Improving Child Well-Being in New Mexico

**INDICATOR:** Children Living in High-Poverty Areas*

2016 indicator ranking: 49th

Percent of children living in high-poverty areas: 26%

Number of children living in high-poverty areas: 135,000

**WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to 48th:
- It would take a 8% drop in children living in high-poverty areas.
- Which means 10,200 fewer children in this situation.

To move up 5+ rankings to 40th:
- It would take a 34% drop in children living in high-poverty areas.
- Which means 46,000 fewer children in this situation.

To move up to the top ranking:
- It would take a 93% drop in children living in high-poverty areas.
- Which means 127,700 fewer children in this situation.

**WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO**

- Increase access to affordable housing in safe areas with jobs for low-income families and families of color by expanding incentives for developers to build mixed-income housing developments.
- Promote community change efforts that integrate revitalization with human capital development.
- Increase funding for Individual Development Accounts to help parents save for buying a home.
- Target strategic economic development strategies that create good jobs in high-poverty areas.
- Target WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funds to support education and job training programs for parents.
- Help low-income workers by increasing the Working Families Tax Credit and the minimum wage.

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*Children (ages 0-17) living in high-poverty areas, which are defined as census tracts with poverty rates equal to or greater than 30%.

**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.