Our mission is to champion public policies that improve the well-being of New Mexico’s children, families, and communities.
KIDS COUNT data tells a story of opportunity.
Most NM kids are children of color
Policy changes set us up for success in the future

- Tax cut for 70% of families with children
- Improved higher education affordability and access
- New early childhood department
- New funding source for ECE programs
- Minimum wage increase
- K-12 funding and teacher pay increases
- Crucial COVID-19 relief for families, workers, and businesses
Most of the data still shows how children were doing *pre-pandemic*

- Most indicators show slight improvements or no change
- Added more disaggregation by race and ethnicity where possible
- Hardship data for 2021 and some 2020 data point to the serious impact of COVID-19 on children and families
Many NM families used the CTC to pay down debt
More children were food insecure
More kids were enrolled in Medicaid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>All Youth Enrolled</th>
<th>Native American Youth Enrolled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>355,783</td>
<td>58,335</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disparities exist in nearly every indicator
More Hispanic, Black, and multi-racial children live in families with high housing costs.
Moving forward
Prioritize families in public policy

- Provide immediate economic relief to essential workers and those still struggling
- Combat food insecurity
- Invest in early childhood education and care programs and protect their funding sources
- Extend postpartum Medicaid coverage
- Fully fund and support classrooms and the programs that matter most for children of color
- Diversify, stabilize, and protect revenue
Thank you!

New Mexico Voices for Children

www.nmvoices.org

https://datacenter.kidscount.org/