A Policy Agenda for a Better New Mexico

2014

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NM lowest in child well-being

30 percent of state’s kids living in poverty

The family is one of many in the U.S. that have been trying to raise children in the face of joblessness and homelessness. An annual survey released Monday by the Annie E. Casey Foundation shows the number of children living in poverty increased to 25 percent in 2011, after the recession. The Southwest has been hit particularly hard, New Mexico, for the first time, has slipped -13 in the nation when it comes to child well-being. More than 30 percent of children in the state were living in poverty in 2011 and nearly two-thirds had parents who lacked secure employment, according to this year’s Kids Count survey.

Nevada is ranked No. 48, followed by Arizona, Mississippi, which has traditionally held last place, made slight improvements in early childhood education while reading and math proficiency for some students increased, putting the state at No. 49.

Overall, the report shows there have been gains in education and health nationally, but since 2006, there have been setbacks when it comes to the economic well-being of children.

There’s little doubt if things are getting worse. Kim Pothier, executive director of the New Mexico Civic Law and Poverty. “Aside from the fact the New Mexico economy has been slow to turn around, the systems that generally serve people who are working poor and suddenly lose their jobs or have greater hardships, all those needs have been...”

NM last in nation for child well-being

Troubling statistics continue state trend

By Lindsay Astron LADYBOLE

I read the article about the New Mexico’s position in the nation for child well-being. The state of New Mexico is ranked last in the nation for child well-being, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s annual report, Kids Count.

New Mexico is struggling to improve the well-being of its children, ranking 50th among the 50 states in the report released Tuesday. The report, released in Washington, D.C., is based on data from 2011. New Mexico had the highest percentage of children living in poverty, at 30.1 percent, and the second-highest percentage of children who are not insured, at 15.5 percent.

The report also found that New Mexico has the highest percentage of children who are not insured, at 15.5 percent, and the second-highest percentage of children who are not insured, at 15.5 percent.

New Mexico has been ranked last in the nation for child well-being for the past several years, according to the report. The state has seen a slight improvement, but the progress has been slow.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, which ranks the 50 states using 10 specific indicators to determine a child’s well-being, including economic security, education and health.

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New Mexico is Dead Last

In June 2013, New Mexico fell to 50th in the nation for child well-being.

Source: 2013 KIDS COUNT Data Book, Annie E Casey Foundation
2014 KIDS COUNT Conference
Child Well-Being: A Call to Action

NM KIDS are COUNTing on Us

A Policy Agenda for a Better New Mexico 2013
2014 KIDS COUNT Conference
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KIDS COUNT ranking is based on 4 domains

New Mexico

Economic Well-Being: Domain Rank 49
Education: Domain Rank 49
Health: Domain Rank 49
Family and Community: Domain Rank 49
Each domain has 4 indicators

- Children in poverty (31%)
- Children whose parents lack secure employment (37%)
- Children in households with a high housing cost burden (36%)
- Teens not in school and not working (11%)
Each domain has 4 indicators

- Children not attending preschool (62%)
- Fourth graders not proficient in reading (79%)
- Eighth graders not proficient in math (76%)
- High school students not graduating on time (33%)
Each domain has 4 indicators

• Low birth-weight babies (8.7%)

• Children without health insurance (9%)

• Child and teen death rate (36 per 100,000)

• Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs (9%)
Each domain has 4 indicators

- Children in single-parent families (43%)
- Children in families where household head lacks diploma (22%)
- Children living in high-poverty areas (21%)
- Teen birth rate (53 per 1,000)
2014 update includes:

- Overarching policies that address more than one domain/indicator.
- Legislative action (or inaction) on recommendations.
- New policy recommendations.
Overarching Policy Solutions: All Domains

• Ensure that enough tax revenue is collected that the state budget can fund programs that improve and support the well-being of New Mexico’s children, families, and communities.

• Enact economic development initiatives that create high-wage jobs, increase revenue, and invest in our workforce.
Overarching Policy Solutions: All Domains

• Take a two-generational approach to improving family economic security.

• Mandate a tax expenditure budget (TEB) and require accountability measures for tax breaks.

• Enact economic development initiatives that create high-way jobs, increase revenue, and invest in our work force.
Legislative Action 2014: Economic Well-Being

• Raise statewide minimum wage, index to inflation, raise tipped wage.
  
  *Policy Progress*
  No change Ø

• Increase the Working Families Tax Credit.
  
  *Policy Progress*
  No change Ø

• Expand access to high school equivalency programs and ABE.
  
  *Policy Progress*
  Improved
Legislative Action 2014: Education

- Restore K-12 funding to pre-recession, per-student, inflation-adjusted levels.
  
  **Policy Progress**
  
  Slight improvement

- Increase spending on NM Pre-K.
  
  **Policy Progress**
  
  Slight improvement

- Support early care and learning from land grant permanent fund.
  
  **Policy Progress**
  
  No change
Legislative Action 2014: Health

• Expand and adequately fund school-based health centers.
  
  **Policy Progress**
  Very slight improvement

• Restore outreach and enrollment programs for Medicaid for kids.
  
  **Policy Progress**
  No change

• Expand outreach to pregnant women to enroll them in Medicaid.
  
  **Policy Progress**
  No change
Legislative Action 2014: Family and Community

• Expand evidence-based and age-appropriate sex education and programs; defund abstinence-only programs.
  
  *Policy Progress*
  No change

• Restore eligibility for child care assistance to twice the poverty level.
  
  *Policy Progress*
  No change

• Expand funding for mentorship programs.
  
  *Policy Progress*
  Slight improvement
New Policy Solutions 2015: Overarching

- Ensure that enough tax revenue is collected that the state budget can fund programs that improve and support the well-being of New Mexico’s children, families, and communities.

- Mandate a tax expenditure budget.
New Policy Solutions 2015: Economic Well-Being

• Take a two-generational approach to improving family economic security.

• Enact a rate cap of 36% ARP (including fees) on all predatory lending products.

• Ensure access to benefits for grandparents raising grandchildren and other kinship caregivers.
New Policy Solutions 2015: Education

• Increase funding for early childhood care and learning to incentive and adequately compensate for quality.

• Revisit zero-tolerance policies in order to keep more students in school.

• Expand programs that increase school attendance.
New Policy Solutions 2015: Health

• Require and fund screening for adverse childhood experiences.

• Adequately fund evidence-based child abuse prevention programs and strengthen CYFD’s role in child abuse prevention.

• Create a citizen oversight or review board for all CYFD child abuse cases that result in death.
New Policy Solutions 2015: Family and Community

- Maintain current Medicaid eligibility for family planning services.
- Increase funding for evidence-based programs that prevent or delay second births by teen mothers.
- Reduce class sizes for children living in high-poverty areas.
2014 KIDS COUNT Conference
Child Well-Being: A Call to Action

4 domains
16 indicators
70+ policy recommendations
So what’s next?

July 22, 2014

New national KIDS COUNT Data Book is released

• New Mexico’s ranking can’t get worse
• Could get better
• Could stay the same
Regardless, we must keep our expectations high.

Our children deserve the opportunity to be successful.

This is our call to action!
Become a Citizen Co-Sponsor of the Policy Agenda

You will receive email action alerts when key legislation is being considered.

We’ll give you:

• Background on the issue
• Contact names and information
• And talking points

Sign up at: www.nmvoices.org
2014 KIDS COUNT Conference
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Thank you!