

# Turning Data into Action



Bernalillo County Workshop

May 18, 2018

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**New Mexico Voices for Children**



# Introductions

- Name
- Organization
- In a few words, what's the most important child well-being issue in your community?



# NM Voices for Children

*Our mission is to champion public policies that improve the well-being of New Mexico's children, families, and communities in the areas of health, education, and economics through credible research and effective advocacy.*



# Agenda

## 1. Data overview

- *What do the data say about Bernalillo County and New Mexico?*

## 2. Policy priorities

- *How can improving policy improve outcomes?*

## 3. Legislative advocacy

- *How can we advocate for issue that are important to our communities?*



# Data Overview



# What is KIDS COUNT?

DATA - RESEARCH - POLICY



*Because all children, regardless of where they live, how much money their parents make, or the color of their skin should have the best possible shot at reaching their full potential.*



[www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)



# Reports



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

## A Health Impact Assessment of the Food Tax in New Mexico

An analysis of the taxation of groceries and its impacts on the health of the state's communities

November 2015  
Updated January 2016

NEW MEXICO  
**VOICES**  
FOR CHILDREN

[www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)





# Factsheets

## 2017 Legislative Session Summary

New Mexico Voices for Children analyzed and supported or opposed more than 225 pieces of legislation during the regular session.



Legislation marked with this logo is recommended in our *NM KIDS are COUNTing on Us* policy campaign.

### TAX FAIRNESS & BUDGET ADEQUACY

The \$6.1 billion budget kept funding essentially flat for K-12, Medicaid, and early childhood care and education (HB 2).

Legislation to raise \$350 in new revenue, including an internet tax, truck fees, motor vehicle excise tax, health care provider fee, and a 2-year freeze of the corporate income tax cuts (HB 202) – passed but was **VETOED**.

Legislation to repeal dozens of gross receipts tax breaks starting in 2019 and 2021 (HB 191) – passed but was **VETOED**.

Legislation to increase the value of the Working Families Tax Credit (HB 311) – failed.

Several attempts to tax food, including a last-minute attempt to create a new 4% tax on all food – successfully defeated.

### ECONOMIC SECURITY AND PROSPERITY

Two bills to raise the state minimum wage – passed:  
 • \$9 phased in over 18 months with a 2-month training wage at \$8 (SB 386) – **VETOED**.  
 • \$9.25 with a preemption on local scheduling laws (HB 442) – **VETOED**.

Several other preemption bills and amendments – successfully defeated.

Family caregiver leave act (HB 86) – passed but was **VETOED**.

Ban the box (SB 78) – passed but was **VETOED**.



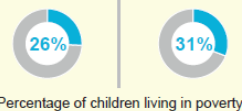
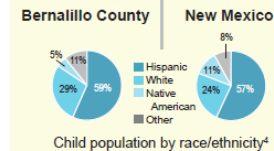
New Mexico Voices for Children  
 625 Silver Ave. SW, Suite 105  
 Albuquerque, NM 87102  
 505-244-9505 • www.nmvoices.org



## Bernalillo

### Investments in Early Childhood Education are Still N

About this county<sup>1</sup>  
 Senate Dist: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25  
 House Districts: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 50, 68, 69



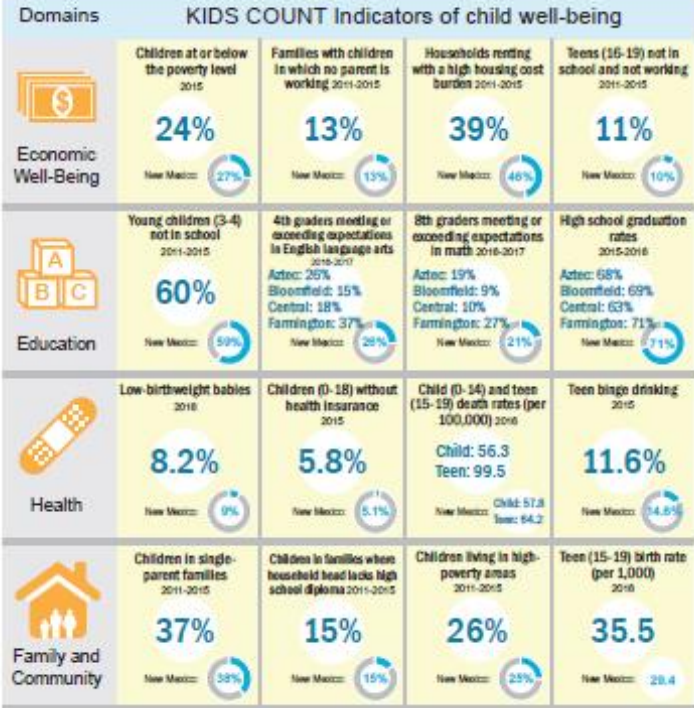
Bernalillo County	NM
Total child population	157,973 / 513,903
Children under 5	44,406 / 141,533
Children under 10	88,602 / 285,278
Children living in low-income families	73,564 / 262,601
Median household income	\$48,801 / \$43,872

Number of T.E.A.C.H. scholarships awarded last year	205	652
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T.E.A.C.H. scholarships allow early education providers to increase their educational and training levels, and lead to higher-quality programs.

<sup>1</sup> About this county data from: Census ACS (demographics); and the New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children (T.E.A.C.H. scholarships)  
<sup>2</sup> Population served data from: CYFD and PED, 2014  
<sup>3</sup> Estimated investment is based on LFC's average per child investment in FY14  
<sup>4</sup> Race/ethnicity numbers may not total 100% due to rounding and/or categories that are not included in the data  
<sup>5</sup> For detailed sources and notes, please go to www.nmvoices.org

## San Juan County KIDS COUNT Profile



The above data are identical to data presented in the 2017 New Mexico Kids Count Data Book.  
 Note: Unless otherwise noted, "TODAY'S" refers to ages 0-17.

Sources: Children in poverty: U.S. Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates; Families with no working parent: American Community Survey (ACS) Table B02307; Households with high housing cost burden: ACS Table B02302; Teens not in school/working: ACS Table B14022; English Language Arts and Math proficiency: NM Public Education Department (PED); "PARCC" Proficiency 2017; High school graduation rates: NM PED; "Youthline" survey of 2015-16 New Graduation Rates; Low birthweight babies: NM Department of Health (DOH); Indicator-based Information System for Public Health (ISPH); Children without health insurance: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates; Child and teen death rates: NM DOH (2016); Teen binge drinking: NM Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey; Children in single-parent families: ACS Table B09002; Children in families where household head lacks high school diploma: ACS Table B17076; Children living in high-poverty areas: Population Reference Bureau analysis of ACS data; Teen birth rate: NM DOH (2016).

Get more KIDS COUNT data at [datacenter.kidscount.org/data/nm](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/nm)

\$3,456,950 invested



# KIDS COUNT Data Center



# Quiz

*Q: What percentage of children in Bernalillo County live in poverty?*

*A: 25 percent*

*New Mexico: 27 percent*



# Quiz

*Q: Which Bernalillo County school district has the highest rate of 4<sup>th</sup> graders meeting or exceeding English/Language Arts standards?*

*A: Moriarty, 30 percent*

*New Mexico: 26 percent*



# Quiz

*Q: What is the rate of children without health insurance in Bernalillo County?*

*A: 4.4 percent*

*New Mexico: 5.1 percent*



# Quiz

*Q: What percentage of Bernalillo County children live in families where the household head lacks high school diploma?*

*A: 12 percent*

*New Mexico: 15 percent*



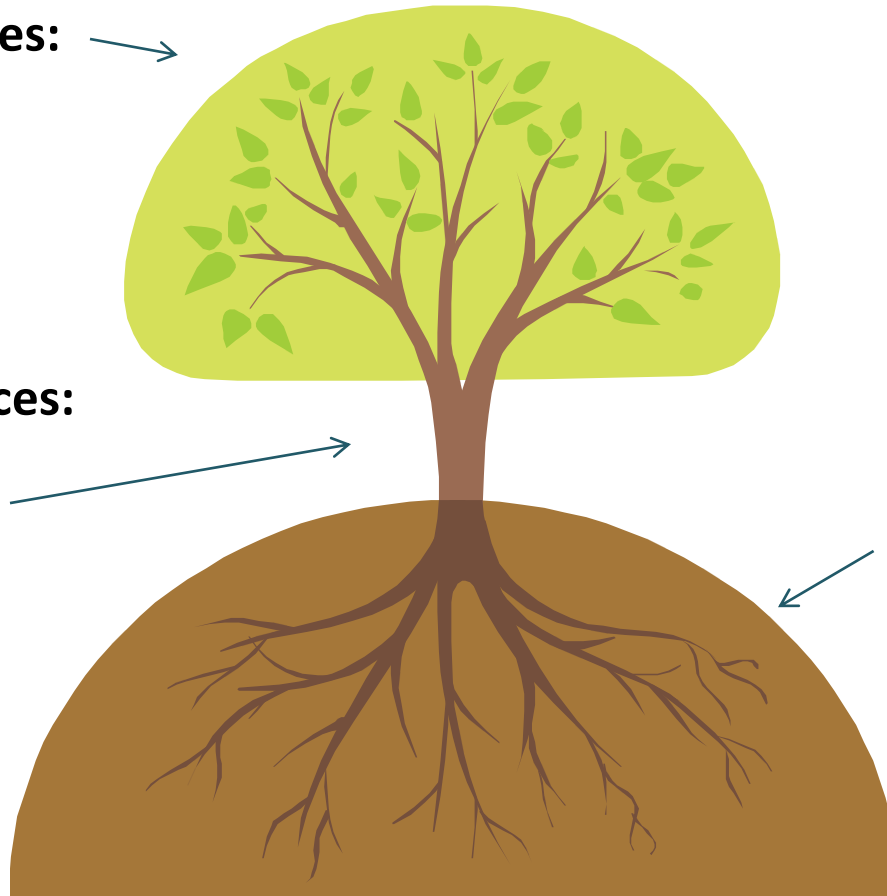
# Social Determinants of Health

## Health Outcomes:

- cancer
- diabetes
- asthma
- depression

## Health Choices:

- diet
- exercise
- drinking
- smoking



## Social, economic & environmental factors :

- education
- child care
- healthy food
- housing
- health care
- work environment
- wages & benefits
- transportation
- air & water quality
- A.C.E.S.





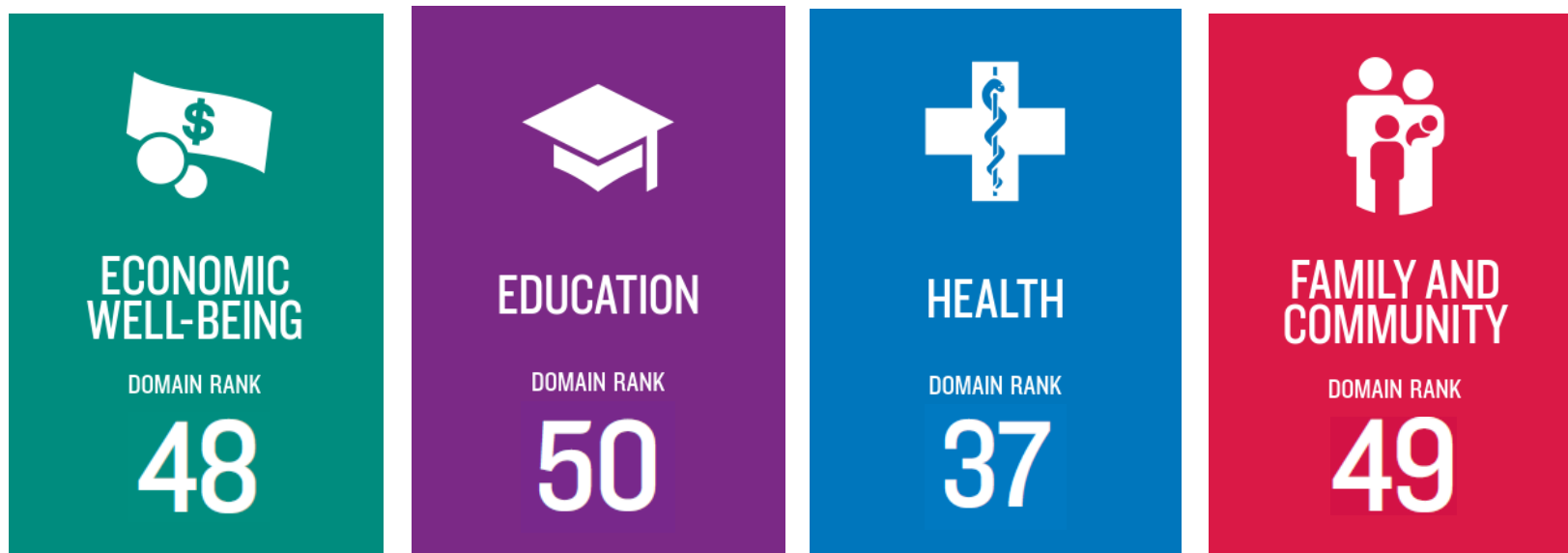
# Two Pathways



[www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)

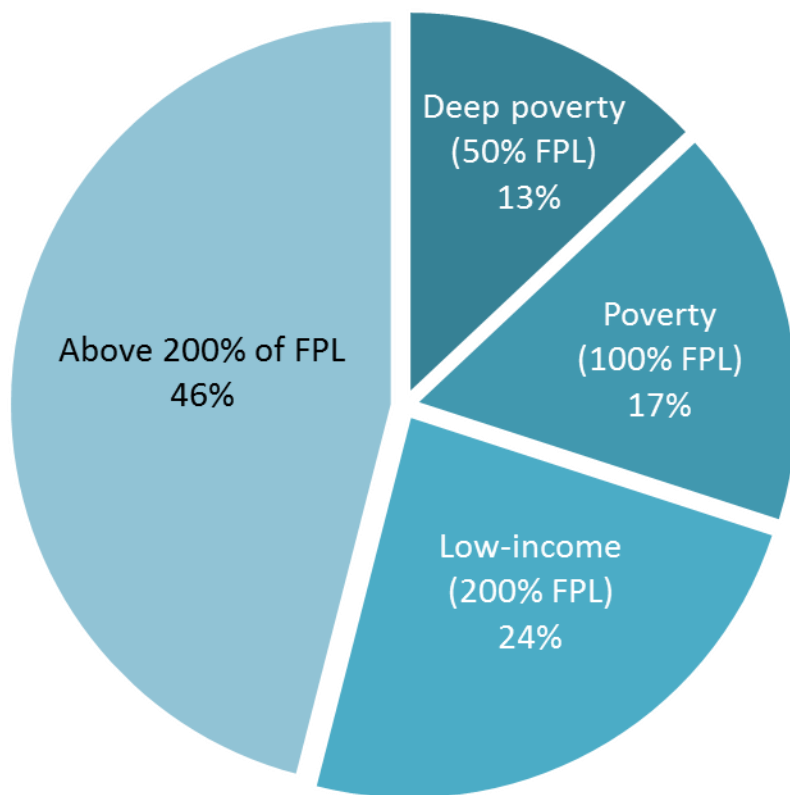
# We are ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in child well-being

And some indicators are particularly alarming



# Most NM kids are in low-income households or living in poverty

## New Mexico's Children by Income Group



*\* The federal poverty level in 2016 was \$24,600 for a family of four.*

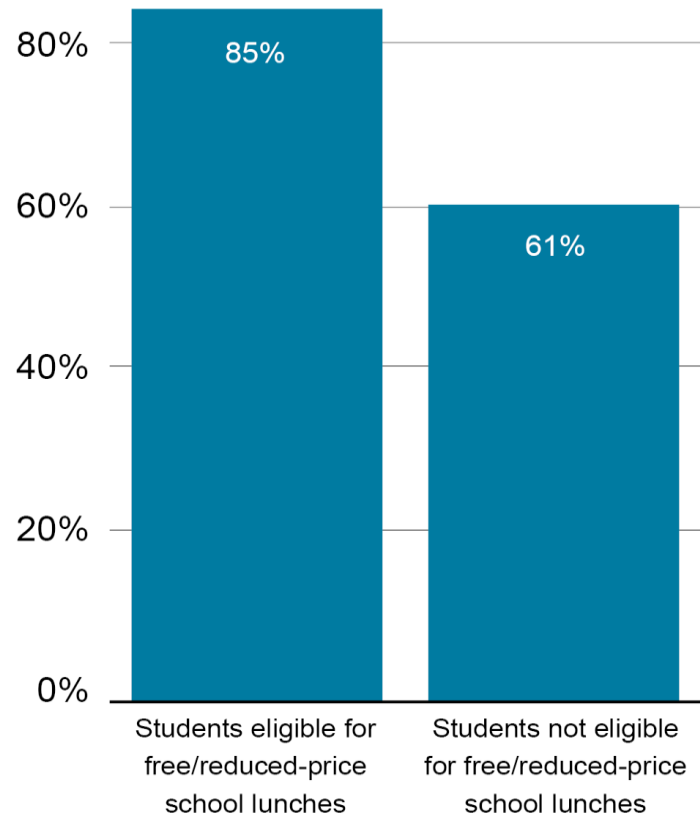


Source: US Census, American Community Survey data, 2016



# Income levels impact education

## Fourth Graders Who Scored Below Proficient in Reading by Family Income



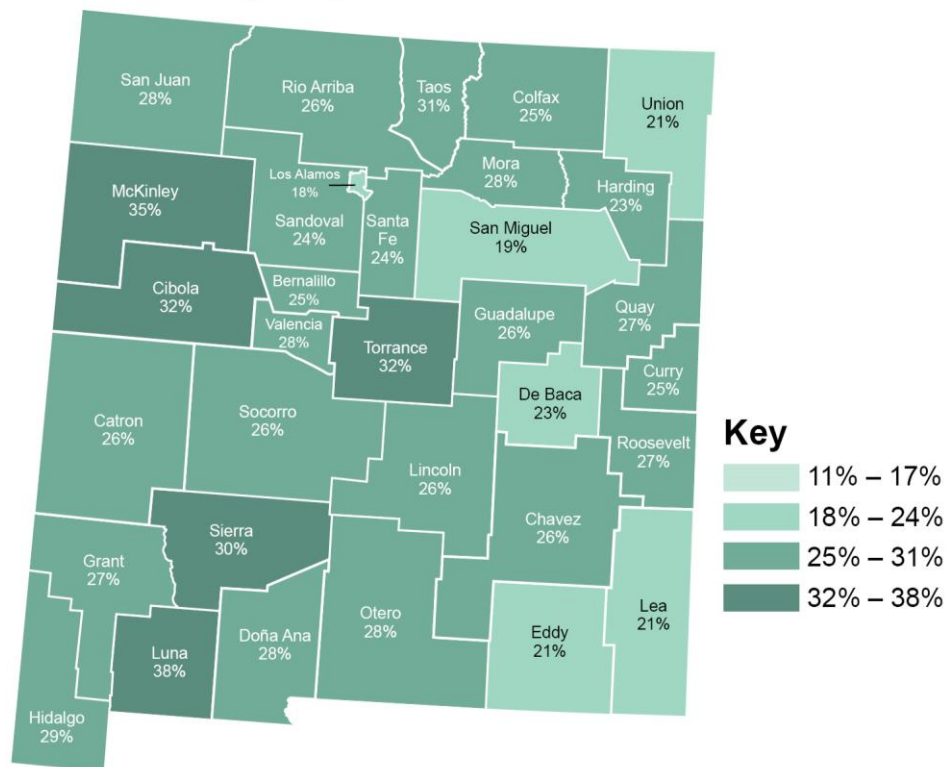
Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2013

# Too many NM kids don't have enough to eat

## 25% of New Mexico's Children are Food Insecure

That's the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Highest Rate in  
the U.S.

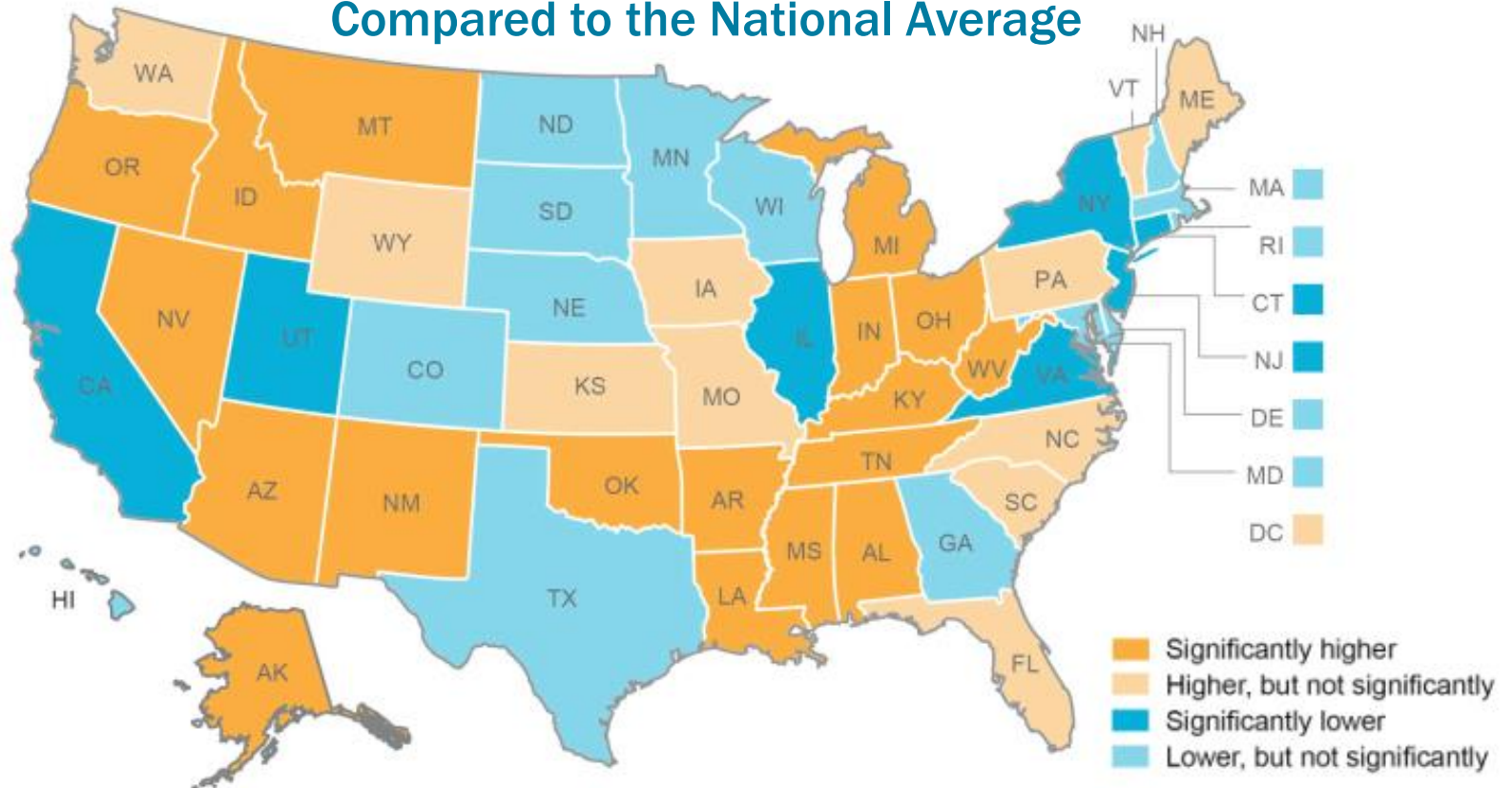
Percentage of children who are food insecure (2013)



Source: *Map the Meal Gap*, Feeding America, 2017

# Most NM children experience trauma

Percentage of Children Who Have Experienced at Least Two Traumas,  
Compared to the National Average



Source: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Survey of Children's Health



# Disparities exist in most indicators

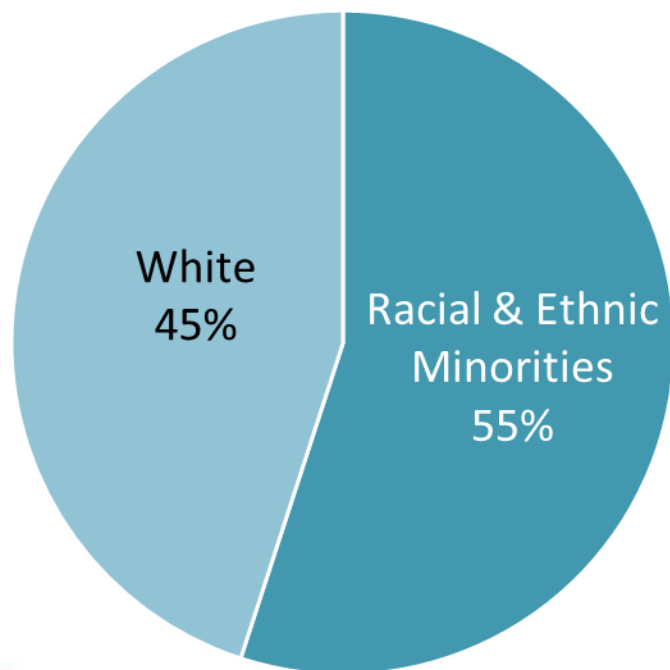
- Poverty
- Health insurance
- Early childhood education and care
- Hunger



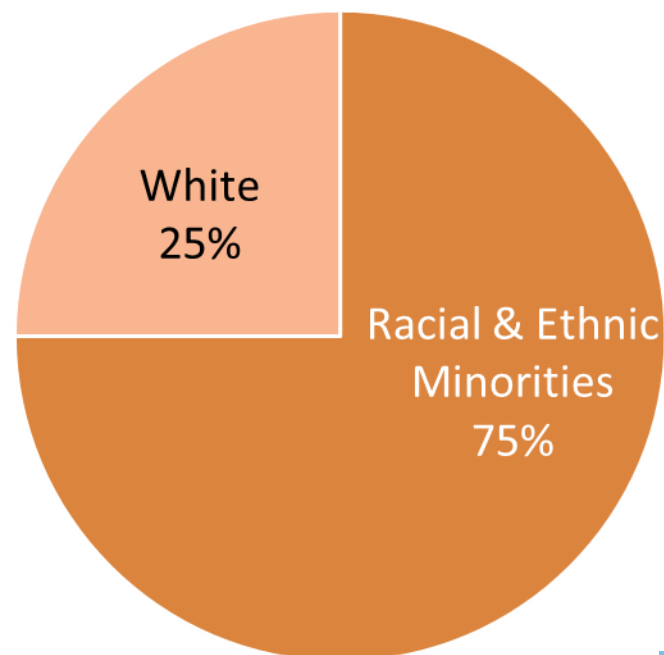
# NM is ahead of the demographic trend

## Child Population by Race and Ethnicity

United States, 2030



New Mexico, 2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

**Nobody likes to hear the bad news,  
but there's good news too: policy matters**

**better reading &  
math scores**

**lower rates of  
food insecurity**

**better health outcomes**

**higher grad rates**

**lower remedial  
education costs**



# Benefits of Medicaid

- Covers 850,000 New Mexicans (including 325,000 children) with high-quality health insurance
- Over \$5 billion in federal funds flow through NM's economy because of federal match
- Supports 50,000 jobs in health care sector
- Provides key payment source for NM providers
- Few premiums or co-pays



# Benefits of Medicaid expansion

- Uninsured rate in NM cut in half
- 187,000 additional New Mexicans now eligible
- Billions in additional federal funds and thousands of additional jobs created
- State costs increased by only 5% while coverage increased by 80%



# Tell Us Your Stories

- *How have you seen these statistics in your own work and communities?*
- *What are some challenges/barriers to accessing Medicaid and healthcare in general?*





# Progress IS possible

And we're making some important gains

- 31,000 more NM kids have health insurance
- 4,100 more NM kids have access to pre-K
- 3,800 more NM families receive home visiting
- Big improvements in teen drug use and birth rates

*Most indicators are improving*



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey; NM Legislative Finance Committee, *Post Session Review, 2017*



# Policy Priorities

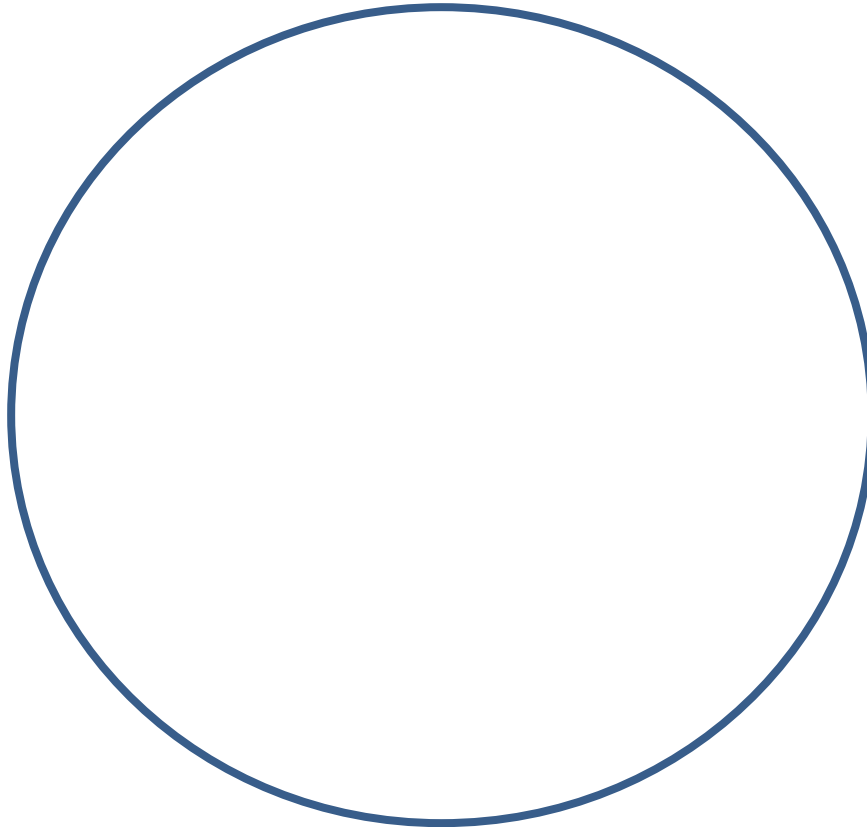


# How we got here

- 14% cut in per-pupil K-12 spending from 2008-2018.
- 35% cut in per-pupil higher education spending, leading to steep tuition increases.
- Cuts to special education funding, resulting in an even greater loss of federal dollars for special ed.
- Enrollment in child care assistance has dropped by 27% since 2010.
- Cut U.I. benefits, including the increment for children of unemployed workers.
- Underfunding of the Medicaid program by hundreds of millions in recent years.
- Tax cuts made our tax system even more regressive AND we have hundreds of millions of dollars less AND the tax cuts failed to create jobs.



# State General Fund Budget = \$6.3 billion

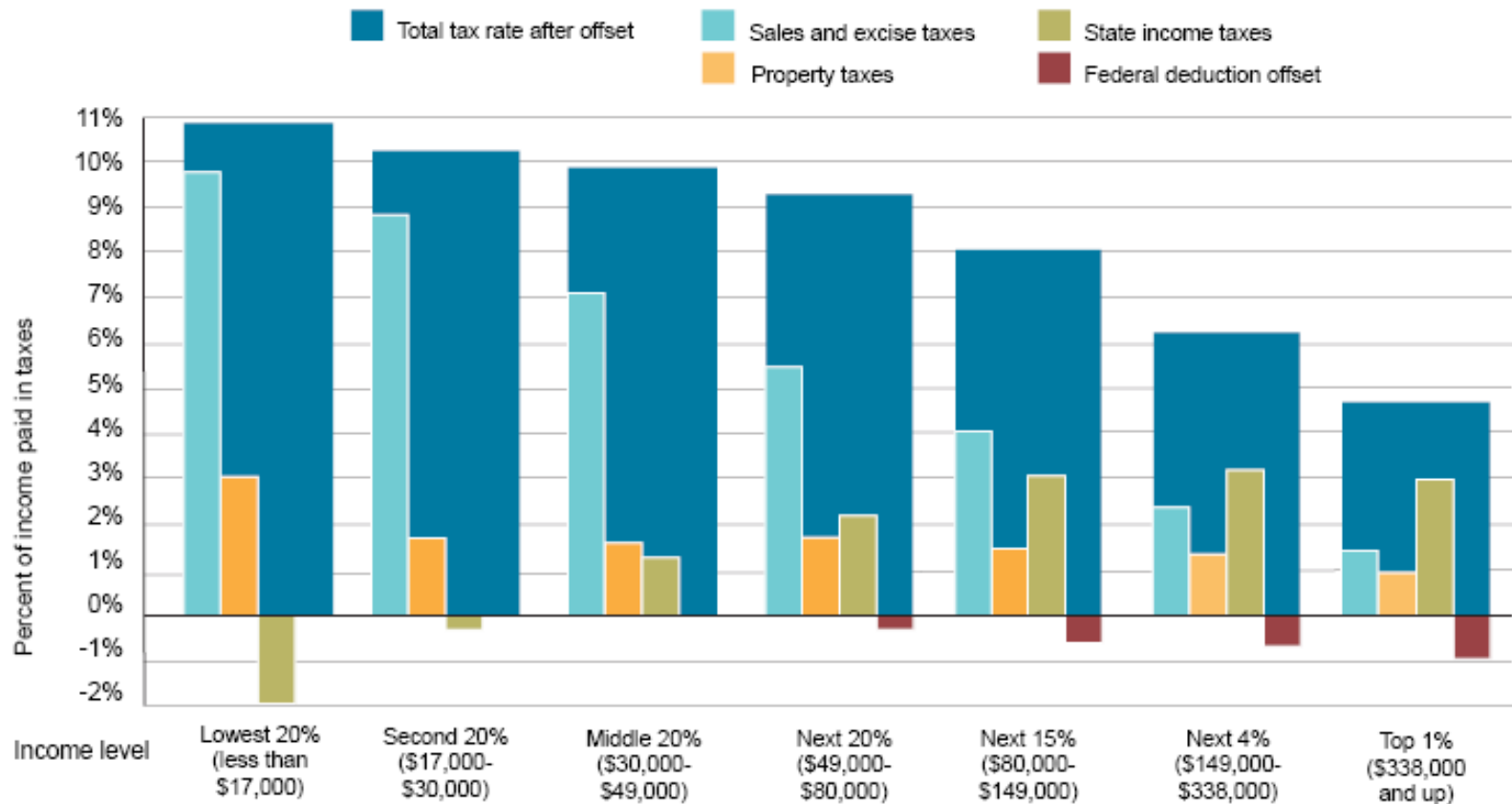


Medicaid	____%
Other health and human services	____%
K-12 education	____%
Early education/care	____%
Higher education	____%
Public safety, courts	____%
All other	____%



# Our tax system asks the most of those who can afford it least

Those in NM with the Lowest Incomes Pay the Highest Rates in State and Local Taxes



Source: *Who Pays?*, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, 2015

# Improve our tax system

*Child poverty is a longstanding pervasive issue and we need a set of targeted initiatives to end child poverty*

- NM's tax system is grossly unfair to working families.
- 75% of families pay more than **double** what the richest families pay in state and local taxes as a share of their incomes.
- Our tax policy has been driven by a false promise to create jobs, but it has come at the expense of our kids and families.





# The Earned Income Tax Credit and NM's Working Families Tax Credit

- EITC injects \$500 million into NM economy.
- NM's Working Families Tax Credit returns \$50 million to working families.
- 97% goes to working families with kids.
- Without these two credits, 40,000 *more* NM families would be in poverty.
- If tax reform is debated, lawmakers should consider increasing the WFTC to at least 15% of the EITC.

*“The best anti-poverty, the best pro-family, the best job creation measure to come out of Congress.”*

- Ronald Reagan on the EITC



# Raise new revenue to avoid more harmful budget cuts

- Reverse the big corporate income tax cut.
- Enact combined reporting of all corporate taxes.
- Repeal the capital gains exemption.
- Enact a new PIT increase or surtax on high incomes.
- Enact a new health care provider assessment fee.
- Raise tobacco and alcohol taxes.
- Repeal ineffective or wasteful tax breaks.
- Tax all internet sales.



# Big impact/no cost initiatives

## *No cost to the general fund*

- Increase the minimum wage.
- Enact paid sick leave & expand family medical leave.
- End predatory lending practices like payday, car title, rent-to-own, and tax refund lending by capping interest rates at 36%.
- Invest a fraction of the Land Grant Permanent Fund in early care and education.



# Early care and education

- Current funding is serving only a fraction of our eligible children.
- Eligibility for child care assistance is below 2001 levels (child care costs more than tuition at UNM).
- Enrollment in child care assistance is 27% **lower** than it was in 2010.
- NM needs a strong commitment to ECE and a stable and robust source of funding.



# Fully fund early childhood care and learning programs

Invest 1% of \$18 billion LGPF

- To fund home visiting, child care assistance, NM pre-K, and workforce development.
- A dedicated, adequate, stable funding source.
- Does not raise taxes.
- LGPF will continue to grow.
- ECE provides better ROI than the stock market.



# Fully fund child abuse prevention

- Prioritize early childhood care and education.
- Add ACEs screening to EPSDT.
- Reduce child protective services vacancy rate.
- Ensure adequate compensation and ongoing, extensive training for caseworkers.
- Restore and increase behavioral health services for families.



# Who is still uninsured?

## Remaining uninsured in New Mexico (2016)

80,000 Medicaid Eligible Adults  <b>33%</b>	29,000 Medicaid Eligible Children  <b>12%</b>	31,000 APTC Tax Credit Eligible  <b>13%</b>	27,000 Ineligible Income  <b>11%</b>	29,000 Ineligible Employer Offer  <b>12%</b>	44,000 Ineligible Citizenship  <b>18%</b>
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Medicaid buy-in is a viable option to help many uninsured access affordable health care insurance



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation



# If Medicaid buy-in was an option

- Medicaid-ineligible consumers could use premium tax credits to buy into Medicaid.
- Medicaid buy-in plans could be cheaper than what's available on the exchange.
- Would get more coverage for less.
- Medicaid buy-in plans could be offered to non-citizens and to employers.





# How can you support the campaign?

If you support this initiative,  
contact Health Action NM  
how you would like to  
support the campaign!

Colin Baillio  
Health Action NM  
(505) 331-8818  
[Colin@HealthActionNM.org](mailto:Colin@HealthActionNM.org)



# Medicaid and SNAP policy recommendations

- Fully fund Medicaid
- Maximize enrollment in all federally funded health and nutrition programs.
- Simplify enrollment and recertification.
- Implement express-lane eligibility.
- Expand outreach efforts especially to women of child-bearing age to assure healthy births.
- Do not institute Medicaid work requirements



# Priorities Activity

- *Tell us what your budget priorities would be*
- *What are your policy recommendations?*
  - *What works? What doesn't work?*



# NM Voices Children's Agenda

New Mexico Kids at the Crossroads

*A Children's Agenda for Making  
KIDS COUNT with Candidates*



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FOR CHILDREN

2018

NEW MEXICO  
**VOICES**  
FOR CHILDREN

NEW MEXICO  
**kids**  
count

# Legislative Advocacy



# New Mexico's Legislature

- Meets for a 60-day session on odd-numbered years to do ***all*** business.
- Meets for a 30-day session on even-numbered years for budget issues only, plus whatever the Governor wants.
- Meets between regular sessions for interim committee hearings to hear reports on past actions and to prepare for the next session.



# Representation

- Senators represent about 50,000 people (or about 27,500 who vote).
- Representatives represent about 30,000 people (or about 16,500 who vote).



# Why Advocate?

- **Your credibility, knowledge, caring.**
- Constituents/Voters matter to elected officials.
- Elected officials need and want your expertise.
- *You* have a vote and a voice, children *don't*.
- Policymakers *do* listen.
- The squeaky wheel gets the oil.
- When you advocate for change, *you* change.





# How?

- Personal or group visits
- Personal letters
- Phone calls
- Emails
- **Letters to the editor and op-ed pieces**
- Editorial board meetings
- Press conferences, press releases
- Radio talk shows
- Testimony at committee hearings



# Who?

- Your own elected officials (and candidates!)
- Committee members
- Committee chairs
- Legislative leadership
- Legislative staff and analysts
- Department officials and analysts
- General public (through the media)



# 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.
- After a legislative session... to thank them or express your disappointment with their votes.



# Do's

- Be *united* and well *organized*.
- Make an appointment.
- Be quick with gratitude, but slow to criticize.
- Be courteous and respectful.
- Use *both* data and personal stories.
- Be concise and to the point.
- Make it *simple*.
- Ask for what you want.
- Report back.



# Don'ts

- Be late.
- Be argumentative, arrogant, condescending or threatening.
- Exaggerate.
- Overwhelm them with too much data.
- Take more time than you were offered.
- *Never* burn bridges. Leave the door open for further discussion, on this or other issues.



# For Info on Bills and Legislators

[www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)

- To find a legislator, click on **Legislators**
- To find a bill, click on **Legislation**
- To find the schedule of committee hearings and the agenda for the Senate and House, click on **What's Happening**
- To watch committees or floor sessions, click on **Webcast**



# Legislative and Executive Contact

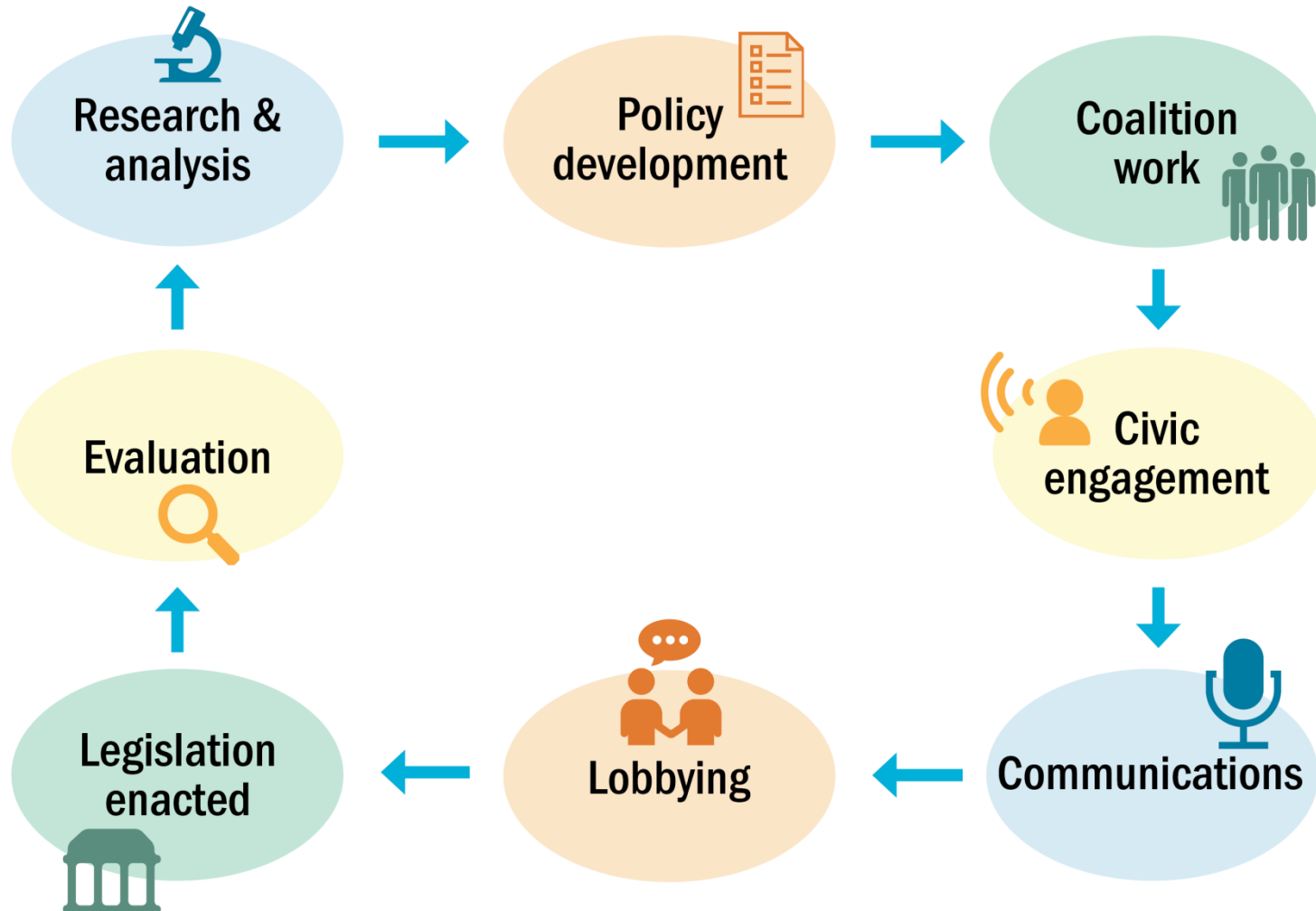
- Governor: 505-476-2200  
[www.gov.state.nm.us](http://www.gov.state.nm.us)
- Legislature (Capitol switchboard): 505-986-4300  
[www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)

## Tracking Legislation

- NM Legislature: [www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)
- New Mexico Voices for Children: [www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)



# Legislative Advocacy Flowchart





# Congressional Contact Info

- Sen. Martin Heinrich 202-224-5521  
[www.heinrich.senate.gov](http://www.heinrich.senate.gov)
- Sen. Tom Udall 202-224-6621  
[www.tomudall.senate.gov](http://www.tomudall.senate.gov)
- Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham 202-225-6316  
[www.lujangrisham.house.gov](http://www.lujangrisham.house.gov)
- Rep. Ben Ray Lujan 202-225-6190  
[www.house.gov/lujan](http://www.house.gov/lujan)
- Rep. Steve Pearce 202-225-2365  
[www.house.gov/pearce](http://www.house.gov/pearce)



# Advocacy Sharing

Share examples of advocacy you have been involved in

- *What were your goals?*
- *Who did you partner with?*
- *What were the challenges?*
- *What were you able to accomplish?*
- *What did you learn from the experience?*



# Thank you!

NM Voices' advocacy work is *not*  
to help kids beat the odds,  
but rather to *change* the odds.

*for more information:*

**New Mexico Voices for Children**

[www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)

[www.datacenter.kidscount.org](http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org)

Jacob Vigil: [jvigil@nmvoices.org](mailto:jvigil@nmvoices.org)  
Bill Jordan: [bjordan@nmvoices.org](mailto:bjordan@nmvoices.org)

