

New Mexico's elected officials have an extraordinary opportunity to advance the well-being of all of our children, families, and communities during the 2022 legislative session. Better-than-expected revenues and an influx of federal relief funding will allow for greater investments in programs and services that will improve family economic security, make health care more affordable, and expand and improve a birth-to-career education system that helps our children succeed. Attention to equity should be at the center of all policy improvements. New Mexico should move forward with an eye towards how we transform our budget and policy systems so they are fair, equitable, accessible, and built on a more diverse and stable revenue system that will ensure the programs that matter most for kids, families, and our economy are robustly supported now and in the future.

For more information on how the legislative sessions work and which issues can be considered in a 30-day legislative session like the one in 2022, please see our state budget guide. To find out how you can get involved in the process on issues that matter to you, please see our advocacy guide.

HERE ARE SOME OF OUR 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

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- **Economic relief** for immigrant families and young workers who have not received other relief funds, as well as for other families still in need of economic relief.
 - **Food security supports** to address child hunger and strengthen food security in the state.
 - **Housing supports**, including increasing and making recurring investments in the Housing Trust Fund.
 - **Health care investments** to: ensure full funding of Medicaid, including enough to extend coverage for new moms from the current 2 months to 12 months postpartum, and end the Medicaid Waivers waiting list for those with disabilities; enact health care easy enrollment through the state income tax system; and make prescription drugs more affordable.
 - **Environmental health and climate action** to: secure stronger rules and regulations for capturing methane; improve utility affordability and energy efficiency in homes; and increase state agency budgets to ensure adequate staffing and increased regulatory enforcement.

- **Early childhood care and education investments** to: support recent improvements to the child care assistance program, including increasing wages and supporting career ladders for ECE workers; improve infant/toddler teacher pay parity; protect funding streams for early childhood services; and support the use of federal funding to build system capacity and serve as a bridge to future funding streams.
- **K-12 education improvements** to: fully fund and implement the Hispanic, Indian, Black, and Bilingual Multicultural Education Acts; significantly increase school employee salaries; and expand funding for community schools and school-based health centers.
- **Higher education investments** to increase funding for the Opportunity Scholarship, continued full funding of tuition under the Lottery Scholarship, and for teacher pipeline programs.



- **Tax equity and adequacy advancements including:** the creation of a new state-level Child Tax Credit; and the diversification and stabilization of the general fund by raising revenue from new sources and protecting current revenue sources by opposing tax cuts that do not directly support equity or adequacy in the tax code.
- **Equity and human rights progress** including: improving language access for public programs; reducing criminal justice fines and fees and driver's license suspensions; and protecting voting rights and ease of access to voting.
- **Predatory lending reform** to end lending practices that are predatory and push families deeper into debt.