2013 Legislative Victories!

New Mexico First had some major wins in the 2013 legislative session. New Mexico First’s legislative platform was based on the Centennial Town Hall.

Substance Abuse

PASSED: HJM12-The peer-to-peer substance abuse memorial requested NM state departments to incorporate peer-to-peer approaches into existing substance abuse prevention efforts. New Mexico First drafted the legislation. Sponsor: Rodella (aligned with Centennial rec. #5 on substance abuse prevention)

Water, Tourism, STEM and Workforce

PASSED: HB2-The General Appropriation act of 2013 passed. Within that bill, New Mexico First supported appropriations for state and regional water planning, increased tourism, science and math education funds, and the workforce development program JTIP. Sponsor: Saavedra (aligned with Centennial recs. #1, 4, and 6, plus STEM Summit action plan)

Early Childhood Education

PASSED: HB310-The bill proposed changes to the K-3 program eligibility allowing more underserved children to qualify for the program. Sponsor: Stewart (aligned with Centennial rec. 9 on early childhood development)

PASSED: SB365-The home visiting accountability act strengthened New Mexico’s home visiting efforts. The bill required the Children, Youth and Families Department to adopt and disseminate rules by which the standards-based home visiting program will operate. Sponsor: Sapien (aligned with Centennial rec. 9 on early childhood development)

Healthcare

New Mexico First wrote a letter to Governor Susana Martinez on behalf of the 81 percent of participants that called for healthcare equality and encouraged her to accept federal funding to expand Medicaid coverage as part of the federal Affordable Care Act. Governor Martinez accepted the federal funding to expand Medicaid coverage. The state received more than $6 billion in 2014 and the funding will continue through 2020 to cover the lowest-income adult population. (aligned with Centennial rec. 12 on healthcare)
Economic Development

PASSED: HB76-The bill appropriated funds to maintain the economic development program, MainStreet. Sponsor: Lundstrom (aligned with Centennial rec. #6 plus multiple economic development recommendations from past town halls)

PASSED: HB238/SB234-The bill amended the New Mexico chile advertising act by strengthening the law for advertising, labeling, describing, and offering New Mexico chile. Sponsor: Martinez (aligned with Centennial rec. 9 on economic development)

PASSED: The Senate Finance Committee omnibus tax bill passed in the Senate 34-8. It was endorsed in the House 46-18. The bill aligned partly with our tax recommendations. We followed various tax bills that aligned with our agenda to reduce corporate income tax to rates equal or lower to surrounding states as well as adopting an elective single sales factor. The corporate income tax reduction gradually reduces the rate from 7.6 percent to 5.9. It is phased in over five years. The single sales factor would allow manufacturers to base their income taxes entirely on their New Mexico sales. (aligned with Centennial rec. 8 on taxes)

2014 Legislative Victories!

New Mexico First had some wins in the 2014 legislative session. New Mexico First’s legislative platform was based on the Centennial Town Hall and the STEM Summit action plan.

NM State Library posted NM First policy reports in a digital library for research use by state legislators and legislative staff.

Education

PASSED: HB2: Funded two million dollars to the public education department for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics initiative, which included five hundred thousand dollars for professional development of mathematics and science teachers statewide. Sponsor: Stewart (Aligned STEM Summit action plan)

PASSED: HM19 and SM38- Declared the week of February 7 through 14, 2014, as New Mexico STEM Education Week in the House of Representatives and the Senate and announced the request for voluntary targets in New Mexico regarding science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Sponsors: Stewart, Sapien, Kernan (Aligned STEM Summit action plan)

Economic Development

PASSED: HB7-Provided funding for a job training incentive program (JTIP). Sponsor: Varela (aligned with Centennial rec. #6 plus multiple economic development recommendations from past town halls)

Water

PASSED: SB43- The bill provided seven hundred thousand dollars to the Interstate Stream Commission to update the state and regional water plans. The 16 regional water plans needed updating to maintain their utility in equipping regions to respond to water management challenges like recent drought and
floods, leading to further uncertainty in future water supplies. Sponsor: Campos (aligned with Centennial rec. #1 on water planning)