


**New Mexico the Family State**  
**A VISION OF TRANSFORMATION**

Community Action  
New Mexico



Ona Porter, MA  
Executive Director

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**A Nationwide War On The Sources of Poverty**

*Lyndon B. Johnson's Special Message to Congress, March 16, 1964*

Because it is right, because it is wise, and because, for the first time in our history, it is possible to conquer poverty, I submit, for the consideration of the Congress and the country, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

The Act does not merely expand old programs or improve what is already being done. It charts a new course. It strikes at the causes, not just the consequences of poverty.

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**The Meaning Then and Now:  
SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Working for **structural change** in order to increase the opportunity of those who are the least well off politically, economically and socially.

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### ***Social Justice Framework***

- ◆ Focusing on root causes
- ◆ Striving for lasting systemic and institutional change
- ◆ Utilizing policy advocacy, grassroots organizing, litigation and communication as tactics
- ◆ Strengthening and empowering vulnerable populations to advocate on their own behalf.

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### ***NM is 50th in percent of CHILDREN in poverty***

- ◆ 50th in percent families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment
- ◆ 49th in families headed by a single parent
- ◆ 48th in the teen birthrate
- ◆ 48th in general child well-being
- ◆ 43rd in percent of high school dropouts

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### ***Impact Analysis***

- ◆ **High impact strategies affect:**
  - ◆ The way people think and what they believe
  - ◆ The goals of the system
  - ◆ The rules of the system
  - ◆ Ability of people to self organize
- ◆ **Medium impact strategies provide:**
  - ◆ Checks and balances so that things don't get worse
  - ◆ Reactions to changes in the environment rather than proactive strategies
- ◆ **Low impact strategies include:**
  - ◆ Activity that is unaccountable to the vision
  - ◆ Activity that can actually make things worse, such as enabling the community to ignore poverty by telling them that we are taking care of it

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**Four Tests For Opportunities**

- ◆ Can it be structured to:
  - ◆ Be HIGH IMPACT
  - ◆ Address each of the 4 categories of the causes of poverty
  - ◆ Maximize resources
  - ◆ Reintegrate communities

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**High Impact Strategies**

◆ Out of Poverty	◆ Ending Poverty
◆ Assets Consortium	◆ Policy Agenda
◆ Circles	◆ 2025 Vision

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**2025 Vision**  
**New Mexico: *The Family State***

- ◆ The best place in the nation to be:
  - ◆ Born
  - ◆ Reared
  - ◆ Educated
  - ◆ Live
  - ◆ Work
  - ◆ Grow Old

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Community Action New Mexico Welfare Reform Oversight Committee June 08

High Impact Strategies...

	Out of Poverty	Ending Poverty	High Impact	Maximizes Resources	Reintegrates Communities	Individual Behaviors	Lack of Human and Social Resources	Exploitation of Low Income People	Political and Economic Systems
Assets Consortium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Energy Advocacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ELEV8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NM The Family State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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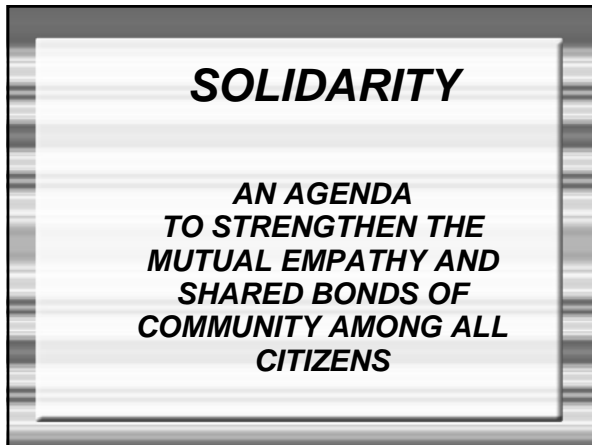
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