



PRESS RELEASE

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President's budget means \$153 million cut for New Mexico programs

ALBUQUERQUE—Thousands of New Mexicans would feel the impact of cuts in education, childcare, heating assistance, and a host of other services under President Bush's 2009 budget, according to a report released today by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. New Mexico would lose an estimated \$153.1 in federal support for a broad range of critical programs, while large tax cuts for wealthy households would be extended.

"This budget says we can afford more tax cuts for millionaires, but we can't afford to adequately invest in early care for children, or education and job training for displaced workers," said Eric Griego, Executive Director for New Mexico Voices for Children. "Those are the wrong priorities for New Mexico and the country."

The president's budget proposal includes*:

- \$36.1 million less for K-12 education than NM received in 2004;
- \$4.8 million less for Head Start than NM received in 2002;
- \$3.5 million less for childcare than NM received in 2001;
- \$1.9 million less for low-income energy assistance, leaving 14,200 NM households out in the cold; and
- A total of \$8 million less in education and training programs for adults, displaced workers and youth than NM received in 2001.

The report also outlines the long-term decline in funding for domestic programs as a percentage of the country's economy. Funding for non-defense discretionary

programs, including homeland security, equaled 5.2 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1980, but only represents 3.7 percent of the GDP today.

"These funding cuts would come at a time when our working families can afford them the least – in the face of an economic recession, at a time when more and more workers are without health coverage, and while the state's own budget is looking at reduced revenues," Griego said. "We urge Congress to reject these cuts and instead reinvest in our nation's and New Mexico's children and families."

The report, "Bush Budget Would Cut Domestic Discretionary Programs by \$20 Billion in 2009," can be accessed online at: <http://www.cbpp.org/2-20-08bud.htm>

*all figures cited here are adjusted for inflation.

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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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