

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2025-2026



Communities
In Schools

New Mexico

MESSAGE FROM THE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of each new school year, we pause. We take time to reflect. We look back on what the year before taught us, and we look ahead at the potentials and possibilities for the future. There has never been a more important time for this practice. This was a difficult year, and our work mattered more than ever before.

In the face of these daily challenges, it is hard to feel any one person is making a difference. However, our team of dedicated human beings at Communities In Schools of New Mexico rose to the occasion with flexibility, heart, and courage each and every day both personally and professionally alongside the students, families and schools we serve.

In December, I faced my own new reality as I brought my son into the world and took a necessary step back from our work as my family grew. Returning with fresh, albeit tired, eyes, I felt my resolve strengthen. As a new mother, I am even more committed to helping create a better future for New Mexico's children, and I could not imagine a better team to stand alongside in that work.

We entered the 2025-2026 school year with the theme of accountability and confidence which we stepped into fully, and I watched the entire team truly wrestle with and come to deeply live these principles.

Accountability held us to best practices in our work, and anchored us in purpose never wavering in the face of adversity. Confidence grounded us in our values to act in alignment with what we know to be true and necessary. This was not always easy, but the strides we made are noteworthy and cause for celebration.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening partnerships, expanding opportunities for students and families, and ensuring every child has the support they need to succeed.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our students, families, educators, community partners, volunteers, funders, and supporters. Together, we are building stronger schools, stronger communities, and brighter futures for New Mexico's children.

Thank you for being part of this work.



Michelle Katz
Executive Director



MESSAGE FROM THE

BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

The children of New Mexico continue to face growing challenges as many traditional sources of support become less available. Every day, Communities In Schools of New Mexico sees these realities firsthand—and every day, our staff, donors, volunteers, and community partners step forward to help students overcome them.

Our work is guided by the belief that it takes a village to raise a child. Whether a student needs food, clothing, school supplies, tutoring, emotional support, or emergency assistance to prevent eviction or a utility shutoff, CISNM is there with compassionate and comprehensive support.

This year, we completed a new three-year strategic plan to meet the evolving needs of New Mexico's students and families. We will expand tutoring, grow the Family Institute, continue our Yellow Ribbon suicide prevention program, and strengthen alumni support as students transition to college, careers, and independent lives.

We also remain committed to investing in our staff through professional development while strengthening communication with our donors, volunteers, and community partners. Your partnership makes this work possible.

Thank you for believing in New Mexico's students. Together, we are creating brighter futures—one child at a time.

With gratitude,



Renee Stevens
Board Chairperson



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

Renee Stevens
Board Chairperson

Joanna Ruppel*
Vice-Chairperson

Marcos Maez*
Treasurer

Margaret Walsh
Secretary

Jackson Dooling

Shaun Grady

David Marienthal

Donna Sanchez-Zubia

Heather Sellers

Caren Shiozaki

Lou Tilmont

Aseneth Ultreras

*Not featured in photo.

OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Every number tells a story. Behind each statistic is a student, family, or educator whose life was strengthened through the work of Communities In Schools of New Mexico. Together with our schools and community partners, we removed barriers, celebrated milestones, and created opportunities for students to thrive.



642

Students Received
Case Management



6,410

Students with Access
to CISNM



122,168

Meals Provided &
Basic Needs Met



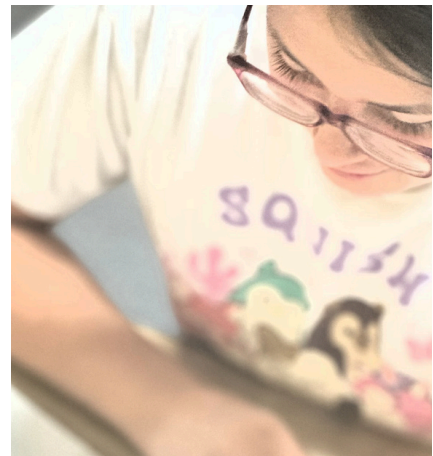
\$123,895

Family Emergency
Fund Assistance



35

Seniors Graduated



977

Tutoring Sessions
Provided



ABOUT CISNM

The mission of Communities In Schools of New Mexico is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

OUR VALUES

- Community
- Empathy
- Integrity
- Equity
- Joy
- Inspiration
- Learning

Communities In Schools of New Mexico partners with schools by placing Student Success Facilitators on campus, where they build trusted relationships, connect students and families to resources, and remove barriers to student learning.



OUR STORY

Communities In Schools of New Mexico (CISNM) was founded in Santa Fe in 2012 and now works in 14 Title I, high-poverty public schools in Santa Fe and Bernalillo Counties, bringing CIS services to nearly 6,400 students.



OUR APPROACH

Our integrated model surrounds students with caring adults and the resources they need to overcome barriers and achieve their goals—in school and in life.

How It Works

Communities In Schools of New Mexico's 20 Student Success Facilitators bring services to 6,400 students and families across 14 Title I schools in Santa Fe and Bernalillo Counties. Working closely with school administrators, wellness teams, and teachers, our SSFs tailor programming to meet each school's unique needs.

Their hands-on support extends beyond tutoring to include social and emotional guidance, family engagement, weekly food distribution, emergency financial assistance, and comprehensive case management that keeps kids in school.



"It's relationships, not programs, that change children."

--CIS founder Bill Millikin

CISNM Circle of Support



OUR EVIDENCE-BASED PROCESS



Trusted by Our School Partners

Communities In Schools of New Mexico partners with educators, administrators, and community organizations to support every student's success.

Together, we create learning environments where every student has the support they need to succeed.



Blanca Ortiz, Student Success Facilitator, and students

Impact Assessment Survey

According to our school partners, we add value to their schools.

97%

School staff surveyed agree that CISNM Student Success Facilitators build caring, consistent relationships and have a transformative impact by helping meet students' basic needs.

93%

School staff surveyed report that CISNM has a transformative or significant impact on the school environment.

91%

School staff surveyed report that CISNM's case management has a transformative or significant impact.

“ (Student Success Facilitator) Blanca Ortiz has had a direct and meaningful impact on our students and school community.

She helps remove barriers to learning by coordinating food distributions, providing school supplies, and connecting families to tutoring and medical services...Her advocacy has made a lasting impact on student well-being and success.”

—Justin Hunter
Principal, Nava Elementary

14 Title I (High-Poverty) Partner Schools

Elementary Schools

Chaparral Elementary School
Cielo Azul Elementary School
Nava Elementary School
Ramirez Thomas Elementary School
Salazar Elementary School
Sweeney Elementary School

K-8 Community Schools

Aspen Community School
El Camino Real Academy
Gonzales Community School
Nina Otero Community School

Middle Schools

Milagro Middle School
Ortiz Middle School

High Schools

Capital High School
Del Norte High School



WHO WE SERVE

Our Students

We are proud to partner with 14 schools to support students who face the greatest barriers to success. Our work reaches students at every level—so they can thrive in school and in life.

OUR SCHOOLS' RISK FACTORS*

*Based on the 2025–2026 School Needs Assessment Survey.



86%

Academic Challenges

Students are one or more grade levels behind



82%

Mental Health

Emotional stress due to trauma



100%

Title I

Of our schools are designated Title I (low income).



77%

Basic Needs

Limited access to food, clothing, and shelter.

DEMOGRAPHICS



Hispanic/Latino

87%



Special Education

21%



English language learners

38%



Unhoused

5%

FAMILY RISK FACTORS OF CASE-MANAGED STUDENTS



66%

Economic Stability

Low socioeconomic status.



63.8%

Family Stability

Family disruption and stress



40%

Food Security

Limited access to food



24%

School Engagement

Limited family engagement in school



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Support Today. Stronger Futures Tomorrow.

Listening to Schools.

Responding with Purpose.

Focusing on core values and meeting students where they are.

11 of 14 schools identified academics as their highest priority.

3 of 14 schools identified social-emotional learning as their highest priority.

Community in Action: Academic Tutoring Program



71

Volunteers



1,700

Tutoring
Hours



687

Students
Reached



977

Tutoring
Sessions



Tutoring has really helped some students with math and reading."

— Salazar Elementary School
Teacher



Nuria Olivas & Rebecca Ornelas, SSFs at ECRA

IMPACT IN ACTION

Reading Buddies

Launched by CISNM's Student Success Facilitator Rebecca Ornelas in 2025, the Community in Action: Academic Tutoring Program pairs 8th-grade AVID students with 1st graders at El Camino Real Academy to build literacy, confidence, and meaningful connections.

While younger students gain reading support, teachers also receive a valuable 45-minute break during each session. The result is a no-cost learning opportunity for the school, made possible by a Communities In Schools Student Success Facilitator.

OUR ACADEMIC IMPACT: 2025-2026



Students Receiving
Academic Support **1,307**



Percentage of
case-managed
students who
stayed in school **93%**



Percentage of
case-managed
students who met
or progressed
towards their
academic goal **68%**

PERSONAL GROWTH

Student Well-Being and Life Skills

Throughout the 2025–2026 school year, many students faced emotional and social challenges as they navigated mental health concerns and changing social dynamics. Our Student Success Facilitators provided a consistent, caring presence—creating space for students to feel heard, navigate difficult situations, practice healthy decision-making, and build self-awareness, self-regulation, and life skills.

MAKING AN IMPACT TOGETHER



1,300

Students participated in activities & groups



69%

Of case-managed students met or progressed toward their social-emotional goal



90%

Of surveyed school staff reported transformative or significant social-emotional impact

“Becca has definitely helped our students recognize their self worth and has helped them navigate some difficult situations.

— Chaparral Elementary School Teacher



Flor Lujan, Student Success Facilitator, Cielo Azul Elementary

ATTENDANCE

Every Day Matters

Each and every day a student is in school is another opportunity to learn, build relationships, and stay on the path toward graduation. By removing barriers to attendance, we help students reconnect with school and their future.

Attendance is often the earliest sign that a student needs support.

By showing up for our students, we help them stay in school and on the path to graduation.

OUR ATTENDANCE IMPACT IN 2025-2026



242

Hours of support for attendance



1,479

Students participating in CISNM-led attendance initiatives



93%

Case-managed students who stayed in school



176

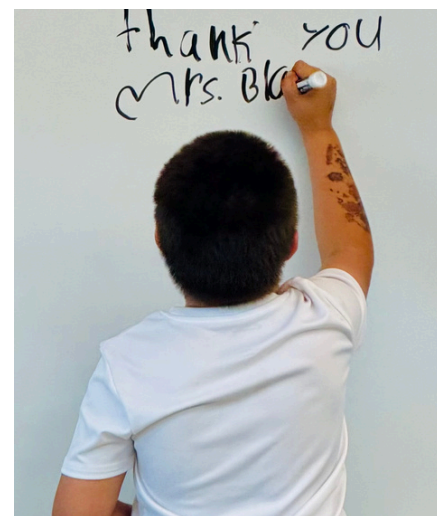
Case-managed seniors who have graduated on time over the last five years.

A FUTURE WITHOUT LIMITS

STUDENT SUCCESS

After being held back twice, student “A” no longer wanted to be the oldest student in his class. When he connected with his Student Success Facilitator, he was struggling to attend school consistently and searching for a different path forward.

Today, he is passing every class, attending school every day, and beginning to imagine a different future for himself.



“CISNM has always been there for me. I know you care about me, and I won't let you down.”

— Ortiz Middle School Student

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Family Well-Being

This year brought unique challenges for the families we serve. We stayed focused on our priorities while responding to changing circumstances and urgent needs—from emergency family support, to helping older students transition from school to work, to creating more opportunities for families to connect and spend time together.



MAKING AN IMPACT TOGETHER



41

Family Engagement Events

Families participated in school events, workshops, and activities that strengthened connections with their child's education.



171

Family Emergency Assistance

Emergency assistance helped families remain stable during times of crisis.



114

Resource Navigation Cases

Families were connected to trusted community partners and essential services.

THE FAMILY INSTITUTE

We engaged families through our Family Institute, which expanded to five additional school sites this year. Across eight sessions, families built financial literacy, strengthened family well-being, and developed skills they identified as meaningful and beneficial.

Based on parent 2025-2026 surveys at our partner schools:

45

Family Institute
Participants

100%

Parents would
recommend and return

98%

Parent Satisfaction

96%

Parents were confident
in applying skills

 **Me sentí completamente satisfecha... me estoy esforzando por estar presente en las actividades y conversaciones."**

I felt completely satisfied... I'm striving to be present in activities and conversations.

—Family Institute Parent



FINANCIAL WELLNESS FOUNDATION

62%

Participants
started or added
to a savings plan

88%

Participants created
a household budget



FAMILY WELL-BEING

86%

Family Well-being
participants used a well-
being strategy at home

97%

Family Well-being
participants prioritized
family conversations and
shared strategies

EXTENDING OUR IMPACT

Beyond Graduation and Into our Communities

The impact of Communities in Schools doesn't end at graduation—it grows and extends across the state. Through the Alumni Institute and the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program, we build lifelong connections and strengthen communities across New Mexico.



ALUMNI INSTITUTE

**Building Connections
Beyond Graduation**

The Alumni Institute strengthens lifelong connections between CISNM students, graduates, and future leaders—creating a network of support that extends well beyond high school.

6

Ambassador
Alumni

956

Alumni
Contacts



YELLOW RIBBON
SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

Building Communities of Hope

The Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program empowers school staff, students and community members with the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent suicides and promote hope.

1,107

People
Trained

55

Trainings

6

NM Counties
Reached

The CISNM Alumni program is dedicated to building connection and fostering community beyond high school. We support alumni as they navigate the transition into the next stage of life by helping them reconnect with their community, build meaningful friendships, and access valuable resources, because no matter where life takes you, you are never alone."

—Aseneth Ultreras,
Alumni Board Member
Capital High School Graduate



SSF Adrian Sotelo, Former Board Member
Robert Apodaca and Alumni Students



Investing in Student Success

Philanthropy makes it possible for Communities In Schools of New Mexico to remove barriers, celebrate milestones, and create opportunities for students to thrive.



Family Emergency Fund

Financial assistance for families facing eviction or utility shutoff.



Carson Award Scholarship

Provides \$20,000 to CISNM case-managed seniors who have overcome significant challenges and graduated from high school.



Sponsor A Senior

Ensures every senior can celebrate with dignity and pride by providing caps and gowns for graduation.



Student Success Initiatives

Provide flexible resources that empower Student Success Facilitators to support students where they need it most.

“High school has been a journey. I started out shy, but over time I became more confident and open to new experiences. My Student Success Facilitator, Maria, helped me and has become someone I can rely on.”

—Krystal P.

2026 Carson Awardee and CHS Graduate

Every gift helps students overcome barriers, achieve their goals, and build brighter futures.

MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY

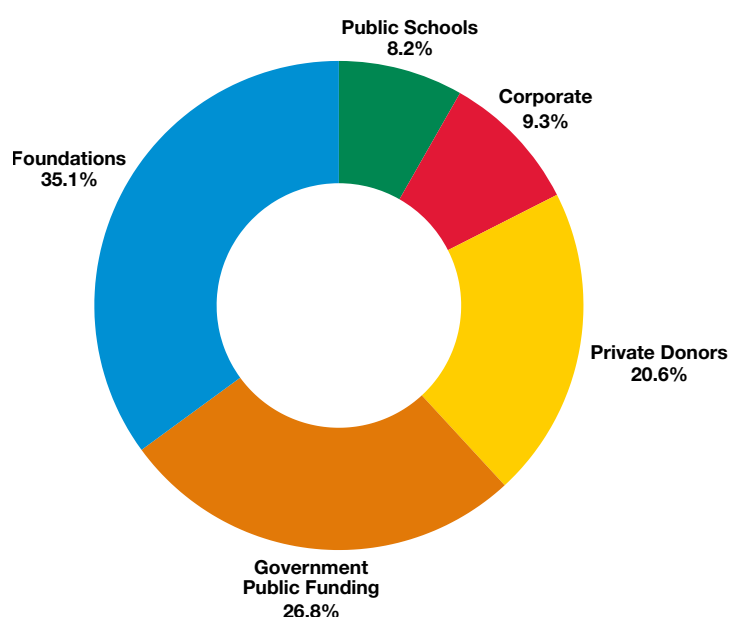
Scan here to make a contribution today.



OUR FINANCIALS

The following charts summarize CISNM's revenue sources and expense allocation for FY 2025–26.

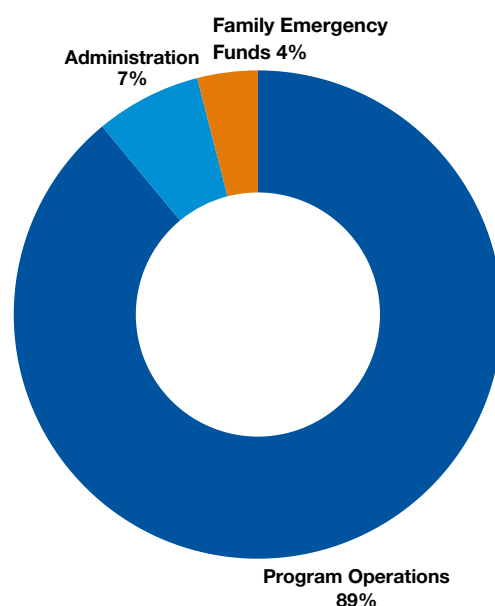
REVENUE \$3.17 M



REVENUE SOURCES

Our funding is intentionally braided and blended: No single funding source provides more than 36¢ of every revenue dollar.

EXPENSES \$2.95 M



EXPENSE ALLOCATION

89¢ of every dollar is directly applied to programs that impact our students and families.

Our Community Of Support

Communities In Schools of New Mexico's success is made possible by the organizations, foundations, businesses, and public partners that invest in students and help connect schools and families with essential resources. Together, this network includes 46 funding partners and 34 valued community partners.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



The Food Depot

The Food Depot, Northern New Mexico's only food bank, serves nine counties through a network of 85 nonprofit partners. In FY25, The Food Depot distributed 9.8 million pounds of food, providing more than 681,000 meals each month to help ensure neighbors have reliable access to nutritious food.



FUNDING PARTNERS

- Altria Client Services
- Anchorum Foundation
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Association of Government Accountants
- Avalon Trust
- CIS National
- City Different Investments
- City of Santa Fe
- Del Norte Credit Union (LOV Foundation)
- Enterprise Bank & Trust Foundation
- Fasken Foundation
- First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe
- Flow Science Corporate Giving Fund
- Gale Family Foundation
- Hestia Fund
- Irene Ritter Foundation
- LANL Employee Giving Fund
- LANL Foundation
- Las Campanas Community Grants Fund
- Lineberry Foundation
- Montezuma Lodge #1
- New Mexico Behavioral Health Services Division
- New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department
- New Mexico Department of Health
- New Mexico Title Co.
- Norma Green Foundation
- Nusenda Credit Union Foundation
- Rotary Club of Santa Fe
- Santa Fe Community Foundation
- Santa Fe County
- Santa Fe Downtown Kiwanis Foundation
- Santa Fe Knights of Columbus
- Santa Fe Life Link
- Santa Fe Public Schools
- Springwell Senior Living Community
- Steele Family Foundation
- Stranahan Foundation
- Sulica Fund
- Summit Funding
- The Change Reaction
- Thornburg Foundation
- Triad National Security
- Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Fe
- United Church of Santa Fe
- Unity Santa Fe



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- ABC Community Schools
- Adelante
- ARCC Coaching
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Mountain Region
- BOOKKIDS
- Breakthrough Santa Fe
- College and Career Plaza
- Cooking With Kids
- Earth Care
- Free Bikes 4 Kidz NM
- Free Flow New Mexico
- Gerard's House
- Girls Inc.
- Girls on the Run
- Girls Who Code
- Lettuce, Etc.
- Mandela International Magnet School
- Mountain Kids!
- New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
- Northern Soccer Club
- Reading Quest
- Reunity Resources
- Santa Fe Animal Shelter
- Santa Fe Children's Museum
- Santa Fe Community College
- Santa Fe Mountain Center
- Santa Fe Prep (Teen Action Program)
- Santa Fe Public Schools
- Santa Fe Teen Center
- St. Bede's Episcopal Church
- The Food Depot
- The MASTERS Program
- The Sky Center
- Yoga in Schools



PROVEN RESULTS

Communities In Schools® is the nation's largest Integrated Student Supports organization.

The results show that personalized, relationship-based support leads to measurable gains in academics, graduation, and economic opportunity.



When Resources Meet Relationships

A short documentary by Joe Posner exploring the value of personalized student supports and the research behind the CIS model.

▶ Watch the Short Documentary



KEY FINDINGS FROM CIS NATIONAL STUDY



ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Increased math scores and meaningful gains in reading concentrated among high-risk students.



LONG-TERM SUCCESS

5.2% increase in high school graduation and 9.1% increase in college enrollment.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

\$75,000+ in estimated lifetime earnings; \$7,100 in additional federal tax revenue.



Consistent with CIS's description as the nation's 'leading dropout prevention organization,' the evidence suggests that CIS helps students avoid adverse outcomes, such as dropping out of school or being unemployed as an adult."

— Benjamin Goldman,

PhD, Cornell University, The EdRedesign Lab & Opportunity Insights and Jamie Gracie, PhD, Harvard University & The EdRedesign Lab

IMPLICATIONS OF HARVARD STUDY FOR CISNM:



Harvard's research validates our approach: A caring adult and personalized supports can change the trajectory of a student's life."

--Michelle Katz

Executive Director
Communities In Schools of New Mexico

Looking Ahead



The year ahead will focus on intentional growth, deeper relationships, and meaningful outcomes for students and communities across New Mexico.

01

DEEPENING STUDENT SUPPORT

We will build on our school support plans with more intentional academic interventions, personalized coaching, tutoring, and resources tailored to each student's goals.

02

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

We will deepen collaboration with school districts and community partners while building new relationships to better meet the needs of students and schools.

03

EXPANDING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

We will strengthen our CISNM Alumni Program and continue addressing the needs that help students thrive—from education and career readiness to life skills, leadership, and basic needs.

Together, we will continue to lead with community, empathy, and joy—creating transformative relationships that help every student uncover and live their full potential.

**Every student deserves the opportunity to succeed.
Thank you for being part of what comes next.**

**READ MORE FROM OUR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Michelle Katz's Santa Fe New Mexican op-ed: Communities In Schools of N.M. is Here to Stay

Communities In Schools of NM
PO Box 367, Santa Fe, NM 87504
505-954-1880
CISNM.org
supportkids@cisnm.org

