



No one who works full time should live in poverty.

New Mexicans For A Fair Wage

Coalition Members

- ACORN
- Albuquerque Musicians' Association
- American Federation of Teachers New Mexico
- AFSCME
- ARC of N.M.
- Community Action N.M.
- Empowering Our Communities in New Mexico
- Enlace Comunitario
- Green Party N.M.
- Grey Panthers
- Health Action N.M.
- Hispano Roundtable of New Mexico
- Hogares, Inc.
- Homeless Advocacy Coalition
- Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry
- MANA
- Mountain West Regional Council of Carpenters
- National Education Association
- N.M. AFL-CIO
- Democracy for New Mexico

Press Release

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Study link: www.nmvoices.org/embargoed.htm

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NEW STUDY SHOWS JOB GROWTH AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN STATES THAT HAVE RAISED THE MINIMUM WAGE

Albuquerque – The New Mexicans For A Fair Wage Coalition released a new study, authored by New Mexico Voices for Children, that shows steady job growth and reduced poverty in states that have increased minimum wages above the federal level. Based on the experience of fourteen states, and the District of Colombia, an increase in New Mexico’s wage to \$7.50 would help low wage workers without slowing job growth.

The study’s author, Economist and Research Director Gerry Bradley of New Mexico Voices for Children, says: “Santa Fe is our own economic success story that testifies to the economic benefits of increasing the minimum wage in New Mexico. Job growth has accelerated in the hospitality and food service sectors in Santa Fe. When we look to other states, we see clear trends of poverty reduction and sustained job growth.”

Raising the minimum wage in New Mexico is essential because a large percentage of our workforce, more than twice the national average, earn the current minimum wage of \$5.15. The minimum wage has lost nearly 20% of its value since it was last increased in 1997: that’s \$1,913 in lost wages per year for every full-time worker.

New Mexicans For A Fair Wage, a statewide coalition of over 40 organizations, including faith and business leaders, supports an increase to \$7.50, indexed to inflation. The coalition also supports the existing right of cities and towns to set a local minimum wage higher than the state’s, and opposes preemption of local wage levels by the state.

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Coalition Members

- N.M. Alliance for Retired Americans
- N.M. Catholic Conference
- N.M. Building Construction and Trades Council
- N.M. Center on Law and Poverty
- N.M. Conference of Churches
- N.M. Council on Crime and Delinquency
- N.M. Federation of Labor Retiree Council
- N.M. Human Needs Coordinating Council
- N.M. Voices for Children
- N.M. Pediatric Society
- N.M. Public Health Association
- Parents Reaching Out
- Santa Fe County Sheriff’s Office
- Santa Fe Living Wage Network
- Somos Un Pueblo Unido
- Southwest Organizing Project
- UNM Law and Society
- Democratic Party of Dona Ana County
- Democratic Party of Bernalillo County