

All New Mexicans care about our young people's futures---and the future of our communities. When young people have the opportunity to explore new activities and places, these experiences develop skills needed to become thriving and contributing adults. Systems involvement and early interactions with the justice system often hinder these developmental processes, with potentially lifelong effects. Lack of essential supports, like affordable housing, nutrition assistance, and affordable health care, creates further barriers to a successful transition to adulthood.

## WHAT CAN WE DO TO BETTER SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE?

### YOUTH JUSTICE

- Update the Juvenile Corrections Act to expand funding to pre-petition services for children and families
- Increase resources for evaluations, diversion, and treatment
- Improve the accuracy and timeliness of risk assessments
- Train systems workers to better engage and support children and families before/during/after cases
- Offer opportunities to practice life skills to persist in education & employment
- Create accountability that ensures legislative changes are implemented and executed with fidelity
- Provide meaningful gun reform

### FOSTER CARE

- Clarify the definition of neglect from poverty
- Build a new department that offers resources to families and does not have the stigma of separating families
- Train systems workers to better engage and support children and families before/during/after cases
- Create accountability that ensures legislative changes are implemented and executed with fidelity
- Create space for children and families to heal from the trauma of family separation

### COMMUNITY BUILDING | LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT | YOUTH ADVOCACY

NMCAN authentically engages young people (ages 14-25) who have experienced family separation via foster care, youth justice, and/or homelessness to advocate for systems change that improves their transition to adulthood and positively transforms our community.

Lorilynn Violanta, Co-Executive Director | 505-217-0220 | lorilynn.violanta@nmcan.org | NMKAN.org

## JOIN US

OUR CITY, OUR FUTURE  
YOUTH FORUM

WED, OCTOBER 22

5:00-7:00 PM

ORPHEUM COMMUNITY HUB  
500 2nd STREET SW, ABQ

RSVP by October 13  
using the QR code below or  
visit [nmcan.org/events](http://nmcan.org/events)

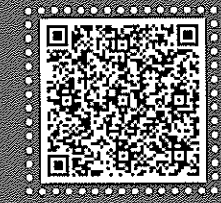


## RESOURCES

Report: Effective Alternatives to  
Youth Incarceration\*



Report: From Punishment to  
Prevention - A Better Approach  
to Addressing Youth Gun  
Possession\*



\*Credit: The Sentencing Project