



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor's Decision a Good Step in Right Direction; But Not Enough

ALBUQUERQUE—New Mexico Voices for Children released the following statement in response to Governor Richardson's announcement that he will put \$2.4 million in federal stimulus funds into child programs that were facing cuts:

“Governor Richardson's decision to direct \$2.4 million of the federal stimulus funds under his control toward child programs is a step in the right direction, but it amounts to using an aspirin when what's needed is a transfusion. The state Children, Youth and Families Department is facing a significant shortfall that could result in 7,000 children losing child care before the Legislature meets again in January.

“Additionally, deep cuts in provider rates are likely to force some providers to close their doors. Child care providers are small businesses. They not only provide a critical service, which allows parents of young children to earn a living, they also provide jobs, which is especially important at a time when unemployment is high.

“It's time New Mexico made young children a priority.”

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New Mexico Voices for Children is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advocating for policies to improve the health and well-being of New Mexico's children, families and communities.

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