



2022 Post-Session Legislative Debrief

New Mexico Voices for Children

March 17, 2022




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 view of trees and foliage. The text "Heading into 2022" is overlaid in the center in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Heading into 2022

Pandemic Impacts on Well-Being



- 21% of NM parents unsure they can pay rent/mortgage
- 38% of NM parents had difficulty paying for basic household expenses
- 31% of NM households with children were not eating enough
- 40% of NM parents with children under 5 had child care disruptions in the past month because of COVID-19

An aerial photograph of a deep, rugged canyon. A river flows through the bottom of the canyon, winding its way towards the horizon. The canyon walls are steep and rocky, with some sparse vegetation. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a sky with soft, warm light, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

**The health and economic
impacts of COVID-19 have
been highly inequitable
across lines of income, race,
and gender.**

Session Goals

- Ensure all families can meet their basic needs
- Build a strong budget that helps children thrive
- Protect revenues
- Prioritize equity in policies and partnerships

A photograph of four children running joyfully through a park with autumn foliage. The child on the far left is a girl in a bright pink puffer jacket and light pink pants. Next to her is a girl in a dark blue jacket and a grey scarf with pom-poms. Behind her is a boy in a teal jacket. On the far right is a boy in a blue and grey puffer jacket and a grey beanie. The background is a soft-focus park with yellow and orange trees.

Strategies for the 2022 Legislative Session

Political Context

- Significant federal dollars going to New Mexico
- Significant and record state revenue
- Roundhouse logistics
- Governor cautious in an election year

Strategies and Tactics

- Outreach to lawmakers before and during the session
- Strong pre-session contact with key players
- Heavy social media presence
- Partner collaboration
- 5 T's:
 - Teamwork
 - Testify
 - Text
 - Talk
 - Thank



Policy Outcomes

Tax Policy

Tax credits to provide relief & improve equity

- Created refundable state Child Tax Credit (HB 163)
 - Returns \$75 million to all families with children
 - Income-based, and up to \$175/child
- One-time rebate relief (HB 163)
 - For low- to upper-middle income residents
 - \$250/single, \$500/married couples

Tax Policy

Revenue to support critical programs

- **DID NOT PASS:**

- New or increased revenue measures

- **Successfully defended:**

- Significant revenue defended
- Safeguards put in place in other areas to protect revenue

*“Like a Saint Bernard with its keg of brandy coming to the aid of a lost traveler,
New Mexico has provided a shot of hope to advocates of tax equity.”*

-Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy

A background image showing two people wearing face masks and aprons, cleaning a wooden table in what appears to be a restaurant or cafe. The person in the foreground is wearing a light blue shirt and a dark apron, leaning over the table. The person in the background is wearing a white shirt and a dark apron, also leaning over the table. The scene is dimly lit, with warm tones.

Family Economic Security

- **Predatory Lending**
 - 36% cap on small loans (HB 132)
- **Paid Family Medical Leave**
 - Task force to study and provide recommendations for a paid leave policy (SM 1)

Early Care and Education

- **Increased Funding for the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD)**

- \$15.3 million in new funding
- \$10.6 million for Pre-K
- \$2 million for home visiting
- \$1.4 million for Tribal ECE programs
- \$1 million for provider scholarships and wage supplements

- **Protecting Early Childhood Funding**

- Defeated an attempt to use the new Early Childhood Trust Fund for purposes other than early care and education (SB 118)

- **Expanding the role and authority of the ECECD (SB 38)**

K-12 and Higher Education

- **Support for Educators**

- Increasing Salaries for Licensed Teachers (SB 1)
- Teacher Residency Changes (HB 13)

- **Support for Students**

- Outdoor Learning Program, Extended Learning, & Community Schools (HB 2)

- **Free Tuition for All**

- Opportunity Scholarship (SB 140)
- Full funding for Lottery Scholarship (HB 2)

- **DID NOT PASS**

- Plan for school leaders, more school nurses, school-based health clinics (HM 21, SB 58, SB 67)

Yazzie/Martinez Response

- **Funding for Hispanic Education Act**

- \$500,000 (HB 2)

- **Funding for Tribal Remedy Framework**

- \$35 million for other Tribal Remedy Framework initiatives (HB 2)
- Native American Language Certificate Salaries (HB 60)

- **DID NOT PASS**

- Requirements for a comprehensive plan, ECECD and tribal government joint powers agreement (HM 12, SM 12, HB 61, HB 185)

Native American Family Well-being

- **Protections for Native children and families in the child welfare system**
 - Indian Family Protection Act (IFPA) (HB 135)
- **Support for New Mexicans who have missing relatives**
 - Attorney General Office for Missing Indigenous Persons (SB 12)
 - Missing in New Mexico Event (SB 13)
- **DID NOT PASS**
 - Indigenous Wisdom Curriculum Project (SB 97)

A healthcare worker, likely a nurse or doctor, is shown from the side, wearing teal scrubs and a stethoscope. She is examining a young child's chest. The child is shirtless, wearing brown shorts, and has a pacifier in their mouth. The background is a solid teal color.

Health Care

- **Increased funding for Medicaid**
 - \$242 million in new funding for Medicaid
 - Extend postpartum coverage
 - Eliminate the Developmental Disabilities waiver waiting list
- **Increased access to Medicaid and the Marketplace**
 - Easy Enrollment in Healthcare Coverage (HB 96)

Behavioral Health Care

A healthcare worker, likely a nurse or doctor, is shown from the side, wearing teal scrubs and a stethoscope. She is examining a young child's chest with the stethoscope. The child is standing and looking towards the healthcare worker. The background is a solid teal color.

- **Major expansions**

- \$20 million to HSD
- \$50 million special appropriation to HED
- \$4 million to implement the new 988 phone system for behavioral health assistance

Public Health

- **Food, Farm, & Hunger Initiative**
 - \$24 million invested through agency budgets
 - First large, coordinated effort to address food systems and food insecurity
- **School of Public Health**
 - \$15 million to UNM and NMSU

Housing

A hand is holding a purple paper house with a heart-shaped cutout in the center. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a city skyline, with the sun's glow visible through the heart cutout.

- **Increased and Sustained Funding for Affordable Housing**
 - NM Housing Trust Fund (SB 134)
 - \$25 million in recurring funding
- **DID NOT PASS**
 - Housing Modernization Changes (HB 65)

Environment

- **Improved energy efficiency of homes in underserved communities**
 - Community Energy Efficiency Development (CEED) Block Grant (HB 37)
- **DID NOT PASS**
 - Clean Fuel Standards (SB 14)
 - Clean Futures Act (HB 6)
 - Full funding for the state agencies that regulate oil and gas producers (HB 2)
- **Successfully OPPOSED Hydrogen Hub legislation (HB 4, HB 227, HB 228, SB 194)**



Criminal Justice Reform

- Crime Package
 - “Tough on crime” bill (HB 68)
- Harm Reduction Act (HB 52)
- **DID NOT PASS**
 - Fines and fees reform (HB 81)
 - The “second chance” bill (SB 43)

Equity and Civil Rights

- Language access to government services and programs (HB 22)
- \$10 million in support for those left out of federal relief
- **DID NOT PASS**
 - New Mexico Voting Rights Act (SB 8)
 - Defeated by a Republican filibuster in the closing minutes
 - Affirmative Consent Policy In Schools (HB 44)
 - Amendments to the Human Rights Act to confirm that it applies to government agencies

A photograph of four young children running joyfully on a dirt path in a sun-dappled forest. The children are diverse in age and ethnicity, all smiling and moving towards the camera. The text "Looking Forward" is overlaid in white, bold font across the center of the image.

Looking Forward

Policy Opportunities on the Horizon

- Policy progress still needed in many areas
- Grow relationships with and help develop new lawmakers
- Prioritize racial and gender equity
- Bigger, bolder, better policies for families



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Thank You!

New Mexico Voices for Children

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