2021 Post-Session Legislative Debrief
New Mexico Voices for Children
April 1, 2021
Heading into 2021
Pandemic Impacts on Well-Being

- Decrease in pediatric visits and vaccinations
- 52% of parents had lost employment income
- 40% of parents felt anxious or stressed
- 30% feared eviction or foreclosure
- 34% of children were projected to be food insecure
The health and economic impacts of COVID-19 have been highly inequitable across lines of income, race, and gender.
Session Goals

- Prioritize equity in policies and partnerships
- Ensure all families can meet their basic needs
- Build a strong budget that helps children thrive
- Support economic recovery by supporting workers and families
- Protect, diversify, and raise revenues

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Strategies for the 2021 Legislative Session
Political Context

- Logistics made it difficult to manage relationships, monitor tone, and measure progress
- New lawmakers ready to deliver
- Senate much more progressive, but Senate Finance Committee still moderate
- Significant federal appropriations to state
- Governor cautious on raising revenue
Strategies and Tactics

● Outreach to candidates
● Strong pre-session contact with new lawmakers
● Heavy social media presence
● Weekly email updates to lawmakers and MLG
● Partner collaboration
● 4 T’s: Testify - Text - Talk - Thank

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Strategies and Tactics

- Polling and data modeling
- Paid social media posts
- Highly targeted online ads
- Mailers to legislative districts
- Online and TV issue ads
Tax Credits to Support Families and Improve Equity

● **House tax package (HB 291)**
  ○ Increased Working Families Tax Credit by 47%
  ○ Expanded to new populations of workers
  ○ Indexed and tripled low-income tax rebate
  ○ $100 million+ more every year for families
  ○ Benefiting more than 400,000 households

● **$109 million in tax relief for essential workers (SB 1)**
Raising and Diversifying Revenue

● DID NOT PASS
  ○ Ensure top earners pay their fair share (HB 291, SB 56, and SB 89)
  ○ Repeal tax break for high earners (HB 291)
  ○ Ensure big corporations pay their fair share (HB 291 and SB 211)
  ○ House tax package (HB 291) passed both tax committees and full House then REVENUE AMENDED OUT

● Successfully OPPOSED costly, regressive tax cuts for higher earners and big corps
Family Economic Security

- **Paid sick leave**
  - Healthy Workplaces Act (HB 20)

- **DID NOT PASS**
  - Paid Family Medical Leave (HB 38)

- **DID NOT PASS**
  - 36% Interest Rates on Small Loans (SB 66)
Early Care and Education

• Permanent Fund for Early Education (HJR 1)
  ○ 1.25% total increase
  ○ 60% for ECE
  ○ 40% for K12

• Constitutional amendment will go to the voters in November 2022

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Early Care and Education

- **Funding** (HB 2)
  - $3 million - pay equity
  - $7 million - BIPOC teacher recruitment and training
  - $3 million - home visiting
  - $1 million - Families First
  - $1.4 million - FIT (Family Infant Toddler Program)
  - $7.7 million - early pre-K
  - $2.8 million - turn half-day pre-K to full day

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K-12 and Higher Education

● Multicultural and linguistically responsive education
  ○ No School Discrimination for Hair (HB 29 and SB 80)
  ○ Bilingual Multicultural Education Advisory Council (HB 52)
  ○ Black Education Act (HB 43)
  ○ Access to Culturally Appropriate Services (HB 287)

● Financial aid
  ○ Continued funding for the Opportunity Scholarship (HB 2)

● DID NOT PASS
  ○ HB 131, HB 219, and SB 210
Health Care

● Making health coverage more affordable
  ○ No Behavioral Health Co-pays (SB 317)
  ○ Health Care Affordability Fund (SB 317)
  ○ Patient Debt Collection Protection (SB 71)

● Planning for universal coverage
  ○ $575,000 - Health Security Planning Act (HB 203)

● $64 million - increase in Medicaid funding (HB 2)

● DID NOT PASS
  ○ Health Easy Enrollment Program (HB 272)
Public Health

● **Support for food security** (HB 2 and SB 377)
  ○ $2.34 million - K-12 School Nutrition Programs including NM Grown Program
  ○ $380,000 - Breakfast after the Bell and Reducing Co-pays for Meals
  ○ $275,000 - Food, Hunger, and Farm Act (HB 207)
  ○ $100,000 - College Hunger Pilot Program (SB 377)

● **Black and Native American maternal health**
  ○ Changes to the Maternal Mortality Review Committee (SB 96)

● **DID NOT PASS**
  ○ Increase Tobacco Tax (HB 167 and SB 197)
  ○ Flavored Tobacco Ban (HB 205)
Environment

● **Reducing emissions**
  ○ Community Solar Act (SB 84)
  ○ Sustainable Buildings Tax Credit (HB 15)

● **Diversifying our economy with a just transition**
  ○ Sustainable Economy Task Force (SB 112)

● **Improving environmental and community health**
  ○ Local Government Air Quality Regulations (SB 8)

● **DID NOT PASS**
  ○ Climate Solutions Act (HB 9)
  ○ Utility Affordability and Relief Act (HB 206)
Criminal Justice Reform

- **Fines and Fees**
  - No Fines and Fees for Some Juvenile Crimes (HB 183)

- **DID NOT PASS**
  - Driver’s Licence Suspension Penalties (SB 7)
  - Payment Flexibility for Court Convictions (SB 181)
Equity and Immigrant Rights

- $5 million - economic relief for immigrant families left out of federal relief (HB 2)
- Health Benefits for Certain Non-citizens (HB 112)
- State Agency Disclosure of Sensitive Info Act (SB 75)
- No Citizen Proof for Occupational License (SB 219)

- **DID NOT PASS**
  - Limited English Access to State Programs (SB 368)
  - Equity Impact Statements (various)
Looking Forward: Policy Priorities

- Policy progress still needed in many areas
  - ECE, predatory lending, language and program access, raising and diversifying revenue
- Grow relationships with and help develop new lawmakers
- Prioritize racial and gender equity
- Bigger, bolder, better policy for families
Looking Forward: Organizational Priorities

- Prioritize racial and gender equity in partnerships and organizational engagements
- Grow environmental policy work
- State Tribal Policy fellowship
- Continue to grow, ensure we are structured for success
- Leadership transition
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Thank You!

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