



2024 Post-Session Legislative Debrief

New Mexico Voices for Children

March 13, 2024



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**Introducing Our New
Executive Director
Gabrielle Uballez!**



A group of four diverse children are sitting outdoors on the ground, surrounded by trees and foliage. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. Several bubbles are floating in the air around them, and one child in the foreground is reaching out with their hand towards a bubble. The scene is bright and cheerful, with a warm, golden light filtering through the trees.

Heading into 2024

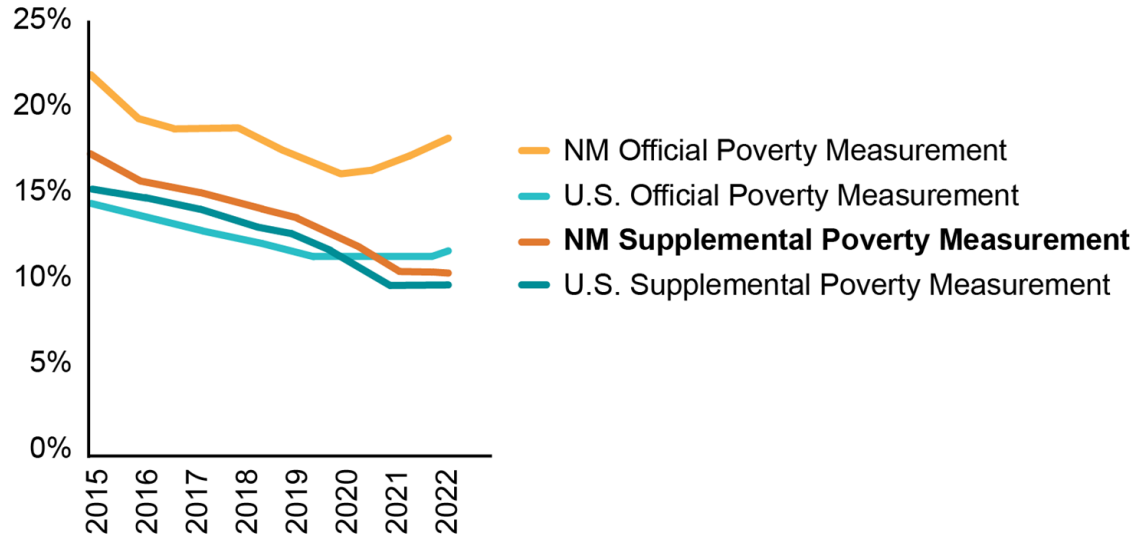
Political Context

- 3 new House members and 3 new Senators.
- 2024 is an election year for all 112 legislators.
- Continued robust level of “new” state revenue (\$3.5 billion).
- LFC & MLG want to slow the growth of the budget and greatly shrink the size of a 2024 tax bill from the vetoed 2023 tax bill.
- Less tension, in spite of the many controversial pieces of legislation.
- GOP tactic to stall and filibuster so fewer bills would pass.

Effective Policies Improve Poverty

New Mexico's Supplemental Poverty Rate Has Fallen Dramatically and is Just Above the U.S. Rate

New Mexico and U.S. Supplemental Poverty Measures (3-year averages, 2015-2022)



Source: US Census Bureau via *Stacking of Income Supports Progress Report*, NM LFC, pg. 2
NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Effective Policies Improve Workforce Participation Rates

NM unemployment is the lowest it's been in many years.

New Mexicans Receiving Income Supports are More Likely to be Working than the General Adult Population

Percent of Adults Working While Enrolled in Income Support Programs (Sept. 2023)

Program	Percent Working
TANF	74%
SNAP	62%
LIHEAP	72%
Medicaid	64%
Childcare Assistance	97%
General Population	57%

Source: HSD, KFF, and LFC analysis of ECECD data via *Stacking of Income Supports Progress Report*, NM LFC, pg. 8

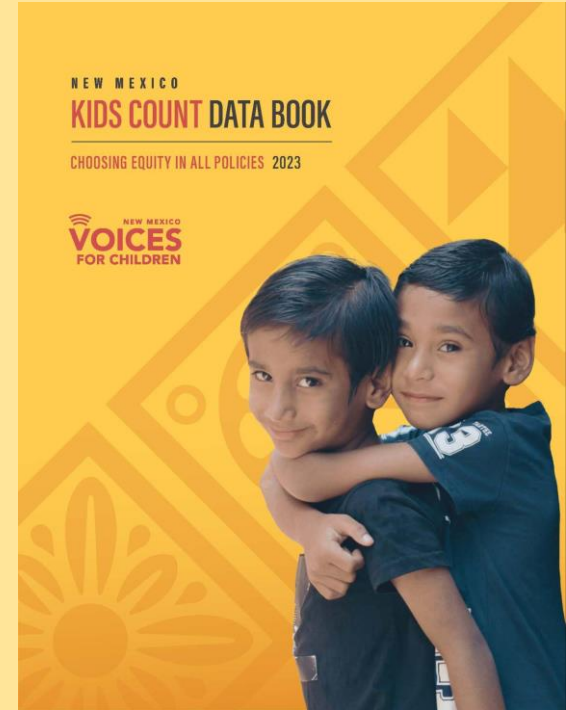
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Strategies and Tactics

- Outreach to lawmakers before and during the session
- Strong pre-session contact with key players
- Credible research & analysis
- Strategic communications
- Partner collaboration
- Civic engagement

Communications

- 7 reports, briefs and fact sheets
- 4 op-eds and blogs
- 47 media interviews or mentions
- 585 community contacts to policymakers prompted
- 15,500 social media followers



Communications

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1/5

New Mexico's child care workers support our families and set our children up for success. So why don't their wages reflect that?





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Our state has been a leader in funding essential early childhood programs, thanks to our legislators, advocates, and partners.

New Mexico plans to expand prekindergarten slots, increase pre-K teacher pay

By Dan McKay / Journal Capital Bureau | Oct 10, 2022 | Updated Oct 27, 2022

New Mexico just voted to make pre-K a universal right

The successful ballot measure could provide a jolt to the national debate on child care.
By Rachel M. Cohen | @rmco201 | rachel.cohen@voicemedia.com | Updated Nov 9, 2022, 10:27 am EST





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Despite these wins, child care workers are still some of the most underpaid workers in New Mexico.





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Communications



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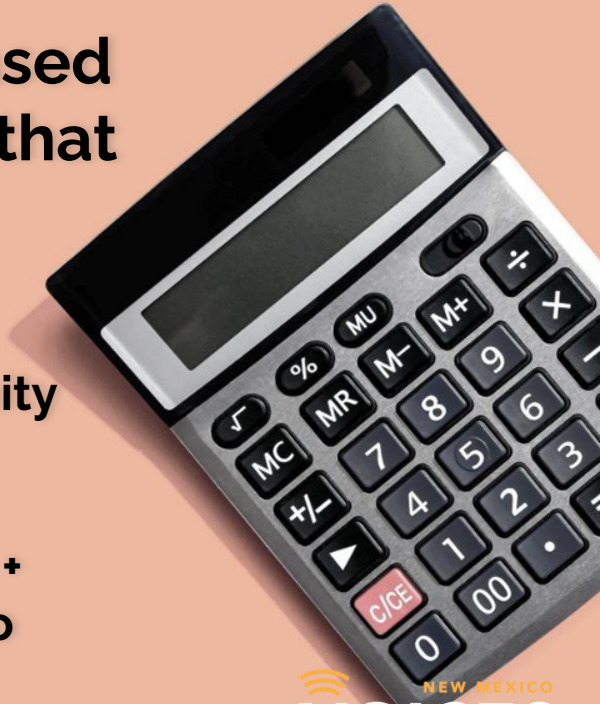
Policy Outcomes

Budget Policy

→ **\$10.2 billion state budget (HB 2) increased investments in programs and services that improve family well-being**

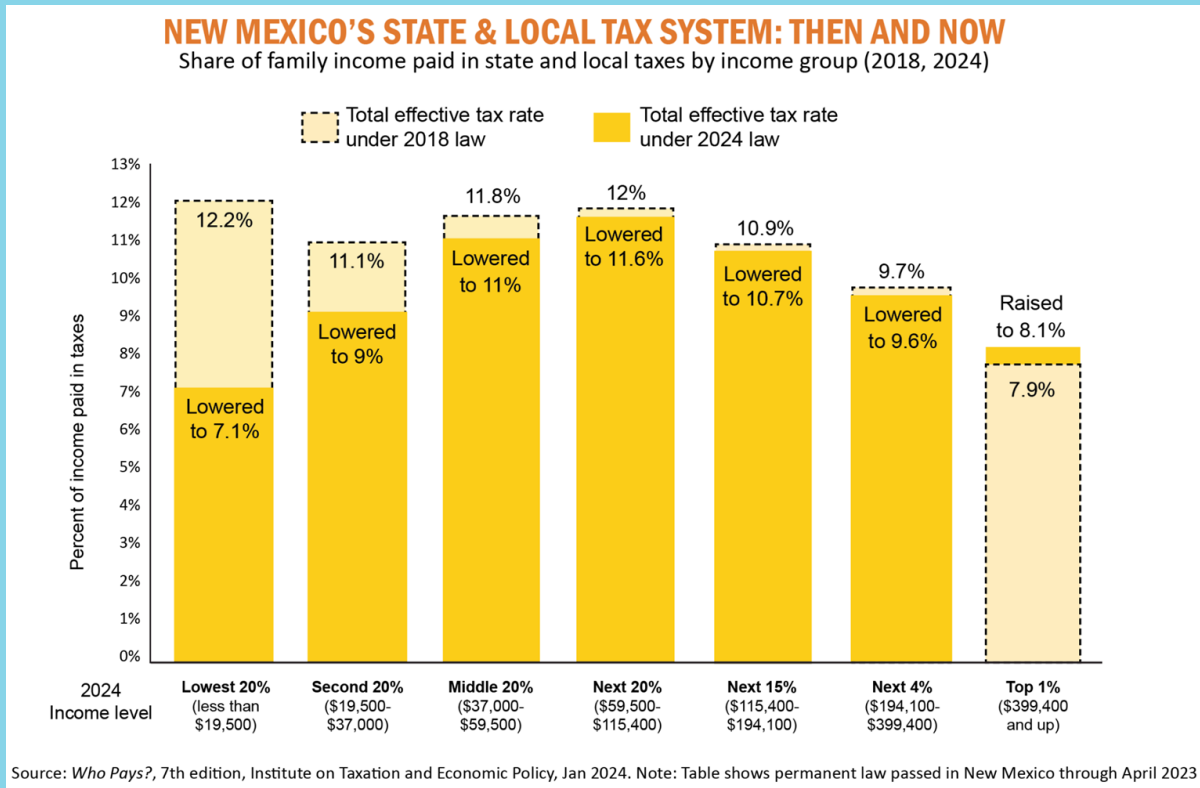
- ◆ But much more moderate budget growth
- ◆ Created the Government Results and Opportunity (GRO) Trust and Fund

With over-reliance on volatile oil and gas revenues + slowing revenue growth, smart tax policy needed to sustain meaningful investments



We've made incredible progress improving the fairness of our tax code

New Mexico is most improved when it comes to building a progressive tax code – now the 9th most progressive!



Tax Policy

→ Diversified and stabilized revenue while making our tax code more equitable (HB 252)

- ◆ Ensured corporations are paying more of their fair share
- ◆ Significantly limited the unfair capital gains deduction
- ◆ Targeted personal income tax cuts for families most in need

→ DID NOT PASS

- ◆ Increasing alcohol or tobacco taxes

Early Care and Education

→ Funding for the Department increased

- ◆ \$75.7 million for child care
- ◆ \$17.6 million for NM Pre-K
- ◆ \$3.3 million for Tribal early childhood investment

→ Funding expanded


- ◆ Early Childhood Trust Fund (SB 153)

→ Coalition Priority

- ◆ \$5 million for a child care provider wage and career ladder



Family Economic Security

- 
- Tax policy - lower income tax cut
 - Increasing access to affordable housing
 - ◆ Housing Fund & Changes (HB 195)
 - ◆ NMFA Affordable Housing Projects (SB 216)
 - DID NOT PASS
 - ◆ Removing the prohibition of rent control (SB 186)
 - ◆ Creating State Housing Agency (SB 71)
 - ◆ Increased funding for housing stability (SB 31, SB 7)
 - ◆ Paid family and medical leave (HB 6, SB 3)

Immigration Policy

→ New Mexico Guaranteed Income Pilot Project and Study for Immigrant Families led to:

- ◆ \$6 million in workforce development funding
- ◆ \$1 million to develop and administer guaranteed income workforce pilot program (HB 303)

→ DID NOT PASS

- ◆ Dignity not Detention (SB 145)

Higher Education

- Full funding for Opportunity Scholarship (HB 2)
- Created the Higher Ed Trust Fund (SB 159)
- Flexibility for Lottery and Opportunity Scholarships (SB 239)
- Post-secondary affirmative consent (HB 151)
- DID NOT PASS
 - ◆ Student Loan Bill of Rights (HB 71)



K-12 Education

- Increased or continued investments in K-12 (HB 2)
 - ◆ 3% salary increases, \$15/hr minimum wage for all
 - ◆ Reading instruction supports
- Flexibility in graduation requirements (HB 171)
- Study of class size reductions (HM 20)
- Increased training and transparency for school boards (SB 137)
- GRO Fund programs (HB 2)
 - ◆ Educator clinical practice and special education stipends



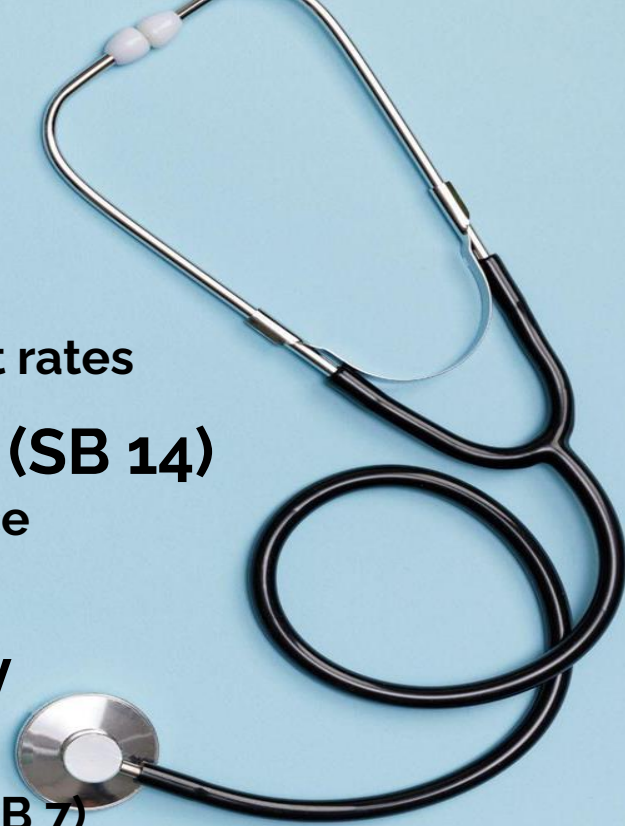
Yazzie/Martinez Response

- Funding for students who are low income
 - ◆ Family Income Index continued (HB 2)
- Funding for Tribal Remedy Framework
 - ◆ Tribal Education Trust Fund DID NOT PASS (HB 134)
- DID NOT PASS
 - ◆ *Yazzie* Lawsuit Educational Funding (HB 39)



Health Care

- **Medicaid fully funded (HB 2)**
 - ◆ Includes a boost in provider reimbursement rates
- **New Health Care Authority codified (SB 14)**
 - ◆ Medicaid, the Exchange, and other insurance consolidated in one agency
- **Health care access and affordability increased**
 - ◆ Health Care Affordability Fund stabilized (HB 7)
 - ◆ Prescription Drug Accountability Act (HB 33)
 - ◆ New rural hospital fund provides solvency (SB 161)



Public Health & Safety

→ County & Tribal Health Councils funded

- ◆ \$3 million nonrecurring appropriation (HB 2)

→ Gun violence prevention

- ◆ 7-day waiting period to purchase a firearm (HB 129)
- ◆ No firearms near polling places (SB 5)



Food Initiatives

- Full funding for Universal Healthy School Meals
- SNAP changes
 - ◆ Increased eligibility up to 200% FPL
 - ◆ Increased monthly benefit for seniors and those with disabilities
- \$5 million for food banks
- DID NOT PASS
 - ◆ \$25 million for food banks
 - ◆ Pilot for Kinship Care SNAP program

Environment & Climate Policy

- **Robust funding and tax incentives for climate protection and conservation**
 - ◆ \$75 million New Mexico Match Fund (HB 177)
 - ◆ Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund (HB 2)
 - ◆ Climate-protecting tax credits enacted (HB 252)
- **Reduced GHG emissions from transportation fuels (HB 41)**
- **DID NOT PASS**
 - ◆ Creating a Public Health & Climate Program and fund (HB 104)
 - ◆ Reforming outdated oil and gas regulations and rates (HB 133, HB 48)
- **VETOED**
 - ◆ A severance tax exemption for stripper wells (HB 252)

A photograph of four young children running joyfully on a dirt path in a wooded area. The children are of diverse backgrounds and are all smiling. A semi-transparent yellow banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "Looking Forward".

Looking Forward

FALL 2020

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Policy Opportunities on the Horizon

- With our new leadership and strategic planning this spring we hope to set the stage for progress in many areas.
- An election year means new opportunities.
- Outreach to new legislative candidates provides an opportunity to build relationships and highlight our issues.
- Grow relationships with incumbents and new lawmakers.
- Prioritize racial and gender equity.
- Bigger, bolder, better policies for families.



Thank YOU for Supporting Our Work!

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sign up to receive email alerts at
www.nmvoices.org

A silhouette of a person holding a child on their shoulders with arms outstretched against a sunset background.

Thank You!

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www.nmvoices.org