Improving Child Well-Being in New Mexico

Economic Well-Being

INDICATOR: Children in Families without Secure Employment

2016 indicator ranking: 48th

Percent of children in families without secure employment: 36%

Number of children in families without secure employment: 182,000

Trends in children in families without secure employment

WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES

To move up 1+ rankings to 47th:

It would take a 3% drop in children in this situation

Which means 5,300 fewer children in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to 41st:

It would take an 8% drop in children in this situation

Which means 15,300 fewer children in this situation

To move up to the top ranking:

It would take a 44% drop in children in this situation

Which means 83,300 fewer children in this situation

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

- Restore eligibility levels for child care assistance to pre-recession levels (200% of FPL).
- Expand access to high school equivalency, adult basic education, English as a second language, job training, and career pathways programs.
- Target WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funds to support bridge and career pathways programs that help low-skill parents earn high school equivalency diplomas and industry-recognized credentials in in-demand occupations. For parents with significant barriers to employment, use funds for on-the-job training, paid internships, and subsidized or transitional employment.

*Children (ages 0-17) living in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment, 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