

Turning Data into Action



San Juan County Workshop

April 27th, 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 San Juan 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



Reports



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

A Health Impact Assessment of a Food Tax in New Mexico

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

November 2015
Updated January 2016

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FOR CHILDREN



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KIDS COUNT Data Center



Quiz

Q: What percentage of children in San Juan County live in poverty?

A: 24 percent

New Mexico: 27 percent



Quiz

Q: Which San Juan County school district has the highest rate of 4th graders meeting or exceeding English/Language Arts standards?

A: Aztec, at 26 percent

New Mexico: 26 percent



Quiz

Q: What is the rate of children without health insurance in San Juan County?

A: 5.8 percent

New Mexico: 5.1 percent



Quiz

Q: What percentage of San Juan County children live in single parent families?

A: 37 percent

New Mexico: 38 percent



Social Determinants of Health

Health Outcomes:

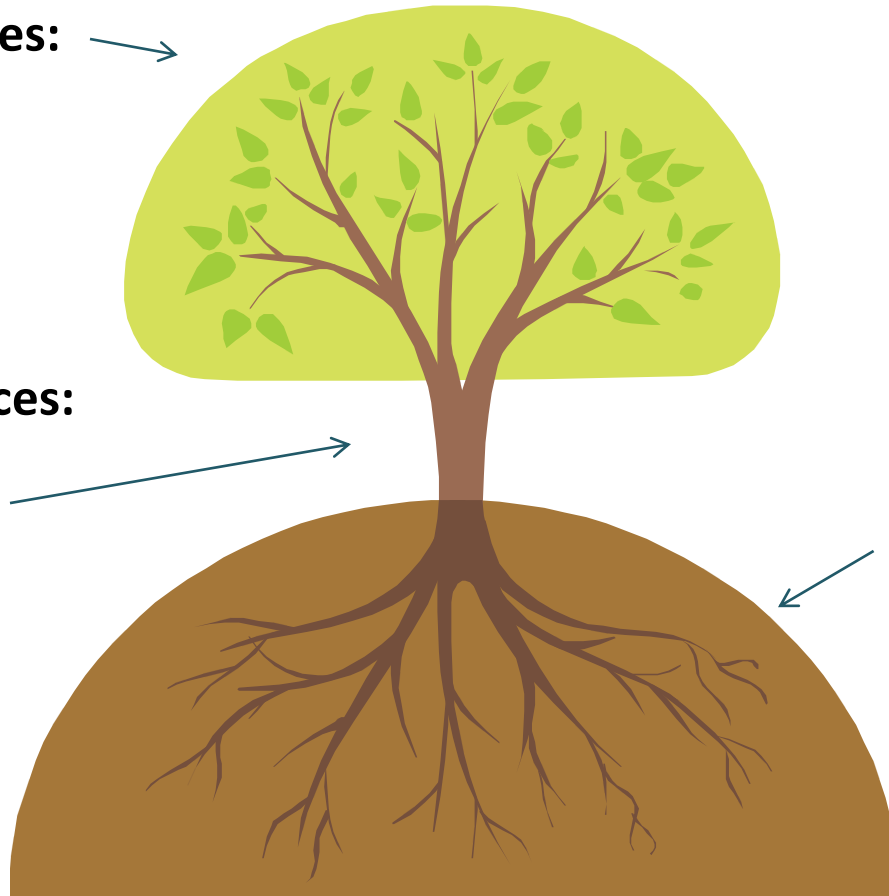
- cancer
- diabetes
- asthma
- depression

Health Choices:

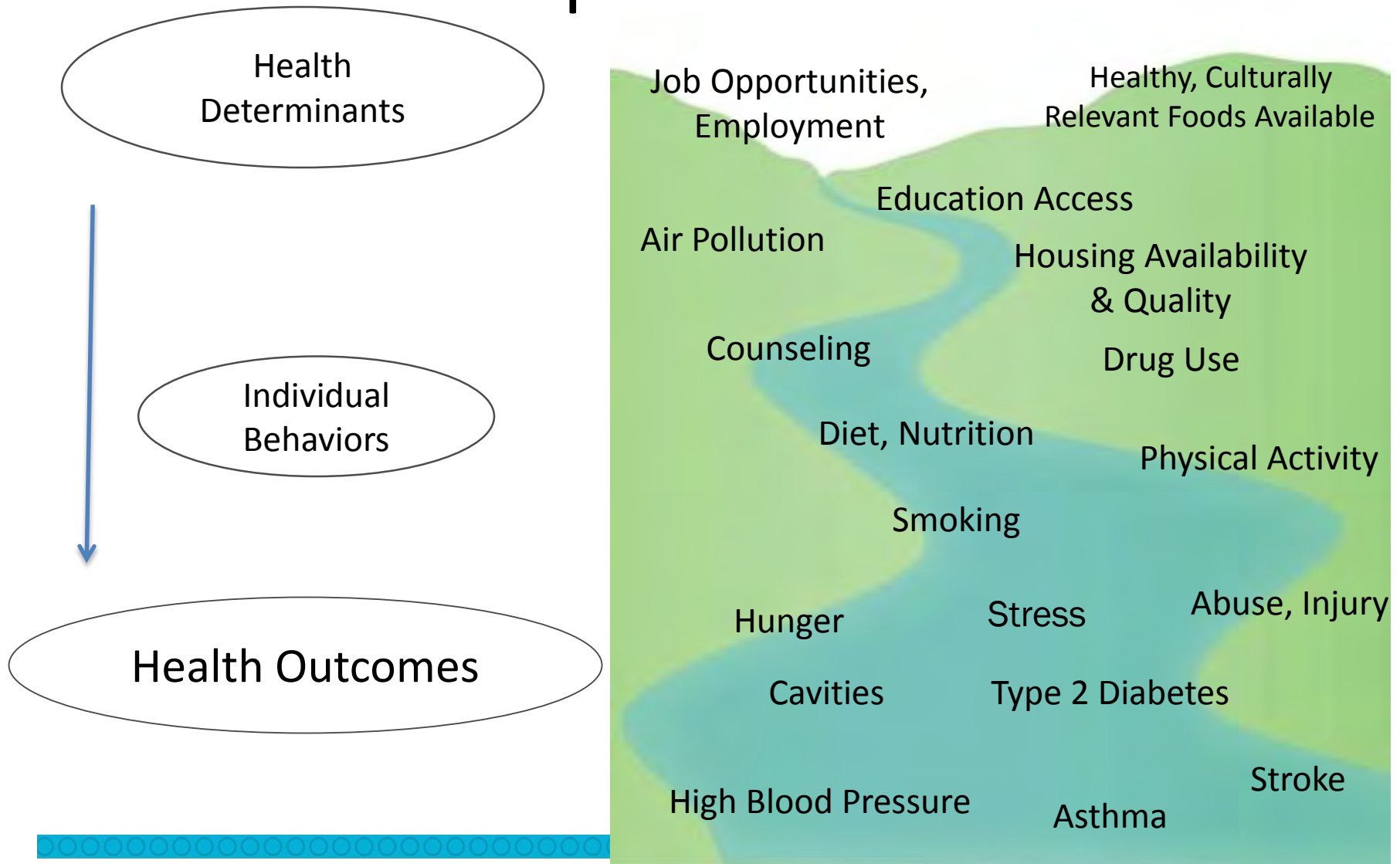
- diet
- exercise
- drinking
- smoking

Social, economic & environmental factors :

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



Social determinants of health happen “upstream”



Our environments impact our health



Two Pathways



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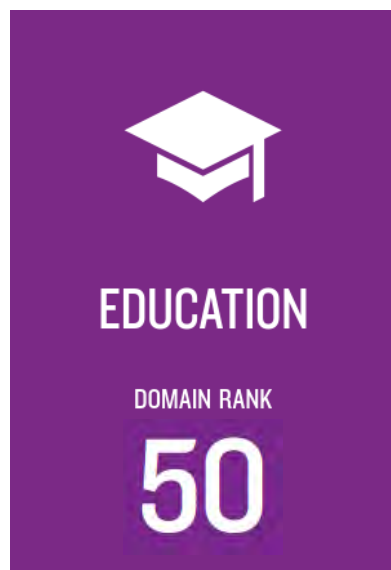
Tell Us Your Stories

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



We are ranked 49th in child well-being

And some indicators are particularly alarming



NM's children face high hurdles to success

poor educational
outcomes

food insecurity

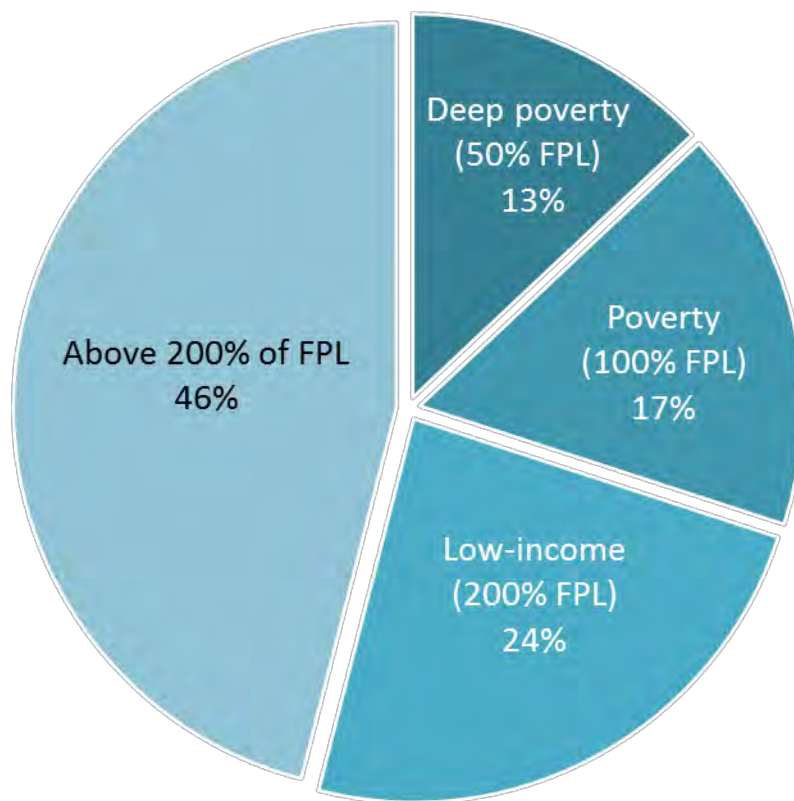
poverty

child abuse low access to early
education & care



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.*

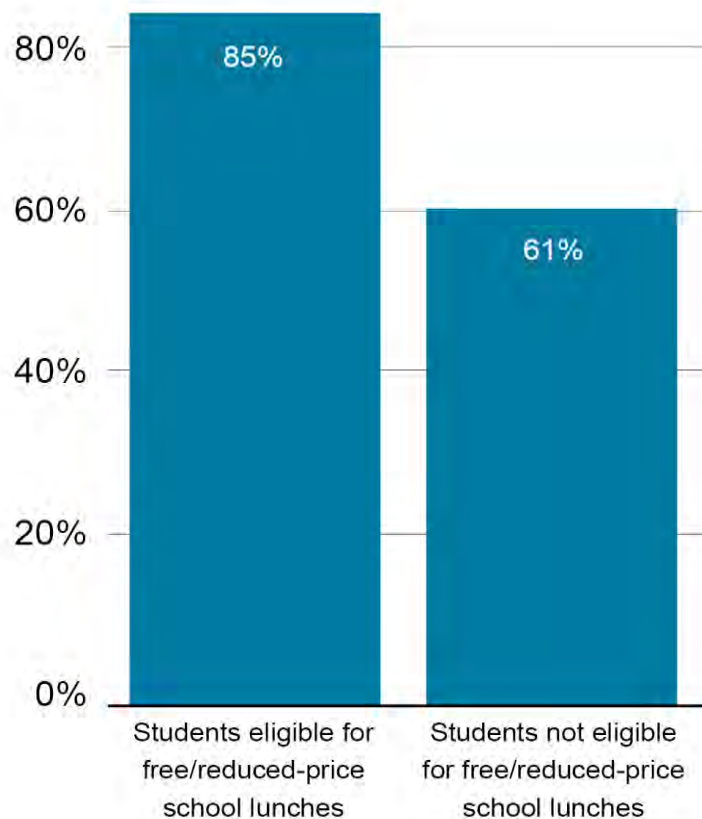


Source: US Census, American Community Survey data, 2016



Income levels impact education

Fourth Graders Who Scored Below Proficient in Reading by Family Income



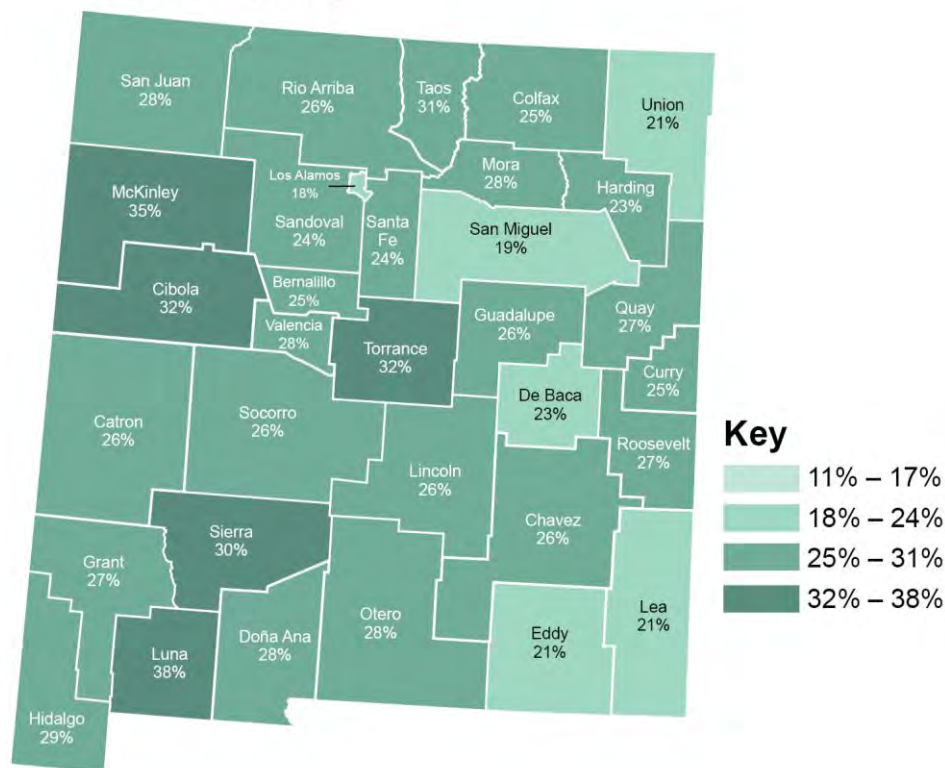
Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2013

Too many NM kids don't have enough to eat

25% of New Mexico's Children are Food Insecure

That's the 2nd
Highest Rate in
the U.S.

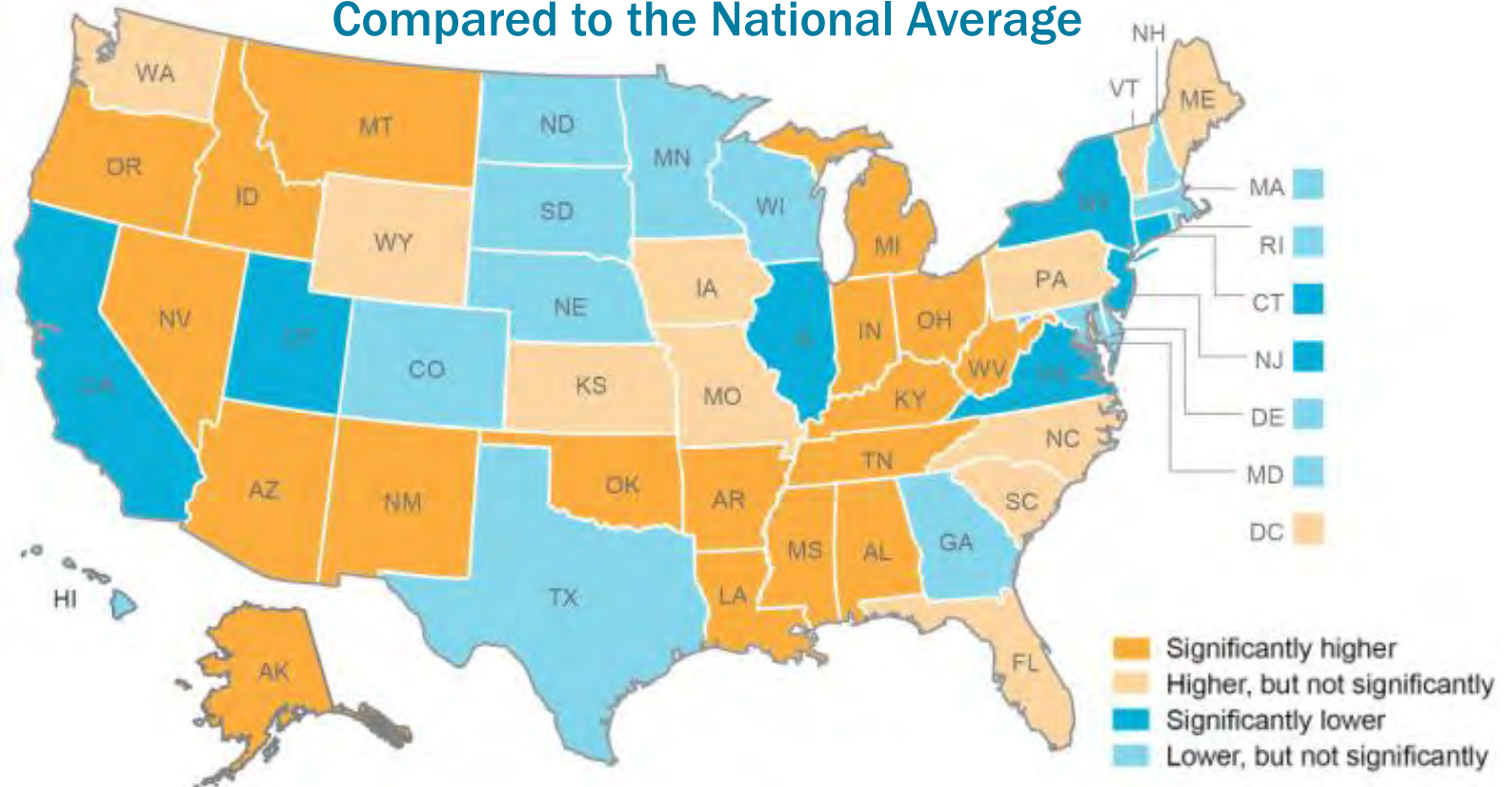
Percentage of children who are food insecure (2013)



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

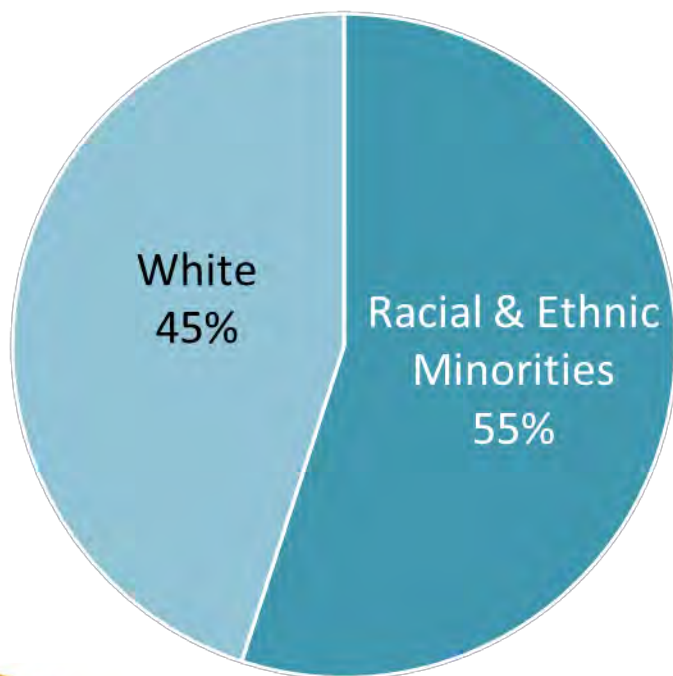
- Poverty
- Health insurance
- Early childhood education and care
- Hunger



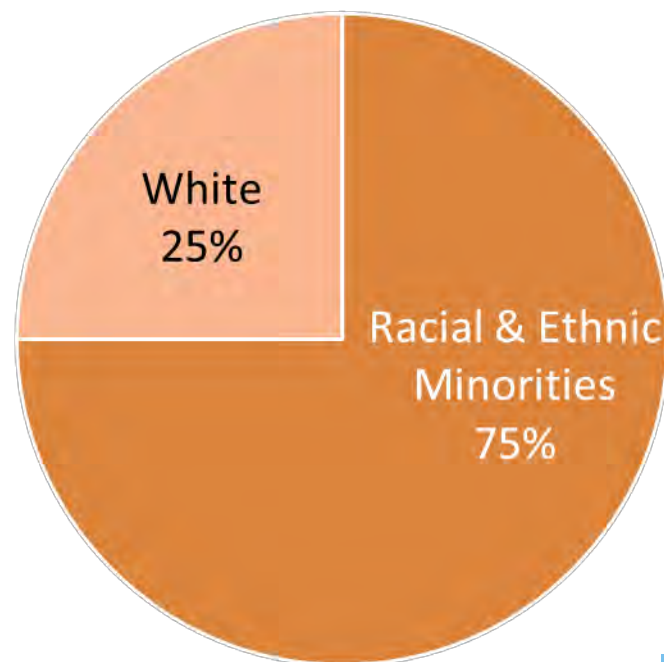
NM is ahead of the demographic trend

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%



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.



Pri·or·i·ty

noun

A thing that is regarded as more important than another;

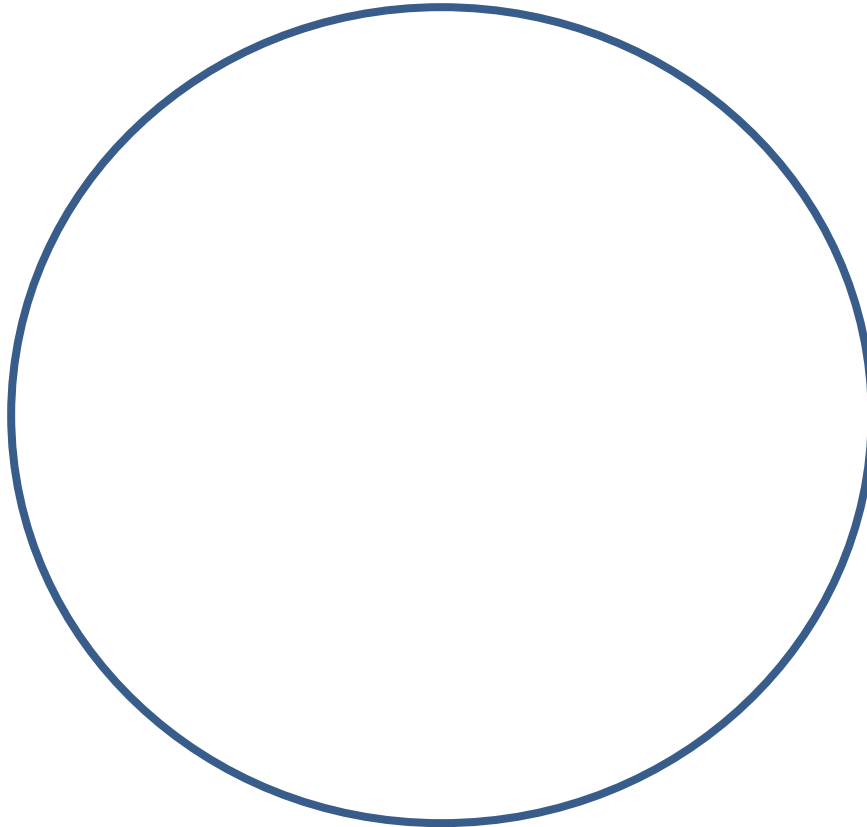
"housework didn't figure high on her list of priorities"

The right to take precedence or to proceed before others;

"traffic in the right lane has priority"



State General Fund Budget = \$6.3 billion

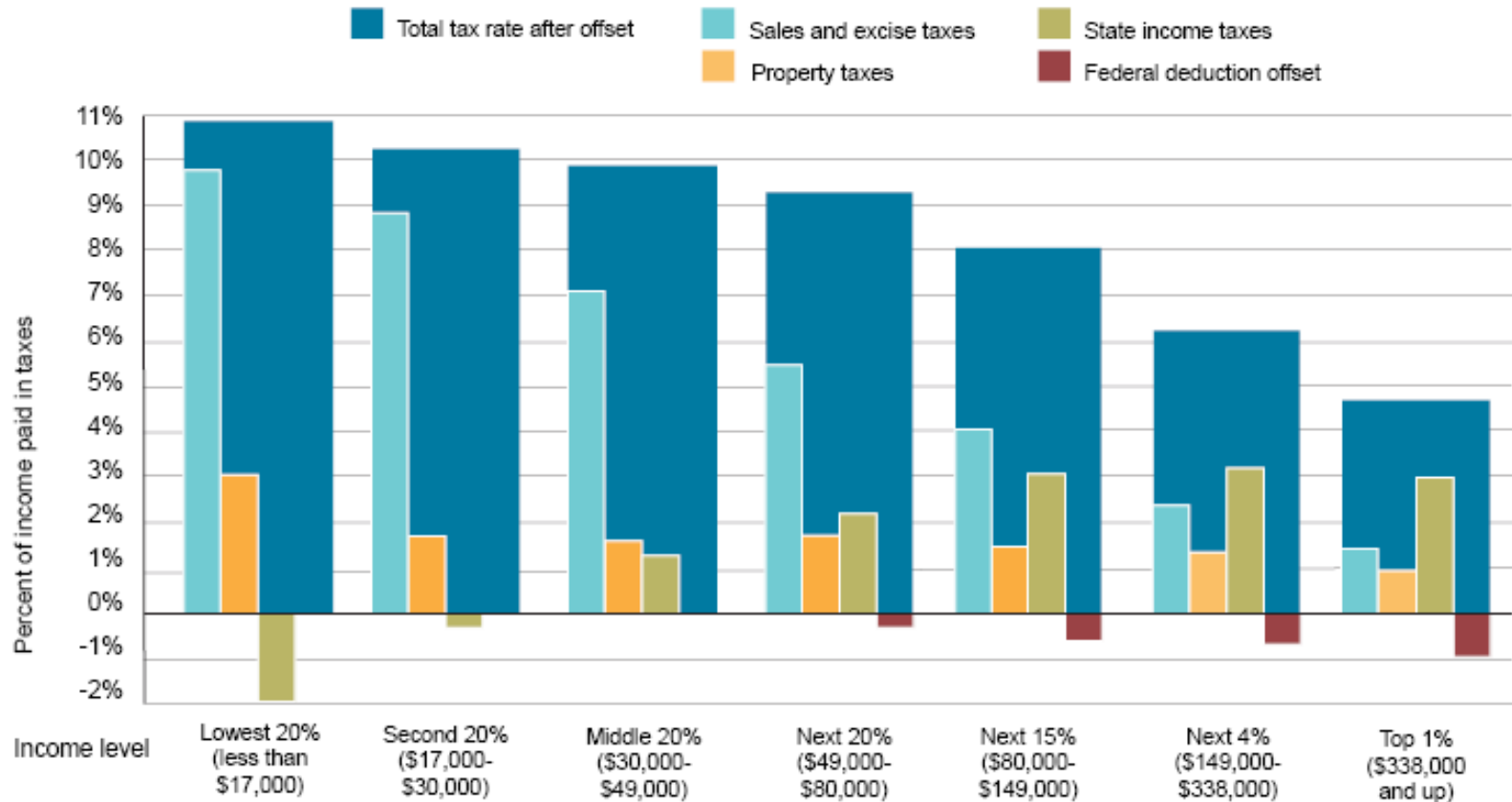


Medicaid	____%
Other health and human services	____%
K-12 education	____%
Early education/care	____%
Higher education	____%
Public safety, courts	____%
All other	____%



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

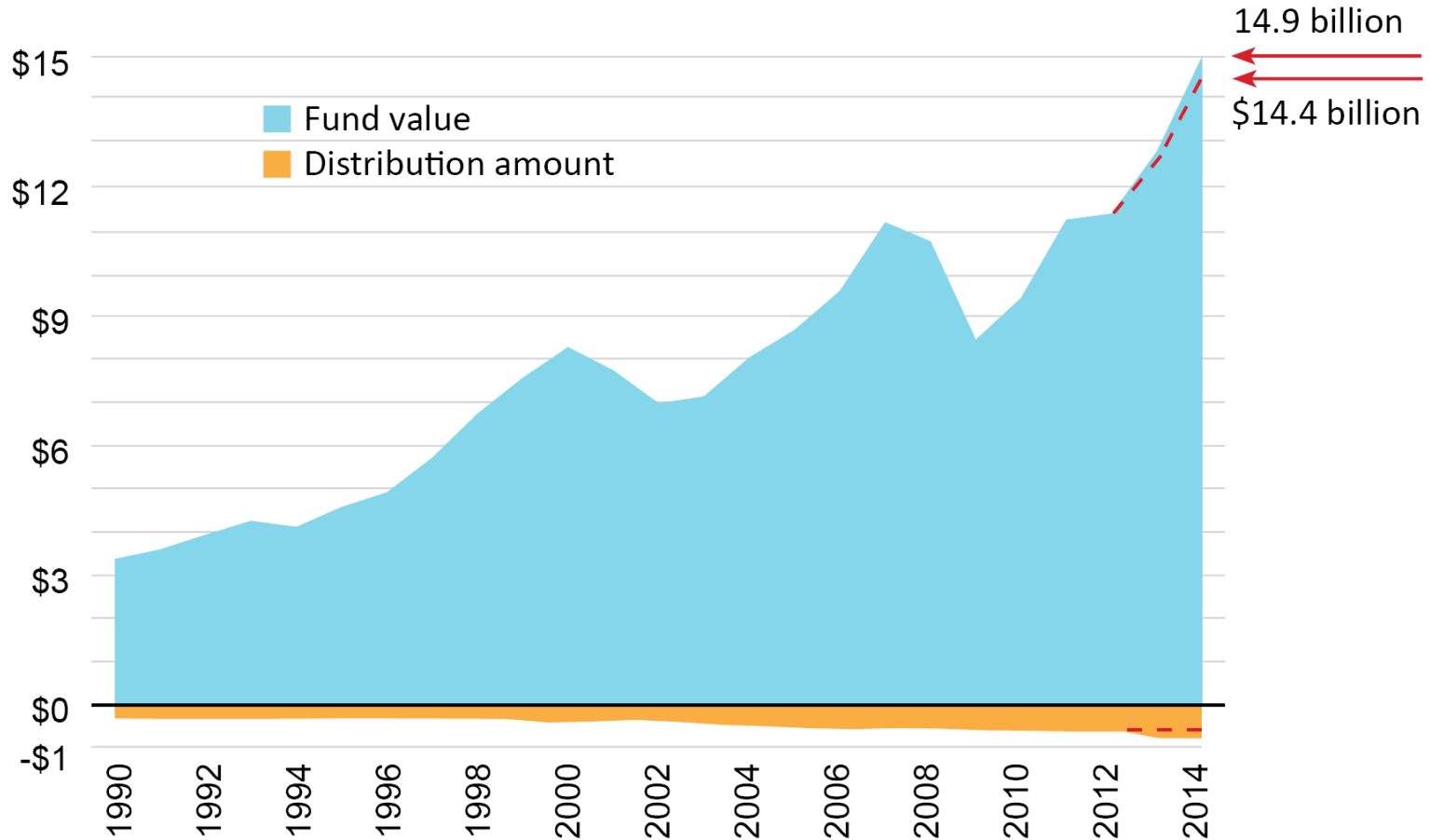
Invest 1% of \$18 billion LGPF

- 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.



Our Permanent Fund is robust

Value of the LGPF with and without 1.5% Investment in Early Childhood Services



Sources: State Land Office and Investment Council reports and audits, NM Voices estimates

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 33%	29,000 Medicaid Eligible Children 12%	31,000 APTC Tax Credit Eligible 13%	27,000 Ineligible Income 11%	29,000 Ineligible Employer Offer 12%	44,000 Ineligible Citizenship 18%
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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.



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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2018

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VOICES
FOR CHILDREN

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).



State Government Elections

- Governor and Lt. Governor are elected every 4 years.
- All 42 State Senators are elected every 4 years (2 years after the Governor).
- All 70 members of the House of Representatives are elected every 2 years.



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

- 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

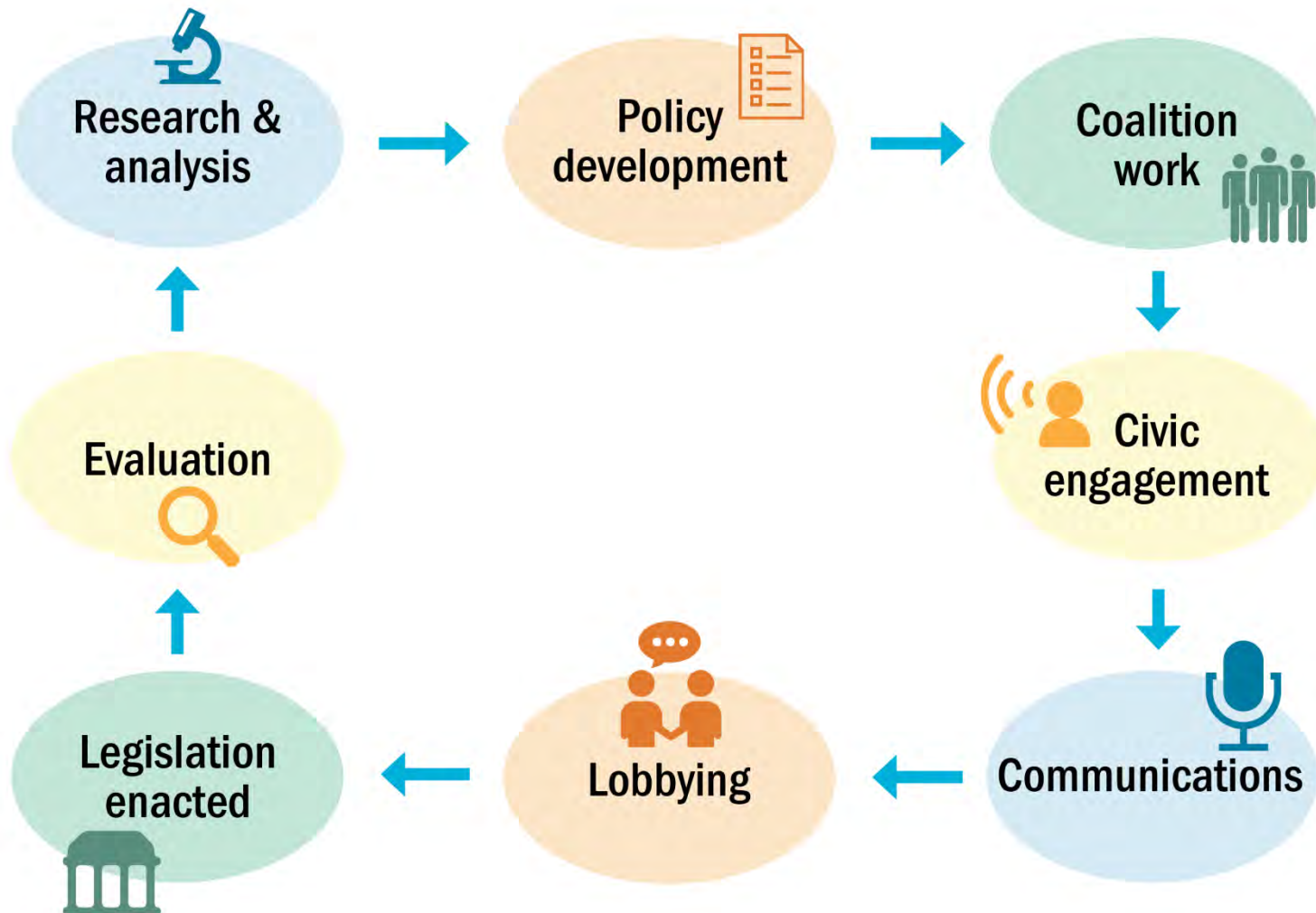
- Governor: 505-476-2200
www.gov.state.nm.us
- Legislature (Capitol switchboard): 505-986-4300
www.nmlegis.gov

Tracking Legislation

- NM Legislature: www.nmlegis.gov
- New Mexico Voices for Children: www.nmvoices.org



Legislative Advocacy Flowchart



Congressional Contact Info

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

www.datacenter.kidscount.org

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