



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Announces \$5 Million Kellogg Award for State Youth Programs

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson announced today that the W.K. Kellogg Foundation has awarded the New Mexico Community Foundation (NMCF) a \$5.2 million five year grant to support a statewide effort to increase the quality and coordination of youth programs in the state. NMCF's Youth Initiative is designed to unite public and private resources to better support the positive development of New Mexico's youth so they can be better prepared for productive livelihoods.

"Our administration is deeply committed to working with the private sector, the nonprofit community, and with philanthropy to make an impact for our children and youth. And no national foundation has done more for New Mexico than the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Working collaboratively with local foundations like the New Mexico Community Foundation, the McCune Foundation, and others, the State of New Mexico will make a difference for our youth," said Governor Richardson.

The grant was announced at the State Capitol by Governor Bill Richardson, Dr. William C. Richardson, President and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and Lt. Governor Diane Denish, who serves as chair of the Children's Cabinet, a group that includes eleven state agencies that provide youth services. These government entities are joining with youth-serving programs, foundations, and the business community to coordinate and increase services on behalf of adolescents and young adults who are vulnerable.

“This Kellogg Foundation support will give our efforts a tremendous boost,” Danish said. “We are thrilled to be in partnership with the Kellogg Foundation. Ultimately, we hope this will make a difference in the lives of New Mexico’s young people.”

Such youth-focused services typically include after-school programs, volunteer and civic-engagement efforts, life-skills training, recreation, and prevention programs. The Kellogg Foundation grant to the NMCF will help fund the creation of a statewide network of these programs with the aim of increasing quality, coordination, and efficiency. This coordination will occur through the New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community and through the Children’s Cabinet.

“The Kellogg Foundation believes that all young people have the potential to succeed,” said Dr. Richardson. “All they usually need is a little support and someone who cares about them. Making a positive difference in young people’s lives is possible in New Mexico and anywhere. When people and institutions work together, the pay-offs in terms of investment and economic returns can be even greater.”

The five-year grant is being made to the NMCF which currently has offices in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. The NMCF is joining with other local and regional foundations-including the Daniels Fund and the McCune Charitable Foundation, to support the youth initiative. The initiative will help support development of a policy agenda that promotes youth issues. Young people serving on an appointed Youth Alliance, created by the legislature and the Governor, will guide and advise this process. Additionally, the initiative includes a public awareness campaign that promotes young people not as “part of the problem,” but as assets who can contribute to finding solutions.

The New Mexico Community Foundation (www.nmcf.org) was established in 1983 as an endowment-building, grant making organization investing in New Mexico’s communities and people.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (www.wkkf.org/YE <<http://www.wkkf.org/YE>>) was established in 1930 “to help people help themselves.” To achieve the greatest impact, the Foundation targets its grants toward specific areas, including: health; food systems and rural development; youth and education; and philanthropy and volunteerism.