



PRESS RELEASE

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President's Budget Means Big Cuts for New Mexico's Kids New report details impact of budget on states

ALBUQUERQUE—New Mexico Voices for Children, a child advocacy group, expressed opposition to President Bush's 2008 budget. The opposition came in response to a detailed analysis of the budget released by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities today. The budget would weaken a broad range of government services – from education to child care to heating assistance – while extending tax cuts that benefit the very wealthy and saddle future generations with large debts.

“Many of the programs affected by the budget cuts – like adult basic education – are instrumental in helping low-income working families raise themselves and their children out of poverty,” said Gerry Bradley, Research Director for NM Voices.

Here's what just a few of the president's proposed budget cuts would mean to New Mexico:

- A loss of \$76.2 million for elementary and secondary education during the five-year period of 2008 to 2012 (adjusted for inflation)

- A loss of \$9.2 million for Head Start during the five-year period of 2008 to 2012 (adjusted for inflation)

- A loss of \$34.3 million in vocational and adult education during the five-year period of 2008 to 2012 (adjusted for inflation)

- In 2008 alone, 10,600 New Mexicans would lose their Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), which helps them pay their heating bills

- In 2008 alone, 16,400 elderly New Mexicans would lose their Commodity Supplement Food Program (CSFP) assistance, which helps them put food on the table

“People forget that cuts to programs benefiting the elderly often directly affect children, as a growing number of grandparents are the primary caregivers of their grandchildren,” Bradley said. New Mexico ranks 11th in the nation in the percentage of grandparents who live with and are responsible for their grandchildren, according to the US Census.

“This budget is also a recipe for greater financial inequality, despite the president's acknowledgment of this fast-growing problem,” Bradley added. Under the president's

budget, the average millionaire will receive \$162,000 in 2012 alone, while funding cuts could harm millions of low- and moderate-income families.

The whole report is posted here: <http://www.cbpp.org/2-21-07bud.pdf>; the summary here: <http://www.cbpp.org/2-21-07bud.htm>; and the state-by-state tables here: <http://www.cbpp.org/2-21-07bud-tables.pdf>.

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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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