The Life of a Child in New Mexico

Policy and Opportunity at Every Age

KIDS COUNT Conference
June 26, 2019

NM Voices for Children

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KIDS COUNT

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

EDUCATION

HEALTH

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

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KIDS COUNT tells a story of opportunity
What is your story?

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Why I’m here
Why we’re all here

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Photo by: Rebecca Glenn, OLÉ
All children should have the best possible opportunities to reach their full potential.
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING
DOMAIN RANK
49

EDUCATION
DOMAIN RANK
50

HEALTH
DOMAIN RANK
48

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
DOMAIN RANK
50

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poverty
food insecurity
low reading & math scores
child abuse
low access to early education & care
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Inequities exist in nearly every indicator.
Nobody likes to hear the bad news
But there’s good news too

Policy matters

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better health outcomes
higher graduation rates
better reading & math scores
down remedial education costs
lower rates of food insecurity

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Progress is possible!

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Policy and opportunity for young children

Jacob Vigil, MSW
Research and Policy Analyst

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Human Brain Development

Sensory Pathway (Vision, Hearing)

Language

Higher Cognitive Function

Birth 1 year old 18 years old

Months Years

Home visiting supports parents in building strong foundations
High quality early learning prepares kids for school and life

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Great child care allows parents to work while their children grow and learn

- Proposed cut in eligibility
- Providers face low wages, limited opportunities, and inadequate benefits
Losing child care assistance can throw a family back into poverty.
Policy and opportunity for kids in school

Bill Jordan, MA
Government Relations Officer

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Transforming Education

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Moonshot or bust!

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Our kids face many challenges, but progressive policies can help.
FEAR
DOES NOT
BELONG IN
SCHOOLS
Policy and opportunity for young adults

Estela Guzman, PhD
Research and Policy Analyst

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Higher education strengthens New Mexico

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Too many young adults fall through the cracks
We can disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline through policy change
When we make college affordable, we all win

Financial aid based on student need

- US: 76%
- NM: 31%
Young adults are our future and have unlimited potential
Policy and opportunity for families

Amber Wallin, MPA
Deputy Director

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Many working families struggle to get ahead

Working families that are low-income

- New Mexico: 43%
- United States: 30%

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Opportunities for families = opportunities for kids

Photo by: Rebecca Glenn, OLÉ
Progress for our families is on the horizon

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Our state budget shows what we value
“The greatest truth must be the recognition that in every child is the potential for greatness.”

-Robert F. Kennedy

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We’re all in this together

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Thank you!

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