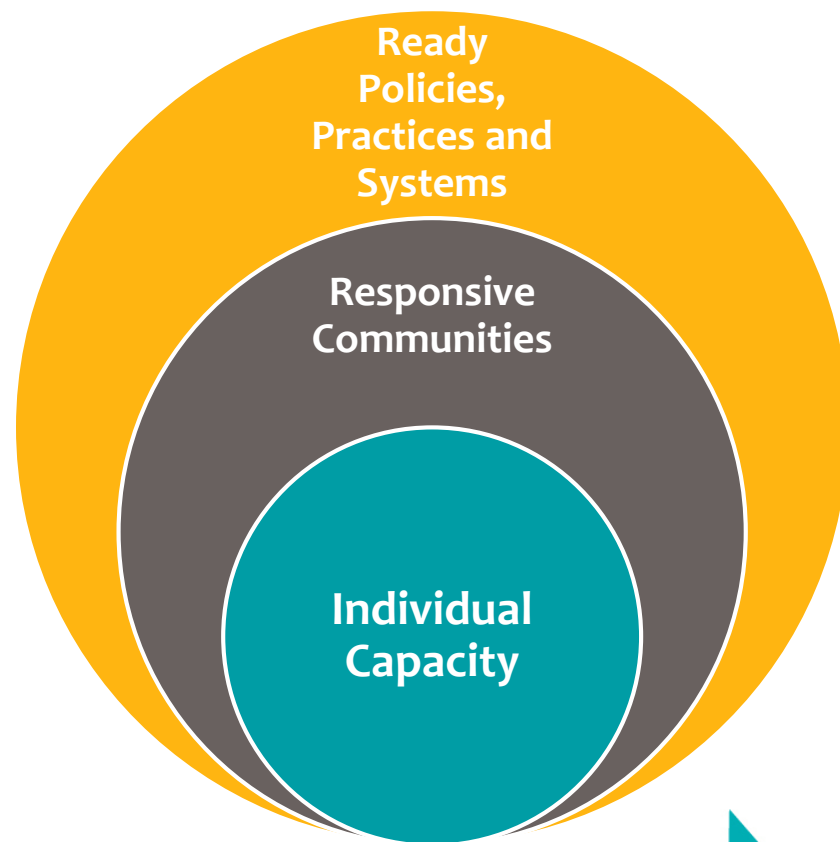




How to Better Serve Young Parents and
their Families –
From a Youth Perspective

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.



Need for Parenting Support

- Many young people coming out of foster care and juvenile justice become young parents. Nationally 71% of young women aging out of foster care become pregnant by the age of 21
- Most do not access or have face barriers accessing parenting supports.
- Most of the young people we work with do not stay connected to services.

Environmental Scan

- **Purpose:** to understand experiences and needs of young people impacted by systems, and existing services
- **Format:**
 - Focus groups with young people
 - Outreach to identified services to understand services, eligibility, costs, etc.

Environmental Scan

- **Recurring themes:**
 - There is a lack of communication about programs and services available. The “system” is hard to navigate.
 - The best information about the availability and quality of programs is by word of mouth among peers.
 - There was a perceived lack of age-appropriate training for program staff. Young people often feel “stigmatized”.
 - The most comprehensive programs identified lacked the resources to work with many clients or were outside of Albuquerque.
 - There is a lack of trust between young people and “systems”/providers

Environmental Scan

- **Findings:**
 - Many young parents impacted by systems are not accessing resources, are not persisting in the services or the resources are not meeting the needs of young parents with a history of trauma and lacking traditional support structures.
 - Young parents want and need opportunities to be a “normal” family.



Contact Us

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