



**NATIONAL SURVEY
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

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from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, POVERTY, AND HOMELESSNESS

New Mexico had an estimated 304 homeless families on a single night in 2009, with providers serving twice their bed capacity over the course of the year.¹ This brief summarizes some of the state’s public and private initiatives to assist these families.

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: New Mexico does not have an official taskforce on homelessness. House Memorial 7 (introduced during the 2010 legislative session) established a workgroup to examine child homelessness and generate legislative recommendations in a report to the Interim Health and Human Services Committee due in November 2010.

Governor’s Appointee: None.



Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	New Mexico	Albuquerque
Persons in homeless families ²	1,132	548
Number of family shelter beds ³	1,432	490
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) ⁴	16	30
Percent of families in poverty ⁵	21.25%	17.57%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	No plan	No plan
10-Year plan target population	No plan	No plan
Point-in-time count frequency	Biennially*	Biennially
Point-in-time count managing agency	New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness*	New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness*	New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness*	New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness

*Corresponds to the Balance of State Continuum of Care, which comprises areas of New Mexico that are not included in a regional or local CoC.

State Funds for Homeless Assistance and Prevention Efforts

New Mexico’s Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA) administers all federal and state formula funds for homeless assistance and prevention efforts through the Transitional and Supportive Services (TSS) program. The program serves an average of 13,000 homeless families and individuals per year by funding emergency shelter operations, homeless prevention, essential services, and permanent supportive housing operations. TSS is primarily funded through the federal Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and the State Homelessness Assistance program, which is financed by monies allocated annually under New Mexico’s Human Services Department. The total TSS funding amount for fiscal year 2010–11 was set at \$1,441,959 (\$716,259 of federal ESG and \$725,700 of State Homeless Assistance).⁶



The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on New Mexico and other states, visit www.icprwb.org

To provide additional financial aid to New Mexico's homeless and at-risk families and individuals, the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness, a non-profit organization, is actively working to secure a dedicated funding source for the New Mexico Housing Trust Fund. Created in 2005 and managed by MFA, the trust fund has financed the development of 1,003 low-income housing units throughout the state.⁷ While the trust fund received an initial \$10 million investment, funding has decreased every year with no financial support provided in 2009 or 2010.⁸

Surplus Property For Homeless Service Providers

State agencies and non-profit organizations (with a focus on health, education, or homelessness) are eligible to receive surplus federal and state property through New Mexico's State Agency for Surplus Property (SASP). Property, including vehicles, office furniture, and heavy equipment or machinery, can be obtained for a service fee equivalent to 15% of the item's original acquisition value. Additionally, blankets, coats, and other personal items may be available to homeless service providers at no cost. SASP receives excess property directly from state agencies and federal surplus property from the U.S. General Services Administration. Property is distributed based on want and need. Providers interested in the program must apply with SASP to qualify for donee status.⁹

Strong Starts for Children in New Mexico

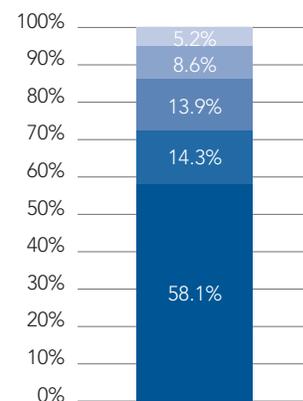
Prompted by need and the state's diverse cultural composition, Everyday Democracy, a national non-profit organization, launched the Strong Starts for Children program in New Mexico in 2010. Funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, this collaborative 18-month pilot project engages residents from diverse backgrounds in conversations on early childhood development, including family economic stability, school readiness, and linked health and education systems.¹⁰ Cuidando los Niños, a non-profit organization that offers early childhood programs, family support services, and advocacy to homeless children and families in Albuquerque, was one of five local coalitions selected to participate in the project. Working with the New Mexico Campaign to End Child Homelessness, Cuidando los Niños has begun to host community dialogues aimed at developing community action plans to end child homelessness in three Albuquerque neighborhoods.¹¹

A Green, Mixed-income Housing Community

In 2008, the Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico, the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness, and Care 66 (a local non-profit organization) completed development on Chuska Apartments, a homeless and low-income affordable housing community in the City of Gallup that incorporates energy efficient design elements. The community offers ten transitional supportive housing units for homeless families and twenty affordable housing units for families at or below 60% of the area median income. Care 66 coordinates supportive services including medical and mental health care, job skills training, and general counseling for families residing in the transitional housing units. The roughly \$8 million project was primarily financed by a federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. Chuska Apartments was designed to promote sustainability and reduce utility costs by as much as 40%–50% through the use of energy efficient features including day-lighting and rooftop solar water heating. Winner of the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority's 2006 tax credit design award, the project has been recognized as a model for future transitional and permanent housing developments in New Mexico.¹²

Percent of Allocations by the Transitional and Supportive Services Program (by program type)

- Permanent supportive housing operations
- Continuum of Care match
- Essential services
- Homeless prevention
- Emergency shelter operations



Source: Catherine Hummel (Program Specialist, New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority), interview with ICPH, November 2010.

Endnotes

- ¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness, *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families*, 2009.
- ² U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*.
- ³ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Housing Inventory Chart Report*.
- ⁴ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates*.
- ⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey*.
- ⁶ Catherine Hummel (Program Specialist, New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority), interview with ICPH, November 2010.
- ⁷ Daniel Puccetti (Program Manager, New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority), interview with ICPH, November 2010.
- ⁸ Hank Hughes (Executive Director, New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness), interview with ICPH, October 2010.
- ⁹ New Mexico State Agency for Surplus Property, *State Plan of Operations*, 2003; Chris Barela (Bureau Chief, New Mexico State Agency for Surplus Property), interview with ICPH, November 2010.
- ¹⁰ Everyday Democracy, "Five New Mexico Communities to Give Their Children a 'Strong Start': Initiative Gives Communities Tools and Training to Bring People Together," *Everyday Democracy*, March 23, 2010.
- ¹¹ Cuidando los Niños, "Join a Community Dialogue on Ending Child Homelessness," <http://clnkids.org/join-a-community-dialogue-on-ending-child-homelessness>
- ¹² Enterprise Green Communities, *Chuska Apartments*, 2008; Sanjay Choudhrie, "Chuska Apartments—soon a reality in Gallup," *Navajo-Hopi Observer*, June 23, 2006; New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness, "Supportive Housing Program," <http://www.nmceh.org/pages/program3.html>