

Policy Solutions for Investing in Children and Families

KIDS COUNT Conference
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A photograph of four diverse children (two boys and two girls) sitting outdoors on the ground, smiling and playing with bubbles. The background is a soft-focus natural setting with trees and foliage. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

All children should have the
opportunity to realize their
full potential.

POLICY MATTERS!

A photograph of a woman and a young girl sitting on a couch. The woman, with long brown hair and a white shirt, is smiling and looking down at a pink piggy bank. The girl, with brown hair and a light green shirt, is also smiling and looking at the piggy bank. They are both holding the piggy bank. The background is a warm, yellowish-orange wall. The text "Family economic well-being is a critical foundation for healthy child development." is overlaid on the left side of the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Family economic well-being is a critical foundation for healthy child development.



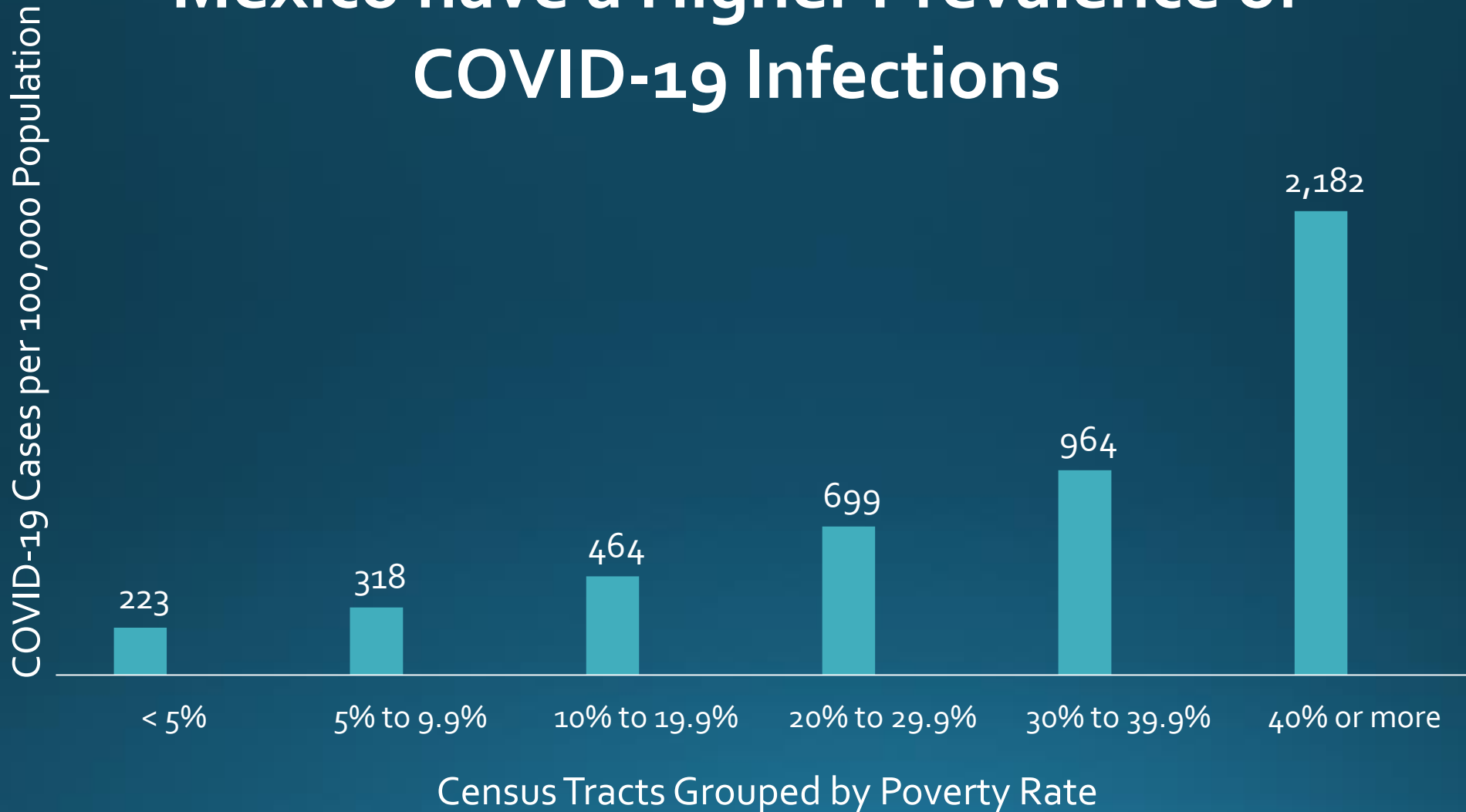
Before the pandemic
hit, we were moving
forward on a path to
prosperity.



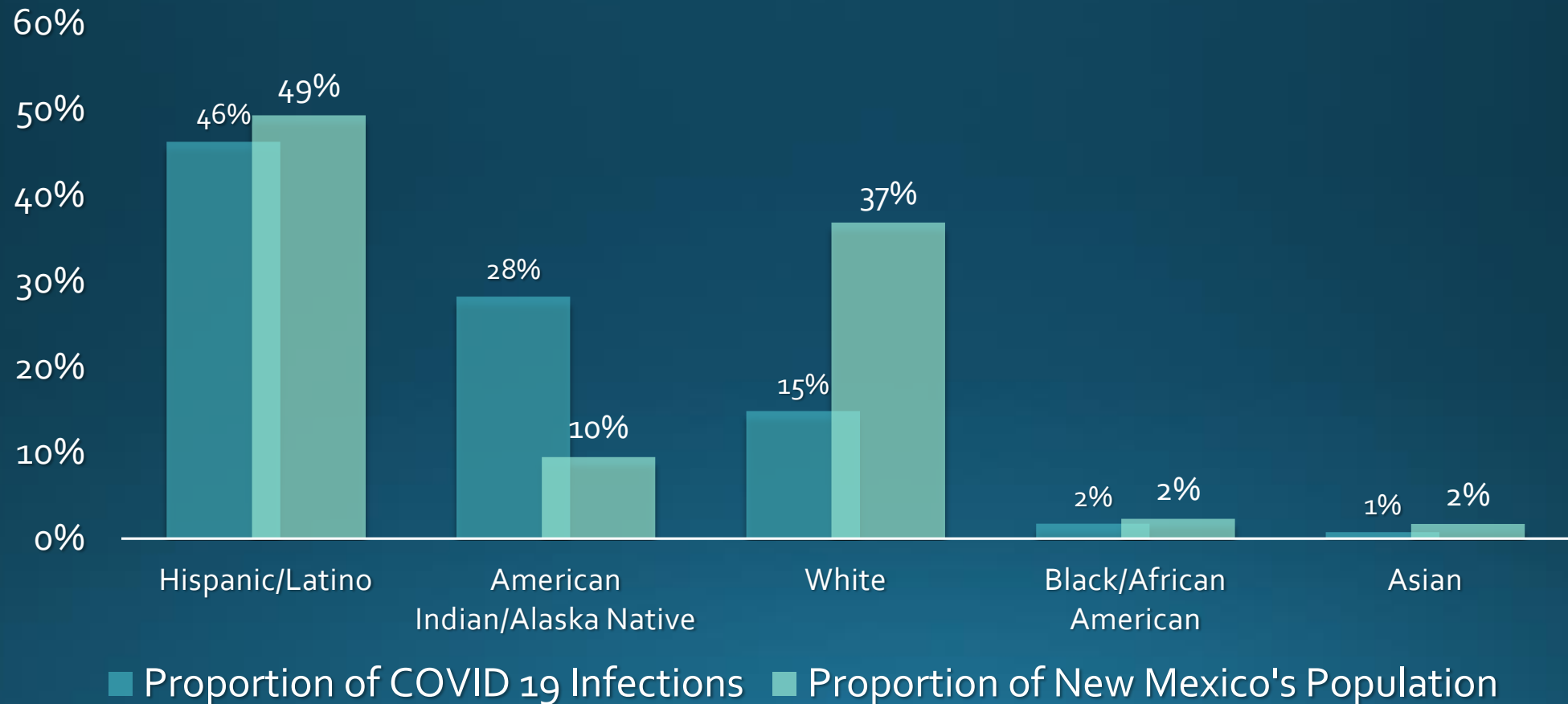
COVID-19 has created new challenges.

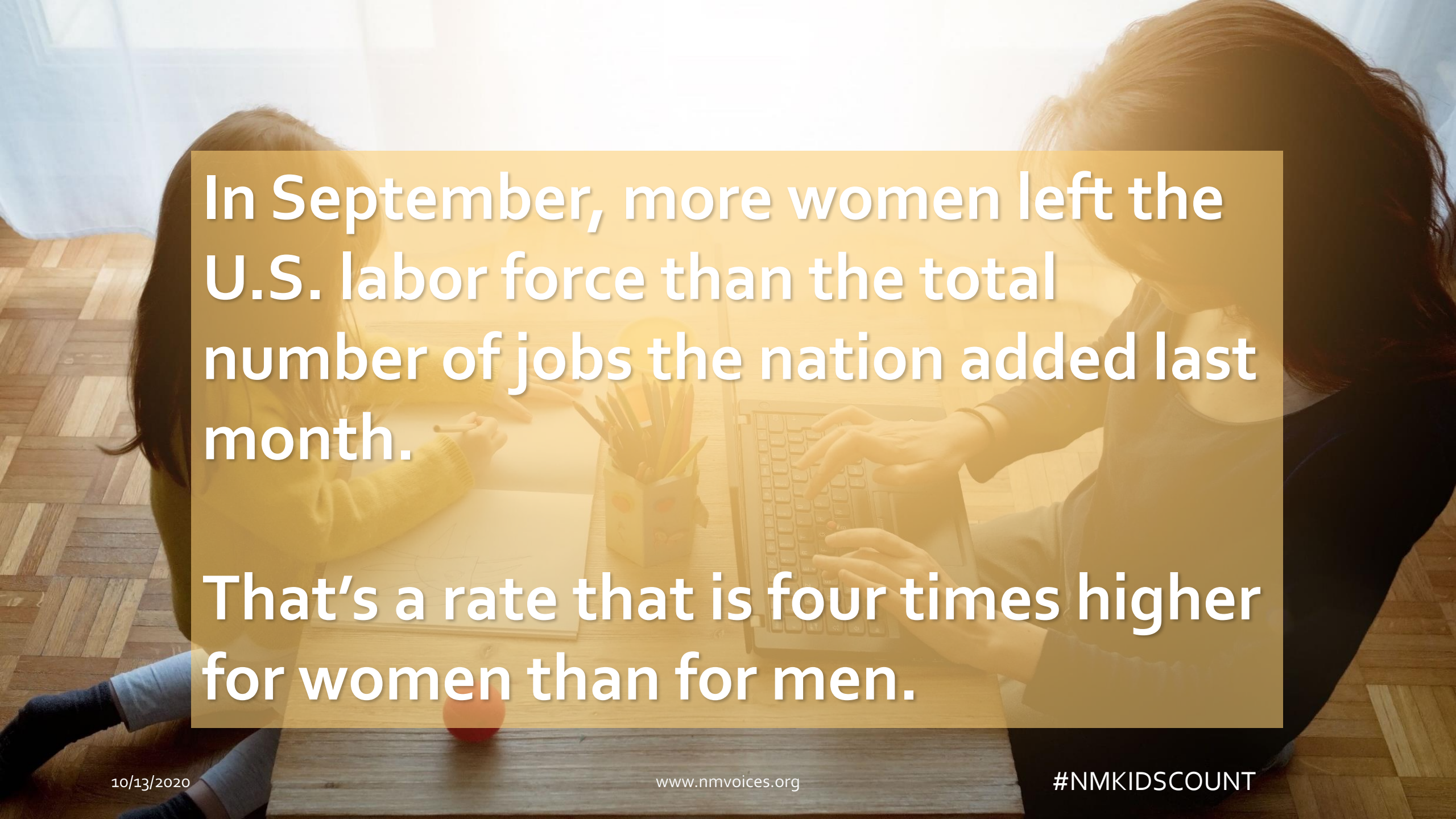
- 51% of adults with children have lost employment income
- 38,000 children were excluded from a stimulus payment
- 34% of children are projected to be food insecure as a result of COVID-19
- 23% of adults with children are struggling with rent or mortgage payments

Lower-Income Communities in New Mexico have a Higher Prevalence of COVID-19 Infections



COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Native American communities



A photograph of two children sitting at a wooden desk. The child on the left is wearing a yellow sweater and is looking down at a piece of paper. The child on the right is wearing a dark blue shirt and is typing on a laptop. On the desk, there is a container with pencils, a small orange fruit, and some papers. The background is a bright, out-of-focus window with white curtains. A semi-transparent orange rectangle is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

In September, more women left the U.S. labor force than the total number of jobs the nation added last month.

That's a rate that is four times higher for women than for men.

A person wearing a red and white striped apron is working in a bakery. They are holding a tray with several small pastries. In the background, there are shelves filled with more pastries and a cash register on the counter.

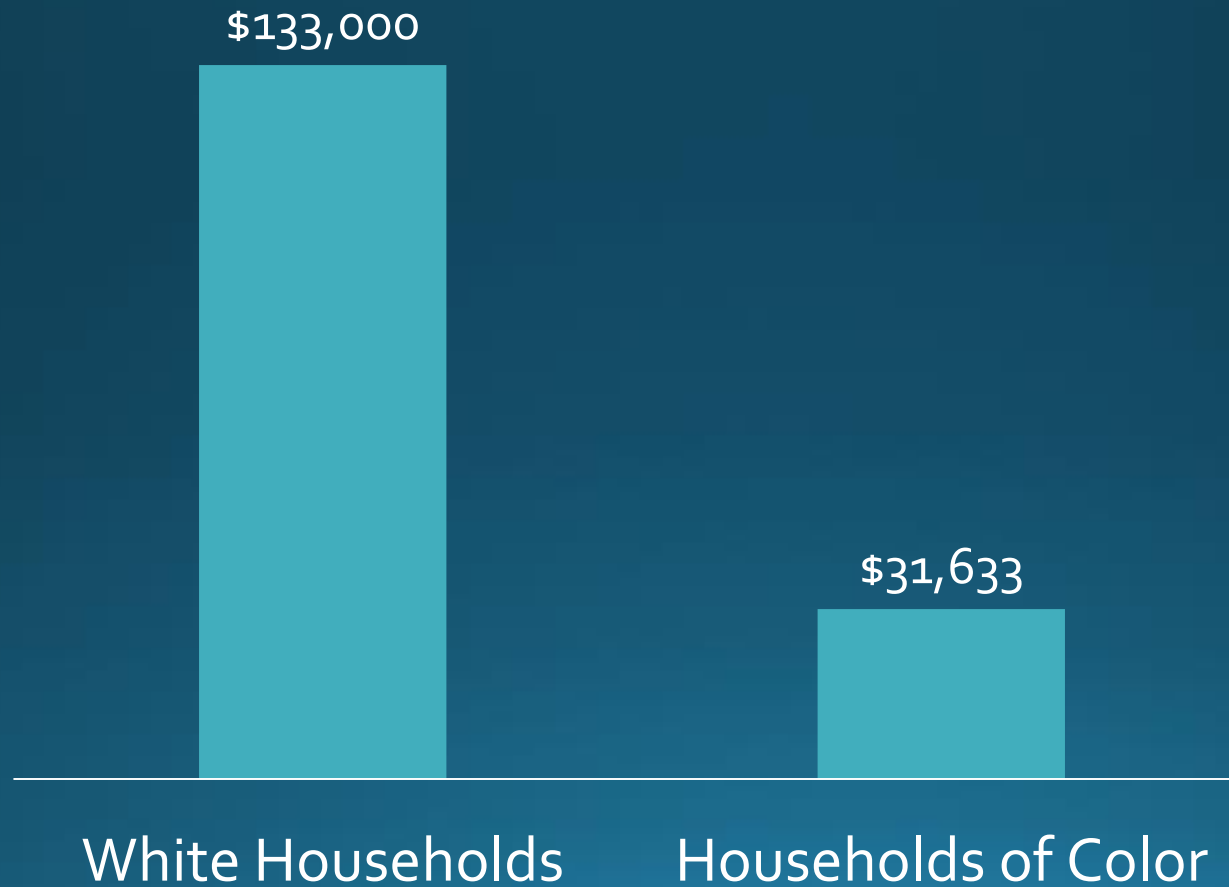
Low wage, workers of color have been impacted the most, and many are still struggling to regain their employment.




Policy is not race neutral.

Racial Wealth Gap

Net Worth of Households in New Mexico





**Government policies &
actions have reinforced
and further widened
racial divides.**



The best path forward involves
fair, reliable revenue, NOT cuts
to important programs &
services our families rely on.



Public investments
- not tax cuts -
create jobs.

Our budget is a moral document and a reflection of our values.

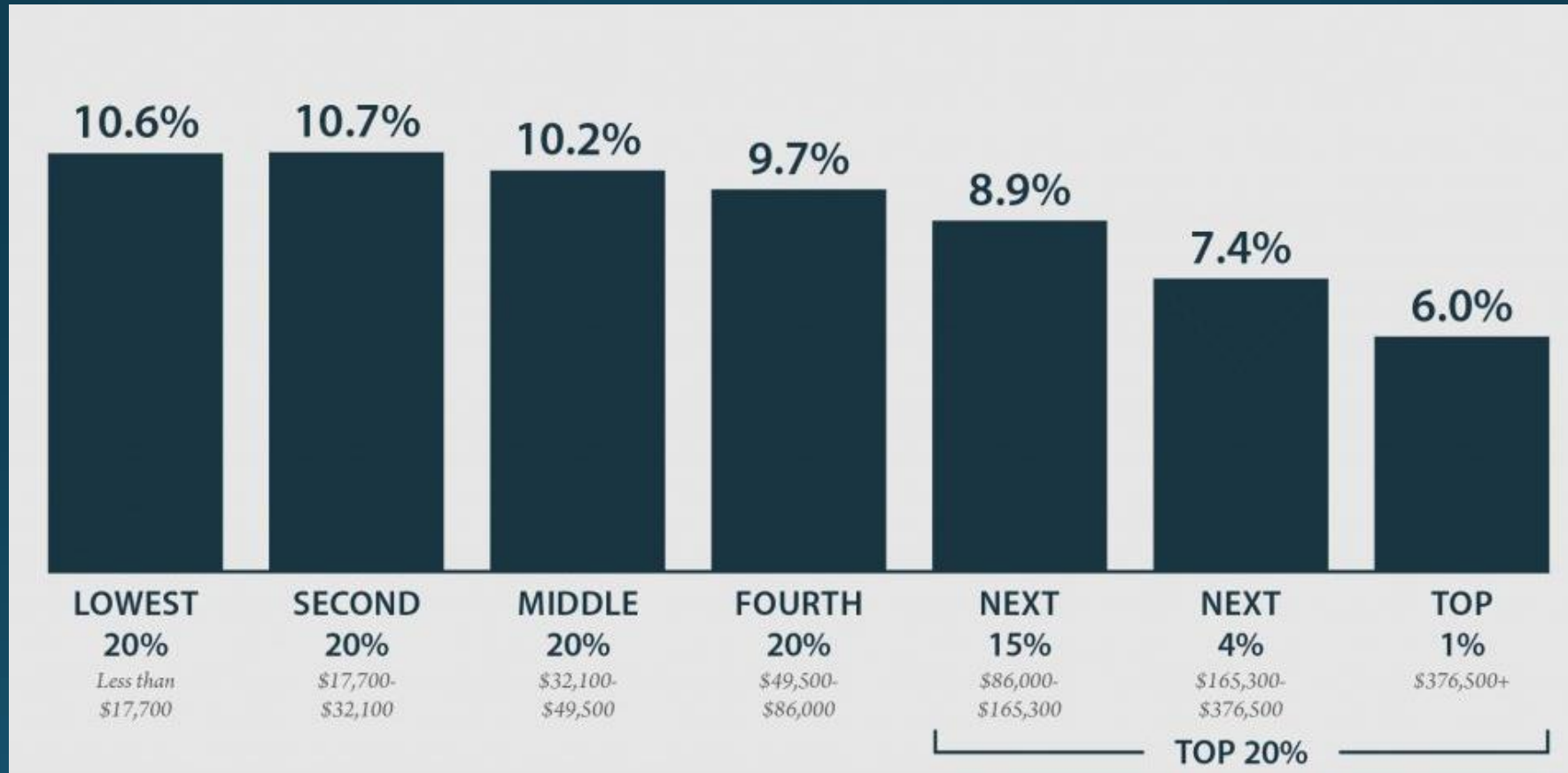
Increased funding for:

- K-12 education
- Higher education
- Child care assistance
- Home visiting and pre-K
- Maximize ACA benefits
- Affordable housing



New Mexicans with the lowest incomes pay the highest rates in state and local taxes

Share of income paid in state and local taxes by non-elderly resident by income level





Additional tax policy changes to improve fairness in our tax code:

- Repeal the capital gains deduction
- Increase corporate income taxes
- Increase property tax on high-dollar properties
- Lower the gross receipts tax by broadening the base



Tax credits are proven to help increase family economic security and improve equity in our tax system.

- Increase Low Income Comprehensive Tax Rebate
- Expand the Working Families Tax Credit
- Enact a Child Tax Credit

A background image showing two workers in a restaurant setting. One worker, wearing a white shirt and a dark apron, is leaning over a wooden table. The other worker, wearing a light blue shirt and a dark apron, is also leaning over the table, possibly cleaning or organizing items. The background is slightly blurred, showing other parts of the restaurant and some food items on a menu board.

Additional policies to promote equity and economic well-being:

- End predatory lending
- Continue to raise the minimum wage
- Mandate paid sick leave and family medical leave
- Protect voting rights
- Require a racial impact analysis of all legislation

Congress must also act to boost funding for:

- Medicaid
- SNAP
- Unemployment insurance
- Child care
- Education
- Increase and expand tax credits for working families

Call to Action!

Contact and engage with your lawmakers on
issues you are passionate about.

A photograph of four diverse children running happily through a sun-dappled forest path. The children are of various ethnicities and are captured in motion, with their hair and clothes slightly blurred. The background shows large trees and sunlight filtering through the leaves. A semi-transparent green box is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, containing white text.

On New Mexico's path to
greater opportunity for all,
let's not leave anyone behind.



Thank you!

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