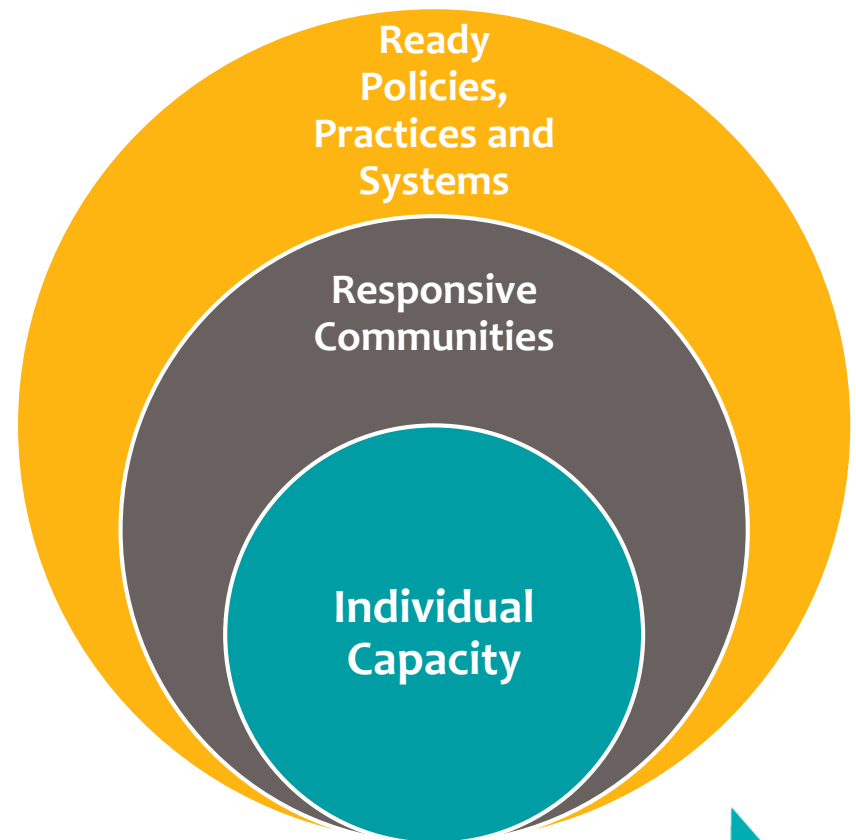




# ADVOCACY TACTICS 101

NMCAN partners with young people to build community, promote equity, and lead change.

We work to improve the transition from foster care and/or juvenile justice to adulthood.





# ADVOCACY SUCCESS

- Medicaid to 26 for Foster Youth
- Prudent Parenting
- Tuition Waiver for Foster Youth
- Support for Transferring Students
- Tax Credit for Foster Youth





# **BASICS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**

# Why advocate?

- Your credibility and knowledge
- Constituents/voters matter to elected officials
- Elected officials need and want your expertise
- Policymakers do listen

# How?

- Personal or group visits
- Personal letters
- Phone calls
- Emails
- Press conferences, press releases
- Testimony at committee hearings

# When?

- During a campaign... to influence the agenda
- After the campaign... to influence priorities
- Before a legislative session... because they have time to listen
- During a legislative session... to inform the bill
- After a legislative session... to thank them or express disappointment with their votes



# New Mexico's Legislature

- 60-day session for all business (odd years)
- 30-day session for budget issues only & Governor priorities (even years)
- Ongoing interim committee hearings for reports on past actions and to prepare for the next session



# Before the legislative process

- Agree on priorities and be united
- Use evidence-based advocacy
- Enlist your allies
- Identify your opponents and know weak points
- Create a good bill
- Develop both factual and emotional arguments
- Select bill sponsors
- Contact key players
- Plan a media campaign
- Organize and mobilize supporters

# How a bill becomes a law

- Proposal is presented to an interim committee or legislator
- A supporter is enlisted as the sponsor
- The bill is:
  - Drafted by Legislative Council Service
  - Introduced in the House, Senate, or both
  - Heard in committee hearings
  - Debated and voted on by the entire House or Senate (after passing committees)
- If passed, it goes to the other body for the same process of committee hearings and a vote of the entire body
- If passed by House and Senate, it goes to Governor to sign, veto, line item veto, or pocket veto



**AUTHENTICALLY ENGAGE  
STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PROCESS**



## Contact Us

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