




## Policy Memo on Equity Audit

### **Equity and social accountability, here is how we get it done!**

This week we want to share another breakthrough idea we will bring to this office, the power of equity. Currently there are millions of dollars contracted out on our behalf with industry and businesses outside of New Mexico, and while procurement rules and procedures help, sometimes it's not enough to make sure we are doing business with the right people. We need to screen if our money is being used by companies that have a track record of price gouging, pay inequality, hate or discrimination policies, and wage theft. The same applies for equity in government programs and services. We need an equity audit.

**What is an equity audit?** An equity audit reviews and examines total government spending contracted with private sector companies and looks at the track record of whether those businesses have had patterns of wage theft, discrimination, hate based policies, or price gouging us as consumers. Having this practice in place allows us to direct our public spending towards local businesses we know and trust and also establishes ethical contracts.



**How we get it done:** Our idea is straightforward, account for the total dollars being spent or invested out of state, review if there are any past or present issues of discrimination, hate, or fraud, are associated with the businesses we contract with and then make that information public along with a consumer equity rating. This review will allow us to engage in ethical contracts that stand by our values as New Mexicans.

The public sector side of this equity audit would include reviewing the use of public funds for specific programs in healthcare, education, environment, and local grant programs for BIPOC businesses. This review would examine how and if these funds are being used to ensure they are actively being invested in the scope and purpose of the programs or projects.

**The end goal:** The goal here is to achieve lasting equity that keeps our public money free of hate and discrimination and empowers all of our fellow New Mexicans regardless of zip code.

**Special note: HJR1** The Early Childhood Constitutional Amendment, is a major effort of equity and inclusion that invests in our children. I am unequivocally committed to having an investment liaison between the Treasurer, Legislature, and OSA to have a real-time tracking of these specific funds to ensure the money goes where it is legally required to go.

What do you think about this concept? Would there be specific areas/issues you would like to see included for any equity audit? [Email us at zqform@gmail.com](mailto:zqform@gmail.com)