Improving Child Well-Being in New Mexico

INDICATOR: Children Living in Poverty*

**WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to 49th

It would take a 1% drop in child poverty

Which means 690 fewer children in poverty

To move up 5+ rankings to 41st

It would take an 11% drop in child poverty

Which means 15,500 fewer children in poverty

To move up to the top ranking 1st

It would take a 55% drop in child poverty

Which means 79,800 fewer children in poverty

**WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO**

- Restore eligibility for child care assistance to pre-recession levels (200% of federal poverty level).
- Raise the state’s minimum wage and index it to rise with inflation, raise the tipped wage to 60% of the minimum wage, and enact policies to prevent wage theft.
- Increase refundable tax credits like the Working Families Tax Credit and the Low Income Comprehensive Tax Rebate, and enact a more progressive income tax system.
- Enact tougher restrictions on predatory loans (payday, car title loans, etc).
- Support and promote the availability of resources and assistance for kinship foster care families and grandparents helping to raise their grandchildren.

*Children living in families with incomes below $23,850 for a family of two adults and two children, 2014

**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2016; changes in other states’ outcomes can also influence New Mexico’s future rankings.

Sources: Rankings from: KIDS COUNT Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2014.