

# New Mexico Results First–

*Ensuring Investments Get Better Outcomes  
at Lower Costs*

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# New Mexico Results First

- ▶ Background
- ▶ Work began in 2012
- ▶ New tool for supporting evidence-based policy making and budgeting.
- ▶ Partner with Pew–MacArthur Results First Initiative.
- ▶ Can assess cost–benefits using best research and New Mexico data.

# New Mexico Results First

- ▶ We can now estimate the costs of a number of social issues in NM
  - adult and juvenile crime
  - child abuse
  - substance abuse
  - Low education attainment
- ▶ We can tell how investments in programs with a strong research basis can reduce these costs to taxpayers and improve outcomes for New Mexicans.
- ▶ LFC staff continue loading information for programs currently being used in New Mexico.

# Lifetime total benefits of selected outcomes in New Mexico

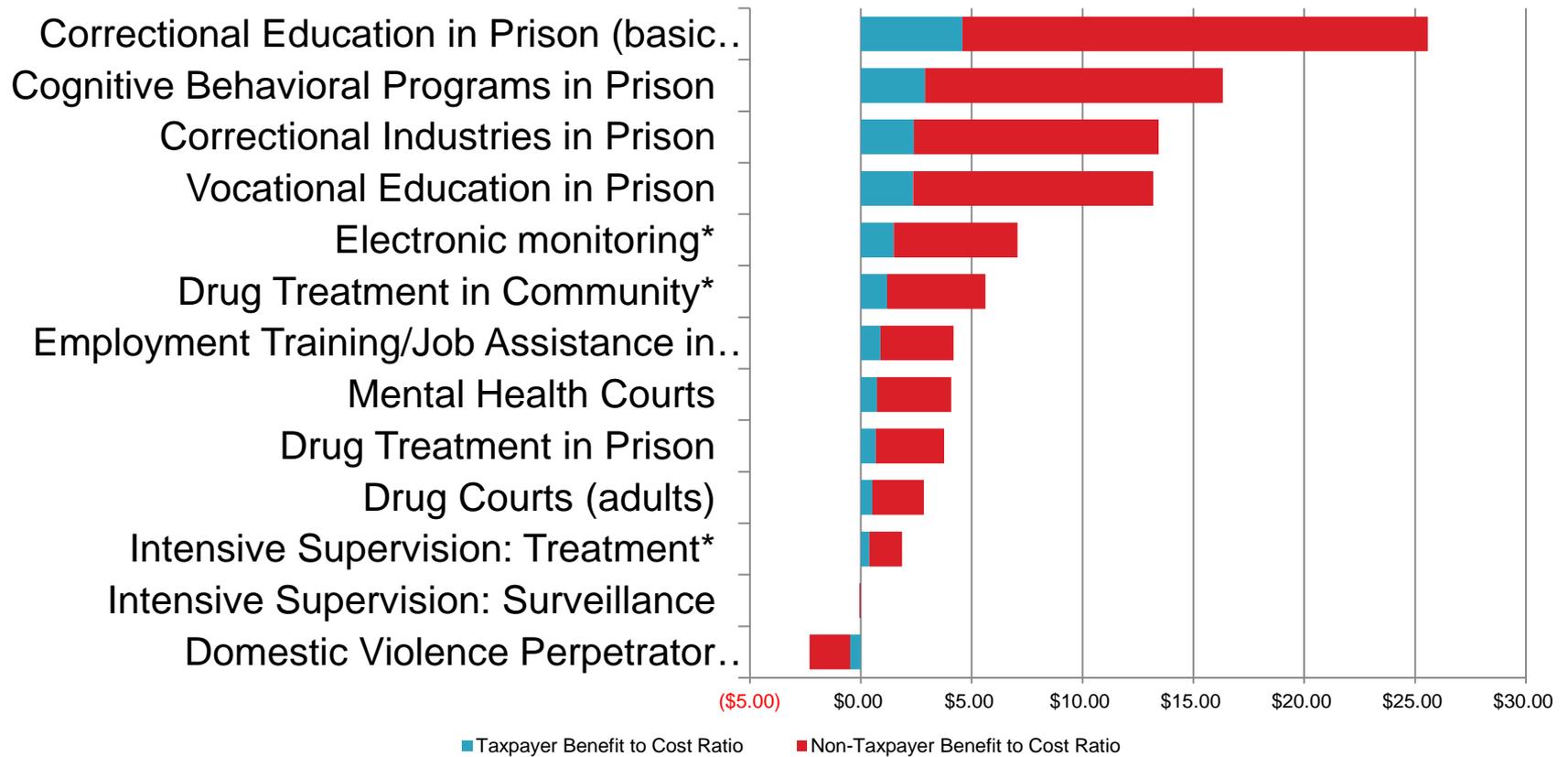
Outcome	Lifetime Value
Avoiding a reconviction	\$121,912
Avoiding one case of child abuse or neglect	\$99,435
Preventing a low-income child from getting involved in crime	\$84,840
Preventing a case of drug dependence or abuse	\$45,917

# New Mexico Results First

- ▶ Primarily Used in Program Evaluations
  - Adult Corrections
    - Need to reform in-prison substance abuse
    - Prioritize revitalized corrections industries
    - Combine community supervision with treatment
  - Early Childhood
    - Use Medicaid to finance intensive home visiting
  - Behavioral Health
    - Prioritize use of evidence-based services
- ▶ New Consumer Report for Adult Corrections

# Adult Corrections – 2013

## Total Benefit to Cost Ratio By Program



# Some NM costs associated with juvenile crime

- ▶ FY12 CYFD JJS Facility average cost per day=\$366.65 per person
- ▶ CYFD JJS State supervision cost per day=\$7.28 per person
- ▶ Other costs included vary by severity of crime:
  - Police costs (data from DPS)
  - Courts and prosecutors (data from AOC and LFC)
  - Victim costs (McCollister, 2010)

# Programs Addressing Juvenile Crime in the NM Results First Model

- ▶ Functional Family Therapy (Institutions)
- ▶ Aggression Replacement Training (Institutions)
- ▶ Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care
- ▶ Functional Family Therapy (Probation)
- ▶ Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
- ▶ Family Integrated Transitions (Institutions)
- ▶ Drug Court
- ▶ Coordination of Services
- ▶ Victim Offender Mediation
- ▶ Scared Straight

# Example Juvenile Program: Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

- ▶ Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is a structured family-based intervention that uses a multi-step approach to enhance protective factors and reduce risk factors in the family.
- ▶ FFT was discontinued by CYFD in 2008 and 39 assigned CYFD therapists were redeployed.

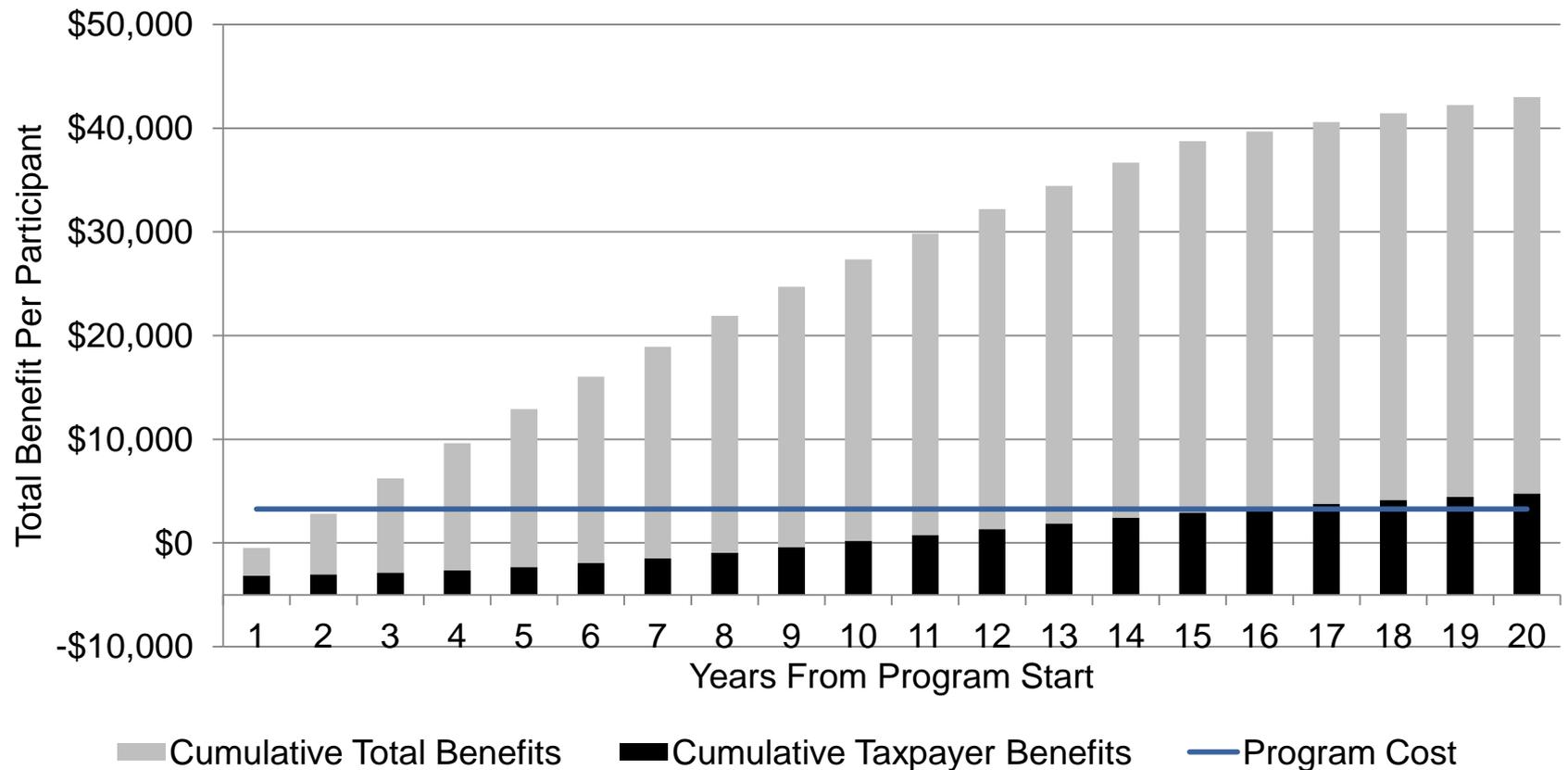
# FFT benefits per child in NM

- FFT is a safe bet
  - 99.9% positive return
- FFT benefits per participant are over \$40 thousand, far outweighing costs
- FFT benefits accrue over many years...

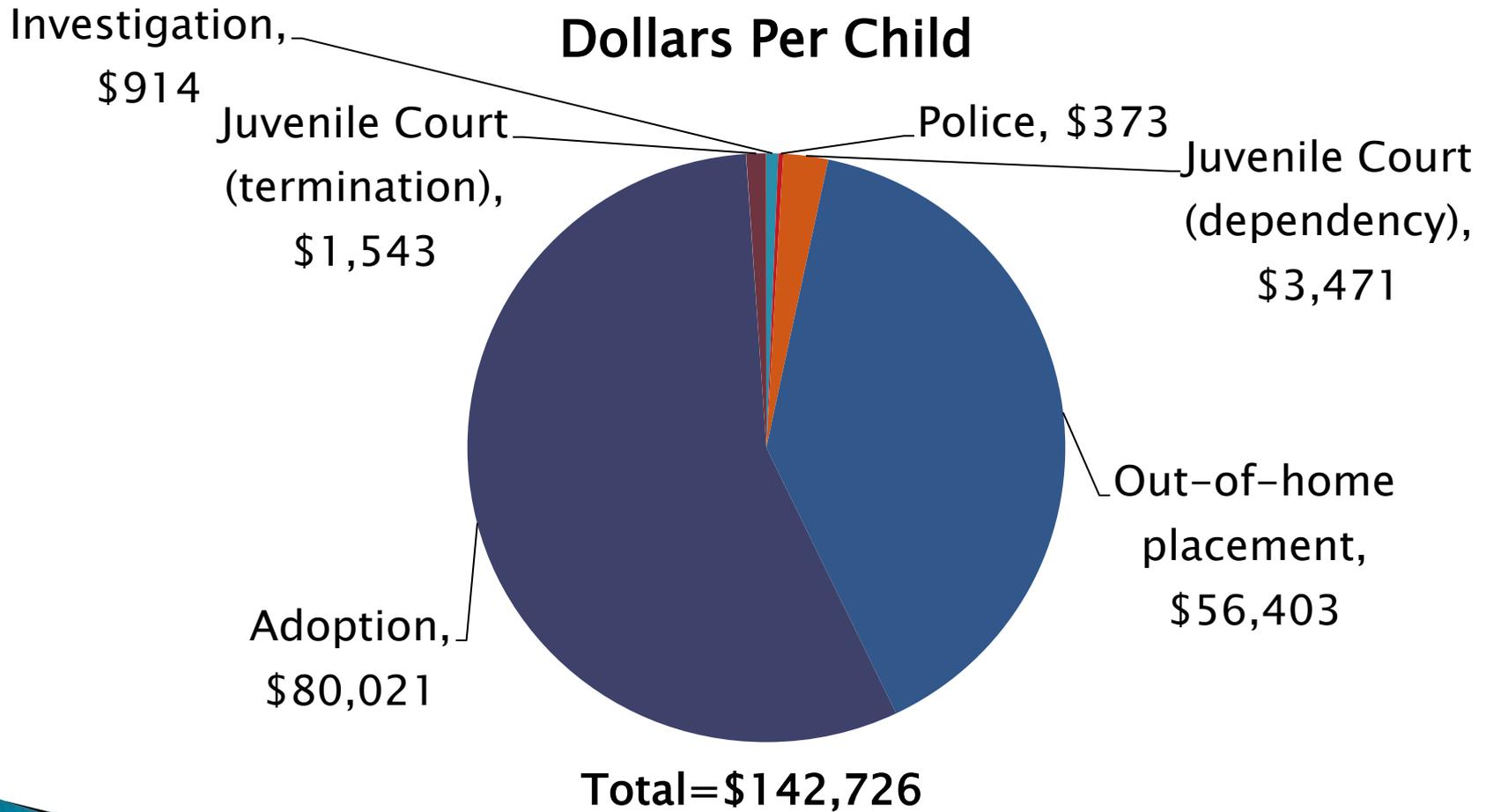
Outputs	Figure
Benefits to participants	\$4,863
Benefits to Taxpayers	\$7,765
Other Beneficiaries	\$27,737
Other Indirect Benefits	\$2,318
Total Benefits	\$42,684
Costs	(\$3,273)
Benefits minus Costs	\$39,411
Benefit to Cost Ratio	\$13.08
Chance of a Positive ROI	99.9%

# It often takes years to realize a return on investment...

## When Does New Mexico Break Even on FFT



# What are some tangible costs of a case of child abuse/neglect resulting in adoption in NM?



# Child Abuse and Neglect also link to adverse outcomes

- ▶ Crime
- ▶ Poor education outcomes
- ▶ Substance abuse
- ▶ Special education
- ▶ Depression

# Child Welfare and Education Programs

Child Welfare Programs	Education Programs
Nurse Family Partnership for Low-Income Families	Reading Recovery (K-12 Tutoring)
Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) for Families in the Child Welfare System	Early Childhood Education for Low Income 3- and 4- Year Olds
Intensive Family Preservation Services (Homebuilders)	K-12 Tutoring by Peers
SafeCare	Tutoring (vs. No Tutoring) for ELL Students
Parents as Teachers	Special Literacy Instruction for ELL Students
Alternative Response	K-12 Tutoring by Adults
Triple P Positive Parenting Program (System)	Teacher Induction Programs
Other home visiting programs for at-risk mothers and children	K-12 Parent Involvement Programs
Parent Child Home Program	National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Certification Bonuses
Healthy Families America	Teacher Performance Pay Programs
Other Family Preservation Services (non-Homebuilders)	Additional Day of K-12 Instructional Time
	K-12 Educator Content-Specific Professional Development
	K-12 Educator Professional Development (Non-Content Specific)
	Even Start
	Early Head Start

# Example child welfare program: Alternative Response

- ▶ Alternative Response is a system of responding to referrals to Child Protective Services that is an alternative to a traditional investigation. If there are no imminent concerns about a child's safety, the Alternative Response method conducts a family assessment, with the goal of engaging a family to determine strengths and needs and plan for the future.
- ▶ In 2011 an LFC evaluation recommended CYFD adopt Alternative Response. At the time the department did not agree with the recommendation.

# Alternative Response

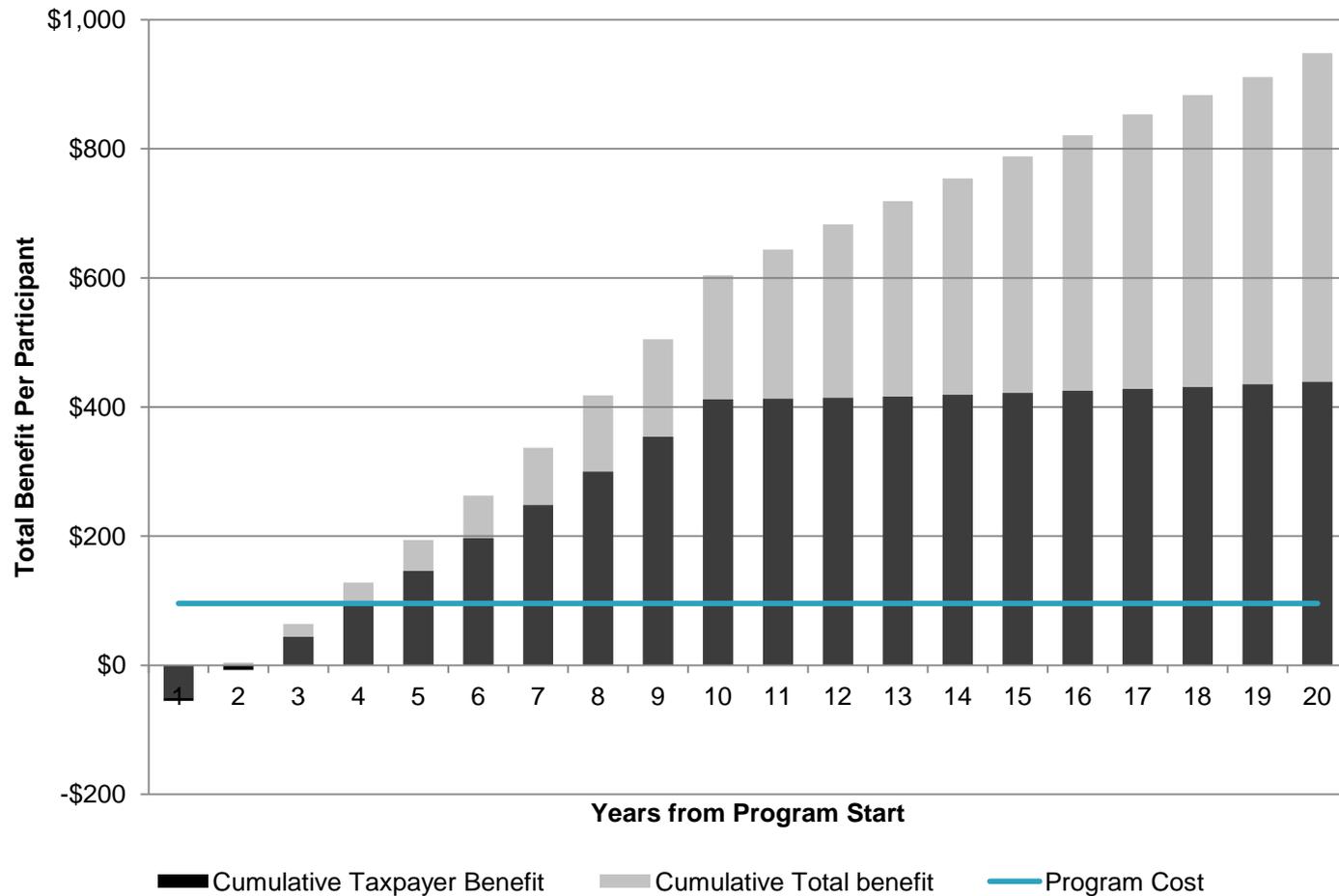
A CPS alternative system for dealing with referrals with no imminent child safety concerns

Outputs	Figure
Benefits to participants	\$348
Benefits to Taxpayers	\$507
Other Beneficiaries	\$124
Other Indirect Benefits	\$49
Total Benefits	\$1,028
Costs	(\$95)
Benefits minus Costs	\$933
Benefit to Cost Ratio	\$10.80
Chance of a Positive ROI	99.9%

# Alternative Response benefits breakdown

Source of Benefits	To Participant	To Taxpayer	To Others	Indirect Benefits	Total Benefits
Crime Reduction		\$16	\$130		\$146
Increased Earnings Based on HS degree	\$73	\$27		\$35	\$136
Increased Earnings based on Test scores	\$28	\$10		\$14	\$52
Avoided health care costs via educational attainment	-\$2	\$13	-\$10		\$2
Reduction in child abuse/neglect	\$240	\$96			\$336
Reduced out of home placements		\$337			\$337
Other	\$8	\$6	\$3		\$19

# It often takes only a few years to realize a return on investment...



# Implementing What Works

- ▶ Research gives us clear picture of what should work
- ▶ Are we using these programs in New Mexico?
  - ▶ How much of our current resources are we spending on evidence-based programs?
- ▶ How much of future resources should be spent on these programs?
  - What role should programs without any basis in research play? How much should taxpayers spend on these?
  - Should NM develop standard framework for cultural adaptations of evidenced-based programs?

# Implementing What Works

- ▶ Monitoring ongoing performance.
  - Example, many early childhood programs lack regular performance measures to demonstrate results to legislature and taxpayers – is this sustainable?
- ▶ Periodic process and outcome evaluation.
  - Best programs will not work if not implemented appropriately.
  - Are evidence-based programs producing results research suggests they should?
  - Are providers and agencies willing to engage in data sharing necessary to evaluate results?

# New Mexico Results First

## Incorporating the model into budget decisions

### ▶ *Consumer reports*

- Inventory existing programs.
- Prioritize funding for programs with a high likelihood of success.

### ▶ *Budget and policy analysis*

- Providing benchmarks for expected performance from evidence based programs that have already been implemented.

### ▶ *Program evaluations*

- More in depth evaluations to investigate if state is getting expected results.

# Conclusion

- ▶ We know the challenges facing children and families in New Mexico.
- ▶ We know state spends significant resources.
- ▶ But, are we appropriately targeting spending, and allocating resources to what works?
- ▶ What are the costs–benefits of those choices?
- ▶ Is program performance monitored and improved if necessary?

Though daunting, New Mexico's challenges appear solvable.