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

NMCAN.org
Ezra.Spitzer@nmcan.org
Arika.Sanchez@nmcan.org
Facebook.com/NMCAN/