

# 2026 Legislative Policy Priorities

Our 2026 legislative policy priorities aim to address federal cuts while advancing a forward-thinking vision centered on children and families.

**New Mexico is uniquely positioned to invest boldly.** With \$64 billion in permanent funds and over \$3 billion in reserves, the state has rare financial strength to support critical programs. Using our resources for early childhood education, affordable health care, and family support will bring a much greater return than storing them away in reserves.

We are proud of New Mexico's progress in recent years, and urge lawmakers to continue acting decisively and investing boldly in children and families. **The choices made now will shape both the state's future and the well-being of its next generation.**

## Our Policy Priorities

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### Impacts of Federal Policies

In 2025, New Mexico's Governor and Legislature worked together to protect children and families amid federal cuts to the social safety net. We commend this leadership and urge lawmakers to remain committed to upholding dignity, opportunity, and stability for hardworking New Mexicans. We must protect New Mexicans and public funds from the impacts of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), particularly in the areas of:

- Health care access and affordability
- Food security
- Immigrant safety and dignity
- Ensure robust state revenue and tax fairness

### Universal Child Care

Building on progress like universal free college and a fairer tax system, lawmakers have a clear opportunity to keep more money in the hands of hardworking New Mexicans by ensuring every family has access to high-quality child care. To make universal child care truly accessible, effective, equitable, and sustainable, we must:

- Support child care workers with a clear, fair pay structure
- Prioritize access for families and communities with the greatest financial need
- Maintain quality and safety as the system rapidly expands
- Monitor state agency spending to ensure transparency, sustainability, and measurable outcomes

### Tax policy

A fair and sustainable revenue system is critical. Lawmakers must protect the essential revenue New Mexico needs by focusing on those who have benefited the most. This means promoting tax policies

that safeguard and expand state revenue while advancing equity for working families and ensuring that those with the greatest resources pay their fair share. To accomplish this we must:

- Address the impacts of federal changes on state revenue by exploring decoupling New Mexico's tax code from some provisions of the federal tax code
- Advance revenue solutions to make up for a large drop in personal and corporate income tax revenue as a result of the OBBBA, such as the Wealth Proceeds Tax

## Coalition Policy Priorities

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### Economic Security and Wealth Building

- Support equitable and effective direct cash payment programs that strengthen family economic security and child well-being
- Promote ways for families to build savings and assets over time, such as homeownership supports and baby bonds, to enhance long-term stability

### Immigration

- Minimize the impacts of federal changes targeting immigrant communities and support immigrants' social, cultural, and economic opportunity and belonging
- Advocate for the Immigrant Safety Act, Driver Privacy & Safety Act, and Office of New Americans Act

### Climate

- Support investments that help communities transition from dependence on oil and gas
- Ensure children are protected from the impacts of fossil fuel extraction and climate change
- Promote policies like the Clear Horizons Act, which would codify statewide emissions reductions goals

### Health Care

- Ensure the Health Care Affordability Fund, Medicaid Trust Fund, and Behavioral Health Trust Fund are adequately funded and used to provide accessible services for children and families, especially in underserved communities

### K-12 Education

- Support a comprehensive and well-funded plan to address the Yazzie-Martinez lawsuit that incorporates community input and priorities
- Promote biliteracy development training programs that support students' literacy in their home language and complement the state's literacy initiative
- Support school-based behavioral health initiatives that provide support services for students, and expand career pathways into the behavioral health workforce

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