



PRESS RELEASE

November 15, 2007

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New Report: NM Flunks Corporate Subsidy Disclosure

ALBUQUERQUE—According to a major report released today, New Mexico is among the states that do a dismal job of making information about economic development subsidies available to the public.

The report, "The State of State Disclosure: An Evaluation of Online Public Information About Economic Development Subsidies, Procurement Contracts and Lobbying Activities," was released by Good Jobs First, a Washington, D.C.-based policy group.

Out of a possible score of 33 on subsidy disclosure, New Mexico scored zero (or 0%). Iowa did best on this measure, with 82%. Economic development subsidies most often take the form of tax breaks and incentives. New Mexico scored better on disclosing procurement contracts (81%) and lobbying activities (61%).

"Transparency is extremely important for good government," said Bill Jordan, Policy Director for New Mexico Voices for Children. "Taxpayers have a right to know how their money is being spent and whether investments in economic development are paying off for New Mexico families," he added. "Taxpayer money that's invested in economic development must result in good paying jobs, affordable housing, and other things that directly benefit families and kids."

Procurement contracts for goods or services purchased by the state are overseen by the State Purchasing Division. The report gave its website high marks for accessibility and consistency, but it lost points because the database is not searchable by vendor name.

Lobbying activity is overseen by the Secretary of State's office. The report gave its website high marks because the data is current and goes back at least three years. But the issues on which lobbyists work are not disclosed.

The full report, as well as summaries and tables, can be found here:
www.goodjobsfirst.org/statedisclosure.cfm.

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Good Jobs First is a national policy resource center for grassroots groups and public officials, promoting corporate and government accountability in economic development and smart growth for working families. 1616 P Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; 202-232-1616 (p);
www.goodjobsfirst.org

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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