

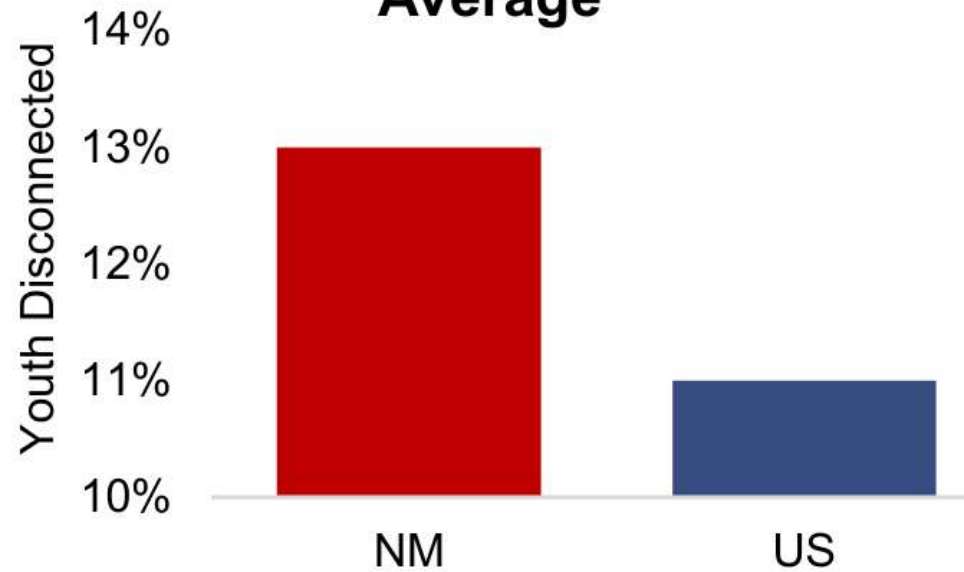


Overview of:
LFC Action Plan: Reconnecting Disconnected Youth
(Report released April 2026)

Josh Chaffin, LFC Evaluator III

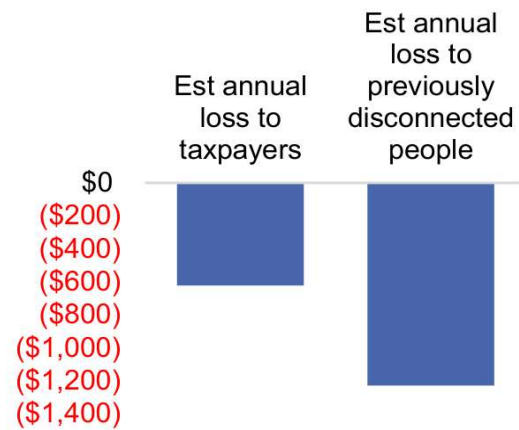
JULY 22, 2026

**Chart 1. Connecting 3,200
More Youth to School or
Jobs Would Get New
Mexico to the National
Average**



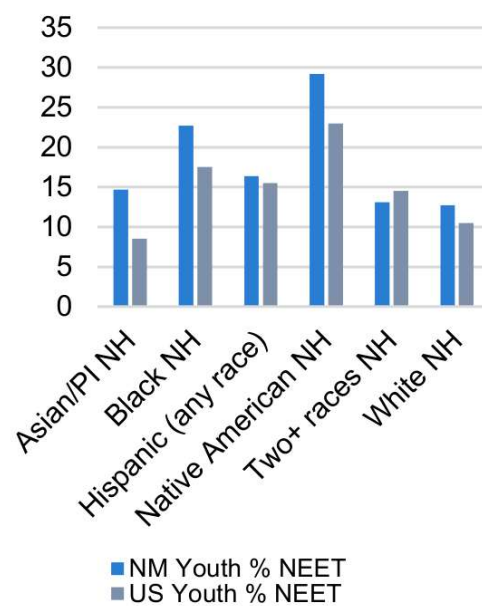
Source: Census Data 2023 one-year estimate

**Chart 4. Cost of Youth
Disconnection to
Taxpayers and Individual
Personal Income
(in millions)**

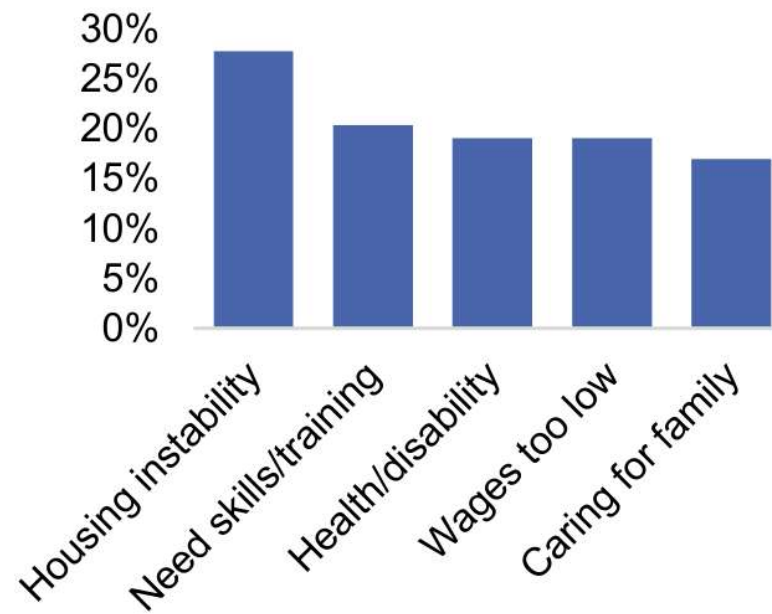


Source: *Public Health Reports* and Measure of America

Chart 5. Disconnected Youth by Race/Ethnicity, NM vs. US (2019-2023)

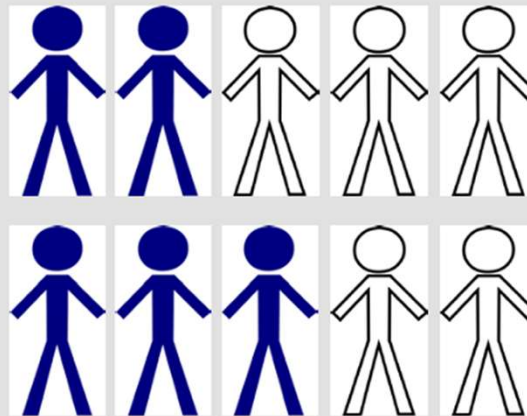


**Chart 6. Top Reasons
Youth Are Not Looking
for a Job**



Source: LFC analysis of WSD data

56 percent of disconnected youth
live in Bernalillo, Doña Ana, San
Juan, and McKinley counties.



Note: County analysis from 2021, based on 2019 data.

Source: Measure of America

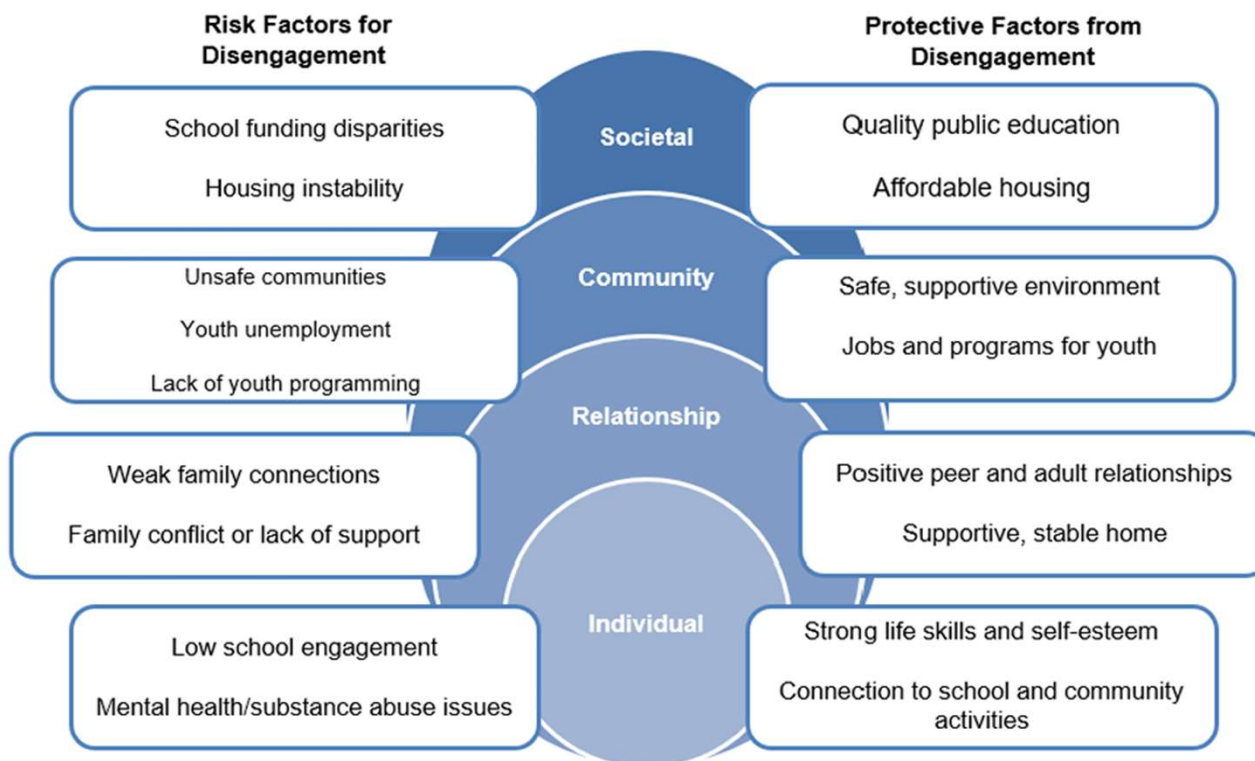
Table 1. Funding for Select Programs Related to Disconnected Youth

Agency	Program	Funding	Estimated Number Served	Estimated Cost per participant	Year
CYFD	Youth Mentorship and Family Services (Juvenile Justice)	\$2,500,000	560	\$4,464	FY26
CYFD	Fostering Connections (Foster services)	\$1,819,716	285	\$6,385	FY26
EMNRD	Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)	\$6,133,900	707	\$8,676	FY26
WSD	Pre-Apprenticeship Opportunity Program (POP)	\$1,200,000	600	\$2,000	FY26
WSD	Intensive outreach to out-of-school, at-risk youth	\$500,000	375	\$1,333	FY26
WSD	Be Pro Be Proud	\$2,000,000	3,736*	\$535	FY26
WSD	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth	\$7,019,693	1,300	\$5,400	FY25
PED	CTE, including innovation zones and summer internships	\$38,500,000	~51,000	\$755	FY26
PED	Chronic absenteeism	\$6,200,000	All PED students	\$21	FY26
HED	Workforce training and certificates	\$22,700,000	6,700	\$3,388	FY26
Total		\$88,573,309			

Note: CYFD= Children, Youth, and Families Department, EMNRD= Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, WSD= Workforce Solutions Department, PED= Public Education Department, HED= Higher Education Department. Funding includes operational budgets. WIOA Youth funding comes from a DOL 2025 program year estimate. Be Pro Be Proud participation estimated from averaging the total over 3 years.

Sources: HB2 and DOL

Figure 1. Causes and Protective Factors Related to Youth Disconnection



Source: New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department; Kemple and Willner; National Research Council and Institute of Medicine; Dworsky et al.; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine; US Government Accountability Office

**Setting a Goal: New Mexico
Should Reduce Youth
Disconnection by 10 Percent Over
the Next Three Years**



Reconnecting Youth Action Plan

1. Recruit and retain disconnected youth in programs
 2. Target existing programs to disconnected youth
 3. Expand and monitor evidence-based or promising programs
 4. Build accountability and performance monitoring
- 



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