New Mexico Early Head Start/Head Start

2020 At-A-Glance

Early Head Start (EHS) and Head Start (HS) are a critical part of New Mexico's early childhood education and care system. EHS/HS provide low-income and vulnerable pregnant women and children up to the age of five an opportunity to succeed in school and life. These high-quality, federal to locally funded programs offer comprehensive services including education, health, nutrition, family engagement, and mental health services and supports. Head Start is governed by parents- through Policy Councils- parents engage in shared decision-making, program planning, and self-assessments.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

- **1965** **HEAD START** is created, New Mexico adopts the program serving children ages 3–5
- **1974** National Head Start Association is established
- **1995** **EARLY HEAD START** is born, New Mexico adopts the program for pregnant women and children to age 3
- Head Start 55th Anniversary **2020**

About the Early Childhood Education and Care Department's Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO)

Mission: Prepare New Mexico children for school while providing their families with access to community resources and comprehensive support services to ensure their children's success in school.

Vision: Improve the quality of life for New Mexico children through school readiness

Priorities:

- Strengthen and continue collaboration with the New Mexico Head Start Association
- Partner with New Mexico's Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grantees
- Support the state's efforts to collect early childhood program and outcome data
- Participate in workforce development strategies and initiatives
- Collaborate with the state's Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Engage local education agencies to promote collaboration with Head Start
- Coordinate with Region VI, Region XI (American Indian/Alaska Native) and Region XII (Migrant Seasonal) Collaboration Directors

EHS/HS programs provide comprehensive early childhood services:

- Early Childhood Education
- Developmental Screenings
- Home Visiting
- Health (physical, oral, and mental)
- Nutrition
- Family Engagement
- Fatherhood Initiatives
- Community Resources



About the New Mexico Head Start Association (NMHSA)

Mission: NMHSA is a non-profit association that provides a vehicle for directors, staff, parents, honorary members, and friends to support, improve, and enhance New Mexico Head Start and Early Head Start programs and other programs providing early childhood services in New Mexico. The Association is represented by President Sandy Trujillo-Medina, Vice President Crystal Pena, Secretary Jenny Salinas, and its members.

NMHSA supports and impacts programs by:

- Reviewing and providing input to local, state, and regional policies and directives and the state legislature; serving as an advocate and spokesperson for all programs; and developing a system for communicating official policies, positions, or statements that reflect a consensus of the opinions of the NMHSA grantees and members.
- Promoting the goals and purposes as stated in the Head Start Performance Standards, NMHSA Strategic Plan, and other Head Start regulations; and serving as a partner to reach the ultimate goals and purpose of every program component.

- Planning and conducting an annual Early Childhood Professional Development Institute; assisting with planning of the Region VI annual conference as directed; and ensuring representation from NMHSA to Region VI Head Start Association.

New Mexico Early Head Start/Head Start in 2020

Highlights

- The Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD), elevated the Head Start Collaboration Office to the Office of the Secretary.
- Assistant Secretary for Native American Early Childhood Education and Care, Jovanna Archuleta, has been a key partner in the collaboration among Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations within our State to increase support and services in early childhood as well as the New Mexico Head Start Program.
- In 2020, NMHSA hosted a Conference for Region VI, which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. The first virtual Mega Conference **Head Start—*The Shining Rainbow During the Storm***, was held in December. Nearly 600 participants attended and were welcomed by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and ECECD Cabinet Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky.

Key Conference Topics

- Importance of fatherhood
- Trauma informed care and trauma sensitive classrooms
- Supporting interactions in socially distanced or virtual classrooms
- Early brain development
- Power of storytelling
- Racial equity
- Family engagement
- Self-care and mindfulness

SERVICES TO FAMILIES

2019–2020 Snapshot

- Converted 361 HS slots to EHS slots
- Transitioned 3,252 children to Kindergarten
- Provided early intervention services to 507 EHS children
- Provided special education services to 947 HS children
- Nearly 900 current and former parents became educators*
- EHS/HS provided 727,904 nutritious meals and snacks
- Children are up-to- date on well-child check-ups 81.5%, immunizations 94%, mental health, and development screenings**
- Nearly 600 EHS/HS professionals engaged in Quorum, on online professional development learning platform.
- Scholarships were granted to 260 Head Start professionals seeking early childhood degrees.
- Public awareness campaign to be launched this year bringing awareness of opioid and other substance misuse.

*No data available on breakdown of training.

**No data available on percentage of mental health and developmental screenings conducted.

The following charts and graphics represent the New Mexico children served in 2019.

CAPACITY AND ACTUAL ENROLLMENT

	Total Children	Tribal	Non-Tribal
Early Head Start Capacity	1,849	327	1,522
Early Head Start Actual Enrollment***	2,700	375	2,325
Total number of EHS Centers	22	7	15
Head Start Capacity	7,245	1,336	5,909
Head Start Actual Enrollment***	7,743	1,367	6,376
Total Number of HS Centers	29	16	13
Total number of children served	10,443	1,742	8,701
Total Number of Programs	31	16	15

****Enrollment is cumulative throughout the year but never exceeds capacity at any given time.*

2019 FUNDING

Federal and Tribal EHS/HS awards in New Mexico totaled

$90,342,667 ****

to

31 programs.

*****Not including the Navajo Nation, which is not included in the Program Information Report (PIR)*

CHILDREN SERVED

By Race

American Indian/Alaskan Native	294
Asia	3
Black or African American	40
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	9
White	5,143
Bi-racial/Multi-racial	502
Other	529

By Language

English	8,441
Spanish	1,540
Middle Eastern	55
East Asian languages	20
Pacific Islander	1
Native American/Alaska Native	5
African languages	8
Other	138

By Eligibility

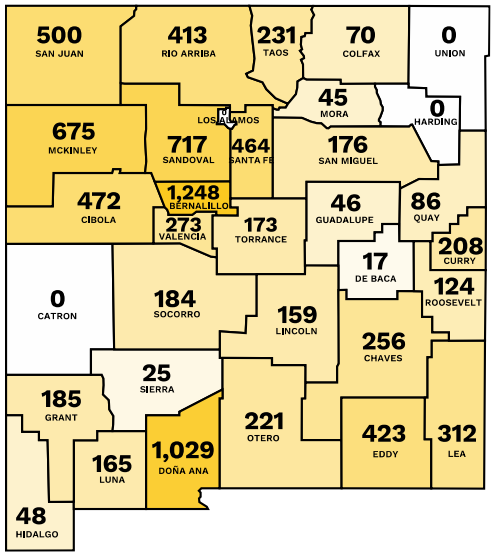
At or below 100 percent Federal Poverty Level	6,950
Public assistance recipient	645
Foster care	243
Experiencing homelessness	365
Child care subsidy	283
Kinship care	84†

†Based on available data from the two largest programs.

EHS/HS received weekly Public Health Order updates from ECECD on:

- Department of Health Protocols
- COVID-19 Safe Practices for Early Childhood
- Child Care Stabilization and Recovery Grants
- Bonus/Wage Incentive
- COVID testing requirements and supports
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Dialogue and feedback among programs

CHILDREN SERVED BY EHS/HS IN EACH COUNTY



Family Partnership and Leadership

The continuum of family engagement provides parents and caregivers with several opportunities to stay connected with EHS/HS programs.

Decision-making

- Shared decision-making
- Participation in Policy Councils
- Employment opportunities
- Assisting as volunteers
- Participating in the Parent Advocacy Leadership (PAL Institute)
- Becoming advocates for children

"YDI Head Start has enabled me to work while my granddaughter attends school. I know she is safe. I have watched her learn, make new friends, and she has so much fun at school. I am grateful for Head Start."

–Martha Sanchez, a grandparent raising a Head Start child enrolled at the Albuquerque Job Corps Center

Delivery of Services During the Pandemic

EHS/HS grantees that continued to provide in-person services during the COVID-19 pandemic were open for essential workers. Others stayed open and provided virtual services, sending educational materials home and conducting on-line classes. Early Head Start/Head Start programs helped families navigate resources to obtain the services they needed. In collaboration with the public schools, meals for Head Start children and their siblings were delivered at home or drive-by locations. Children with special needs receive critical support either virtually or in person.

"We need to think about how we can leverage multiple funding sources to maximize services to our children and families in our Tribal Head Start in a manner that preserves our Laguna identity that the Pueblo has established for our children." –Elizabeth Lucero, Pueblo of Laguna Head Start and Early Childhood Director

New Mexico
Early Childhood
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