

Briefs

Grant given to improve child health

New Mexico Voices for Children has been awarded a Roadmaps to Health Community Grant of \$200,000 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to improve the long-term health and well-being of New Mexico's children.

The grant supports New Mexico Voices for Children in its collaboration with the Invest in Kids Now! coalition and the New Mexico Community Data Collaborative network. The multi-level project has several long- and short-term goals. One is to educate grassroots groups about the importance of early childhood care, education, and health to K-12 educational success. The groups will then be provided with location-specific data on health disparities, unmet needs and gaps in services so the communities can advocate for their specific needs with policy-makers. The end goal is to secure an adequate, stable source of funding for a continuum of high-quality early childhood services either via the state's Land Grant Permanent Fund or other potential revenue sources.

The grants, which support two-year state and local efforts among policymakers, business, education, health care, public health, and community organizations, will be managed by Community Catalyst and are part of the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program, a collaboration of the foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation will provide a cash match to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant.