



New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness

2010-2011 State Advocacy Agenda

Tier 1 Priorities

Secure a dedicated source of funding for the New Mexico Housing Trust Fund

The NM Housing Trust Fund was created in 2005 to fund the development of affordable housing throughout New Mexico. The Housing Trust Fund needs a dedicated source of funding in order to continue being a viable funding source for affordable housing development and so that it can benefit New Mexico's lowest-income residents. Funding for the Trust Fund has declined each year and in 2009 and 2010 the Housing Trust Fund did not receive any funding.

Maintain Funding for Housing Stability Services

New Mexico currently funds \$950,000 in services that help people obtain and remain in housing. New Mexico must maintain its investment in these services.

Maintain Funding for the state-funded Linkages and Transitions Programs

The Linkages Program provides housing vouchers to people with mental health disabilities at risk of homelessness. The Transitions Program provides housing vouchers to youth who are aging out of the foster care or juvenile justice system. These are the housing voucher programs funded by the state. Housing vouchers are a key component in ending homelessness, and NM must maintain its investment in these programs.

Maintain state funding for General Assistance (GA) program so that benefits are maintained at the current level. Ensure that people who are eligible for GA are able to obtain it quickly and easily.

GA provides small amounts of cash assistance to people who are seriously disabled and who have very low incomes. For many people who receive GA, this is their only source of income and can be difference between being able to pay for housing and other basic necessities and becoming homeless.

In partnership with Better Choices NM, raise revenue in order to address state's budget shortfall through means that do not hurt low-income people

Instead of cutting funding for services that low-income people rely on, particularly during hard economic times, New Mexico must generate revenue by making the wealthy and out-of-state corporations pay their fair share. Our main focus will be on supporting legislation that closes corporate tax loopholes, sunsets the 2003 tax cut for the wealthiest, and makes New Mexico's budget more transparent.

Support the New Mexico Campaign to End Child Homelessness.

We will work with other Campaign members, including the National Center on Family Homelessness, to impact public policies, foster best practices and raise public awareness so that we can end child homelessness in New Mexico.

Tier 2 Priorities

Support implementation of the Behavioral Health Collaborative's Long Range Supportive Housing Plan and the Housing First Plan.

The Supportive Housing Plan was completed in December 2007 and two pilot projects are underway. The Housing First Plan was completed in 2008. The NMCEH will support funding and other policy requests that support implementation of the Plan.

Advocate for accessible, affordable, and accountable health care for all people living in New Mexico

The NMCEH believes that everyone should have access to affordable health care and that providing affordable health care to all New Mexican would prevent homelessness. The NMCEH will work with the Health Care for All Coalition to ensure federal health care reform is successfully implemented in New Mexico.

Support early childhood development initiatives

Strong early childhood development programs strengthen families and breaks the cycle of homelessness.

Tier 3 Priorities

Expand Workman's Compensation to include farm and ranch workers

The New Mexico Center on Law & Poverty is advocating for changes to the Workman's Compensation Act that would expand Workman's Compensation to include farm and ranch workers. Workers' Compensation insurance provides medical and indemnity benefits to workers who are injured on the job.

Support immigration reform efforts that promote and protect basic human and civil rights, while opposing both local and statewide initiatives that undermine basic human and civil rights.

Undocumented immigrants are vulnerable to homelessness. Efforts to protect their human and civil rights help them maintain housing and take care of themselves and their families. Efforts to undermine their human and civil rights further isolates undocumented immigrants and makes them even more vulnerable to homelessness.

Explanation of Tier Structure:

Tier 1: NMCEH will play a lead role developing and implementing strategy, building key alliances, and getting legislation passed. NMCEH members will actively support via letters, phone calls, legislator visits, etc.

Tier 2: NMCEH actively supports, but not in lead role. Instead, NMCEH will partner with another organization(s) who is taking the lead on that particular advocacy priority.

Tier 3: NMCEH will not spend lot of time working on these priorities, but will show support through activities such as signing on to a letter of support or officially endorsing.