



NEEDS STATEMENT

Research Tools to Help You Build Your Case

Demographic information clearinghouses, federal agencies, state agencies, foundations and other nonprofits, scholarly journals and articles, and industry publications are key resources for gathering statistics and data. Search engines, like Google, and knowledge-bases, like Wikipedia, can be good starting points, however you should use them to reach well researched, objective, data sources.

Census website

www.census.gov

TIP: Find the Fact Sheet for your community. You can find data by city/town name or zip code. This gives you information such as population, median household income, number of individuals speaking languages other than English at home, poverty levels, etc. National comparisons are also available on the Fact Sheet. You can print a Fact Sheet out for New Mexico, which will allow you to compare your community to the state as a whole.

The American Fact Finder is a handy tool. Select “Data Sets” on the left side of the screen, and then choose SF1 and detailed tables. You can obtain data at the state, county, municipality, zip code, census tract, and block group level. Reference maps are available so you can pinpoint the exact locations for which you need data. Information can be downloaded into Excel files.

Demographics Now

www.demographicsnow.com, www.freedemographics.com

There is both a free and subscription-based service available. Basic demographic data including income and employment statistics can be found using the free website.

You can search by Entire US, State, County, Census Tract, Block Group, US Places, ZIP Codes, etc. You can download the information to both Word and Excel.

FedStats & Federal Agency Websites

www.fedstats.gov

Search by keyword or topic and this site will link you to federal agencies who maintain those statistics. Search by location and you will pull up a fact sheet for that location (also available on the Census website). You can also search by agency. Many federal agencies maintain a lot of research information online. A few examples include:

- Bureau of Labor Statistics: www.bls.gov. This is often fastest way to find information at a national, state, or local level is (click on “Local Unemployment Rates” on the right and scroll down to find NM information).
- USDA Economic Research Service: www.ers.usda.gov (Try “Publications” or “Data Sources”)
- Administration for Children and Families: www.acf.hhs.gov

Other nonprofits/agencies

Who is a national leader in your field? Especially consider policy/advocacy leaders. Many of these agencies have research arms or link to other research sites. These are just a few examples:

- Annie E. Casey Foundation: www.aecf.org
 - Kids Count Data Book—read the online data book or download it in PDF.
 - Kids Count Data Center—data available online for geographic profiles and comparisons by topic.
 - CLIKS (Community Level Information on Kids)—county and community-level information is available online and available for download.

- Right Start—state level data on birth outcome indicators.
- Knowledge Center—Access AECF publications. Search by keyword or topic.
- Vera Institute of Justice: www.vera.org
- The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy: www.thenationalcampaign.org (State comparison data available, cost of teen childbearing report and comparisons available)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: www.rwjf.org
- Rural Assistance Center: www.raonline.org. Try the “State Resources” page and you will find a wealth of information about NM, including upcoming conferences, funding sources, links to data sources, related organizations, and more. This site is maintained by the Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences and funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

TIP: Some sites offer a newsletter or listserv feature that will summarize new research or articles for you. File these in a folder in your email and you can easily find the research when you need it.

State Agency Websites

www.newmexico.gov

As just a couple of examples:

- **New Mexico Department of Health** – www.health.state.nm.us. Publishes a “State of Health in New Mexico” report available for download on their website, as well as other specific publications such as county health reports, rural health, maternal/child health, etc. A great resource for Albuquerque-area nonprofits is the “Health and Social Indicators” report containing Albuquerque and Bernalillo County zip code maps, which provide specific information by zip code on such indicators as employment, poverty, household status, school enrollment, birth and fertility rates, Medicaid enrollment, and more.
- **New Mexico Economic Development Department** – www.edd.state.nm.us. The Economic Development Department maintains a data center.

Please note that this is not intended to be a comprehensive document.

The above information was compiled by The Grant Plant for training use. The Grant Plant is dedicated to providing superior and affordable resource development services specifically designed to assist nonprofit organizations in enhancing the quality of life for New Mexico residents. We offer a range of complementary services to help ease the demand of securing funding for nonprofit organizations, including prospect and data research, grant writing, editing, and reporting.

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