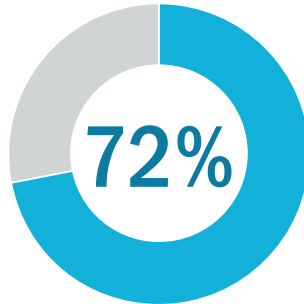


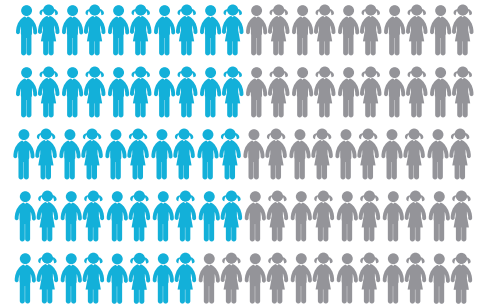
Economic Development Begins with a Better Educated & More Skilled Workforce



Too Many Very Low-Skilled Adults
1 in 7 New Mexican adults do not have a high school diploma or equivalent¹

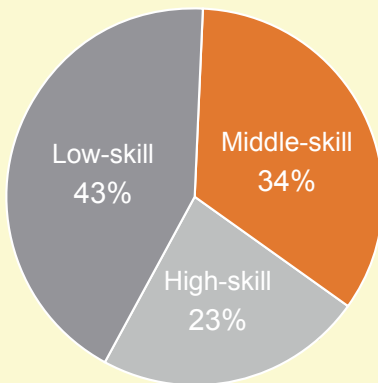


Too Many Low-Wage Jobs
The vast majority of New Mexico jobs pay wages too low to adequately support a family of 4²



Children Pay the Consequences
48% of New Mexico children live in working families that are low-income and struggling financially³

Skill Levels of New Mexico Adults⁴

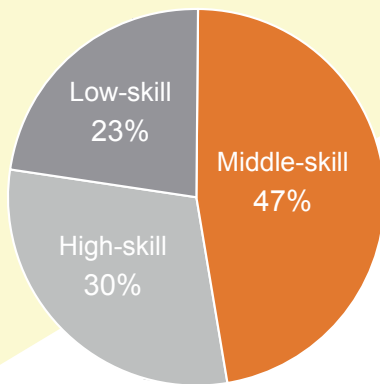


Our Skill Levels Don't Match Up with Projected Need

Middle-skill jobs, which require more than a high school diploma or equivalent but less than a four-year college degree, make up the largest share of both current and projected job openings in New Mexico.

These types of jobs usually offer family-sustaining wages but many New Mexico businesses can't find enough qualified workers and often hire from out of state.

Projected New Mexico Job Openings by Skill Level⁵



Policy Recommendations

- Better support high school dropout prevention & recovery programs.
- Continue to fund JTIP (Job Training Incentive Program) and similar initiatives.
- Increase TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funding for education & training programs.
- Increase eligibility of child care assistance to 200 percent of federal poverty line so low-income parents can go to school or job training and earn credentials that can lead to financial stability.

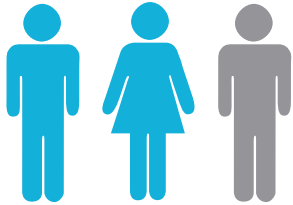
1, 3 Working Poor Families Project, Population Reference Bureau (PRB) analysis of 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) data

2 (Below 200% of the FPL for a family of 4) Working Poor Families Project, PRB analysis of 2013 OSE data

4 NM Voices for Children analysis of ACS 2010-2014 5-year estimates of educational attainment data for adults 18 and over

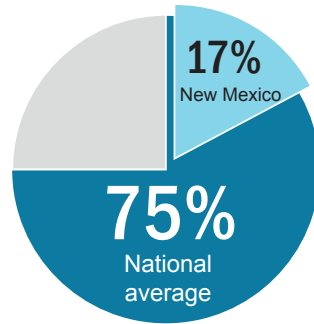
5 National Skills Coalition analysis of long-term occupational projections (2011-2021) from state labor agency data

Career Pathways Increase Credential Attainment & Workforce Development



Many Drop Out Early

Of NM high school drop outs, 2 out of 3 left school by 10th grade, so career pathways need to start early¹



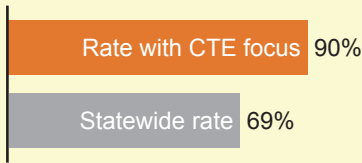
Not Enough Need-Based Aid

Just 17 percent of New Mexico's state-based financial aid is needs-based. The national average is 75 percent.²



Not Completing College

3 out of 4 NM community college students fail to earn a certificate, degree, or transfer to a 4-year institution in 3 years³



Career Focus Helps with High School Graduation

NM high school students with career technical education (CTE) concentrations are much more likely to graduate than students in general⁴



Adults do Better with Bridges

Adult students enrolled in I-BEST bridge programs are **9 times** more likely to earn workforce credentials than non I-BEST students⁵

Career Pathways are Needed to Strengthen our Workforce

High school career pathways provide exposure to careers, workforce skills, and dual enrollment opportunities that lead to higher graduation rates and college- and career-readiness.

Bridge programs for low-skilled adults integrate basic skills education with technical instruction, prepare them for college courses, and include comprehensive support services.

Adult career pathways offer stackable, interconnected, and credit-bearing steps with multiple on- and off-ramps that lead to industry-recognized credentials and degrees in high-demand occupations.

Policy Recommendations

- Develop and support a statewide framework of interconnected career pathways for youth and adults.
- Leverage the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act's (WIOA) new focus on career pathways and on integrating training and education over just 'work first'. Use the Governor's discretionary WIOA funds to support programs that help non-traditional adult students transition into college.
- Increase needs-based financial aid for low-skilled and low-income adult students.

¹ NM PED dropout rates (2010)
² Working Poor Families Project, CFED analysis of National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (2012-2013)
³ Working Poor Families Project, College Measures analysis of National Center for Education Statistics data sets as of 2015

⁴ NM PED high school graduation rates (2013-2014)

⁵ I-BEST fact sheet, Washington State Board of Community & Technical Colleges (2012)
 NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN