Policy Solutions for Investing in Children and Families

KIDS COUNT Conference
October 13, 2020

Paige Knight, Research and Policy Analyst
Bill Jordan, Government Relations Officer
New Mexico Voices for Children
All children should have the opportunity to realize their full potential.

POLICY MATTERS!
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

Census Tracts Grouped by Poverty Rate

- < 5%: 223
- 5% to 9.9%: 318
- 10% to 19.9%: 464
- 20% to 29.9%: 699
- 30% to 39.9%: 964
- 40% or more: 2,182

COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 Population
COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Native American communities
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.
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

- White Households: $133,000
- Households of Color: $31,633
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
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
Contact and engage with your lawmakers on issues you are passionate about.
On New Mexico’s path to greater opportunity for all, let’s not leave anyone behind.
Thank you!

New Mexico Voices for Children
625 Silver Ave. SW, Suite 195
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505.244.9505
www.nmvoices.org
pknight@nmvoices.org
bjordan@nmvoices.org