✓ Lack of a well-educated workforce

Source: Early Childhood Action Network

Early Childhood Development

- ✓ Investing in early childhood development provides a return of 7% to 18%
 - ✓ Higher education attainment levels
 - ✓ Lower unemployment rates
 - ✓ Lower crime rates
 - ✓ Higher incomes
 - ✓ Increased worker productivity
 - ✓ Up to 80% of the return on investment benefits society as a whole
- ✓ Better investment than most other economic development programs

Early Childhood Development – YOYO or WITT?

- ✓ Why should I care?
- ✓ Early Childhood Action Network:
 - ✓ An appointed advisory group – did not form on its on
 - ✓ Has become a strong voice for Pre-K; home visiting and early childcare
 - ✓ Has also supported strengthening Medicaid
 - ✓ Forum for **shared visioning, collaboration and strategizing**
- ✓ Potential new partners: business community, higher education, health professionals

Immigration

✓ In New Mexico

- ✓ 88,000 children in immigrant families
- ✓ Foreign-born population increased 28.2% from 2000-2005
- ✓ Undocumented immigrants are 2% of population
- ✓ Undocumented immigrants pay more in state & local taxes than we spend educating immigrant children

✓ Nationwide

- ✓ Are not competing with U.S. workers for jobs in segmented employment market
- ✓ Unclaimed social security payments (\$7 billion in 2005)
- ✓ Not cause of erosion of health insurance

Immigration

- ✓ Current efforts to clarify issues surrounding immigration and protect families
- ✓ Voices fiscal impact study – used by partners
- ✓ Immigrant Kids Count
 - ✓ Released in partnership with Somos un Pueblo Unido, ENLACE, UNM Student Affairs, Archdiocese of Santa Fe
- ✓ Role of private sector

Immigration – YOYOs Winning?

- ✓ Refocus the debate
 - ✓ Current approach is counterproductive and detrimental to families and the economy
- ✓ Start an ongoing collaboration process
 - ✓ Business community, faith community, educators, policymakers, public and private service providers, etc.

Health Care

- ✓ Affects all aspects of society
- ✓ NM ranks absolute last in percent of population covered by employer-based insurance
 - ✓ 51.3% for NM versus 77% for highest-ranking state (NH)
- ✓ NM ranks next-to-last in percent of parents with incomes at 200% of poverty or below **without** health insurance
 - ✓ 45.8% for NM versus 13.5% for highest-ranking (Hawaii)
- ✓ 72% of New Mexicans said cost was barrier to getting insurance in 2004 study

Health Care

- ✓ Economic impacts are significant
- ✓ 29 million people – one out of six non-elderly adults – had medical debt
- ✓ GM estimated in 2005 that health benefits added a cost of \$1,500 per car made in U.S. versus less than \$500 per car made in Canada
- ✓ The economic cost to the U.S. of poor health of the uninsured is \$65-\$130 billion per year

Health Care

✓ Health Care for All Coalition

- ✓ Formed around a vision for universal health care
- ✓ Established a set of principles agreed upon by all members
- ✓ Steps to achieve goal not specified; agreement on these not required
- ✓ Frame the debate and further the discussion in order to develop solutions

✓ Governor's proposal

- ✓ Fate TBD

Health Care - Will WITT Win?

- ✓ Every aspect of society affected
- ✓ Every aspect must be included
- ✓ Find common points of interest to develop effective solutions
 - ✓ Business community, human resource managers, insurance providers, health care providers, hospitals, community organizations, patients, citizens, educators...
 - ✓ We're In This Together

Change is a Challenge and an Opportunity

“Our choice is not whether change will come, but whether we can guide that change in the service of our ideals and toward a [society] shaped to the needs of all our people.”

-Robert F. Kennedy



Goal: New Mexico's Answer

Work together so that the answer to “How are the children?” is:

All the children are well.

Their present and future is bright. They are healthy, educated and secure in themselves and their community.

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