



# New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness

## NMCEH 2011-2012 ADVOCACY AGENDA

### TIER 1 PRIORITIES

Protect state and federal funding for programs that benefit people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness, with specific focus on:

- General Assistance
  - Linkages
  - Transitions
- State homeless assistance funding
- Federal housing programs, including Continuum of Care, Housing Choice Voucher program, VASH vouchers for homeless veterans and public housing

Develop and implement a communications strategy that educates the public and decision-makers about homelessness. This would include collecting and disseminating data on homelessness and the solutions to homelessness.

### TIER 2 PRIORITIES

Advocate for expansion and protection of Medicaid. This includes:

- Protect current funding and benefits at the state and federal level
- Ensure that when Medicaid is expanded to all people below 138% of the federal poverty level in 2014, people who are homeless/at risk of homeless are able to obtain Medicaid
  - Work with Optum Health and Behavioral Health Collaborative to improve behavioral health system

Advocate for policy changes that would help homeless youth and youth aging out of foster care or juvenile justice system obtain housing and services.

Advocate with MFA about Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and how the Qualified Application Process (QAP) could better serve those who need supportive housing.

### TIER 3 PRIORITIES

Collaborate with organizations fighting oppression.

Advocate for renters' rights, including educating landlords and working with local housing authorities.