



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Advocacy Group Receives 3-Year \$1.4 M Grant from W.K. Kellogg Foundation **Award to support work on public policy surrounding education**

ALBUQUERQUE—New Mexico Voices for Children has received a \$1.4 million grant that will allow the nonprofit to work on improving the economic status of low-income families in New Mexico by implementing a statewide effort to enhance early care and education systems. The grant amount will be awarded over a three-year period.

"This is very exciting for us because it allows us to work on early care and education, which are key to eliminating child poverty," said Eric Griego, Executive Director of NM Voices for Children. "The grant will allow us to explore the external support systems that children—especially those from low-income families—need in order to succeed in school."

A big component of the grant will be to educate policymakers and the public about how aspects of child poverty impede a child's ability to learn. New Mexico has one of the highest rates of child poverty in the nation, according to U.S. Census data.

"An investment of this magnitude is a real vote of confidence by Kellogg in our ability to create lasting change," said Anne Simpson, M.D., the organization's Board Chair. "We're both honored and excited to take on this work," she added.

The grant will also allow the child advocacy organization to bolster its internal capacity for other work. More than 80 percent of the non-profit's funding comes from grants by private foundations such as W.K. Kellogg, the Annie E Casey Foundation, Public Welfare Foundation, McCune Charitable Foundation, and Brindle Foundation.

New Mexico Voices for Children was founded 22 years ago by a group of pediatricians to address environmental conditions inherent to poverty that negatively impact a child's health and well-being.

Established in 1930, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and

southern Africa. For further information, please visit the Foundation's website at www.wkkf.org.

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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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