



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood

Education & Care Department

First Year Accomplishments



Advance a diverse, well-compensated and credentialed early childhood workforce



PreK parity for private sector teachers – ECECD is closing the pay gap between preK teachers in the private sector and educators with equal credentials and qualifications working in public education.



Bilingual endorsement incentive – To increase the number of bilingual educators serving New Mexico’s linguistically diverse communities, ECECD is offering one time pay bonuses to early childhood educators who have earned a bilingual endorsement from an accredited language program or tribal authority.



Pueblo Cohort – ECECD is supporting a cohort of women from various Pueblos on an AA track to get their early childhood degree at the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute.



Wage Supplement Program – Despite the essential nature of their work, early childhood professionals are among the lowest paid workers. ECECD has implemented a wage supplement program to ensure that educators earn a living wage that can support their own families.



Scholarship Program – To increase the pool of highly-qualified educators, ECECD offers generous scholarships to early childhood professionals seeking certifications and advanced degrees in early childhood education from any of New Mexico’s institutions of higher learning.



Innovative Pathways – ECECD secured a **\$7 million** special appropriation to build the capacity of higher education institutions to recruit and support bilingual and indigenous educators and develop clear pathways to accelerated early childhood credentials and degrees.

Achieve Equity

- ECECD worked collaboratively with the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty and OLÉ to settle a lawsuit that claimed that the prior administration had been wrongfully denying child care assistance to some families. ECECD has rectified the issues, **expanded child care assistance eligibility**, and resolved the lawsuit with no cost to New Mexico taxpayers.
- ECECD established tribal liaisons to enhance collaboration and strengthen early childhood services with the **Tribes, Pueblos and Nations**.
- In collaboration with the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, ECECD has begun consultation with the **23 Pueblos, Tribes and Nations of New Mexico** to give an orientation on the ECECD’s programs and services and obtain a deeper understanding of their respective visions for children PN-5.
- ECECD developed an **Equity Agenda Action Plan** to establish regional Equity Councils that inform the department’s governance and financing strategies.
- The department created the **Sowing Seeds Project**, a digital capacity building workshop that helps tribal communities create curricula infused with their values, culture, and language.

Grow Investments

Early Childhood Trust Fund – With bipartisan support, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham enacted the Early Childhood Trust Fund to distribute funds annually to ECECD. The fund disbursed the first **\$20 million** of the **\$300 million** fund in FY 2022.

Passage of the Permanent Land Grant Fund – During the 2021 legislative session, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed HJR1, a bill that allocates a small portion of the Land Grant Permanent Fund to make sustainable investments in early childhood programs and services.

General Fund - Secured a **\$191.5 million** budget to support key agency priorities

COVID-19 Federal relief – ECECD took decisive action to disburse federal relief resources through subsidies and grants to child care providers that enabled them to keep their doors open through the public health crisis.



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood
Education & Care Department

First Year Accomplishments

Enhance Authentic Collaboration

Working with partners MediaDesk, UNM Family Development Program, United Way of Central New Mexico, and New Mexico PBS, ECECD created **Moments Together**, a fully bilingual, award-winning public education campaign to help equip New Mexico families with simple tools and activities to aid in their child's development and connect them with important supports like child care assistance. From June 2020 through June 2021, over **62,000** unique users have accessed resources on the Moments Together website. Through traditional, social, and digital advertising, the campaign has garnered over 48 million impressions. Additionally, Moments Together has referred over **2200 families to the child care assistance eligibility website**.



62k

Momentsnm.org Users



48mil

Social Media impressions



2200

child care assistance referrals

ECECD instituted a weekly statewide **early childhood community call** to inform and update the early childhood community at the onset of the COVID-19 health emergency. The calls continue as a biweekly community engagement strategy to **solicit feedback, disseminate information, and share resources**.



The **New Mexico Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)** – **9 regional meetings and 17 stakeholder** meetings were held. Close to **900 individuals** from around the state participated.



900

CCDF participants

ECECD remains a strong partner with the **New Mexico Head Start** grantees and the **New Mexico Head Start Association**, establishing quarterly meetings with the Head Starts to work at a state to local level to achieve our common goal of ensuring all children are thriving.



ECECD has established a working partnership with the **Indian Education Advisory Council**, which convenes quarterly to advise the ECECD Secretary and Assistant Secretary.



The ECECD Tribal Liaisons and the Assistant Secretary actively participate on the **Navajo Nation Early Childhood Collaborative** call and aid in the nation's early childhood strategic planning.



Increase Access and Quality

- Fulfilling a signature campaign promise ahead of schedule, the Lujan Grisham administration has nearly doubled NM PreK enrollment, achieving **80 percent access to full day PreK** in the first three years, and has expanded access to 3-year-old PreK as well.
- ECECD has expanded its **home visiting** program to serve more families and counties throughout New Mexico.
- ECECD made New Mexico the first state in the country to use a sophisticated new cost estimation model to set child care subsidy payments based on the true costs of providing high quality child care. These increased rates will help essential child care businesses improve the **quality** of their programs, **pay more competitive salaries**, and expand their businesses to meet the needs of families in their neighborhoods and communities.
- Using funds from the American Rescue Plan, ECECD is raising income eligibility for child care assistance from **200 percent of federal poverty level to 350 percent** – the single largest expansion in the program's history.
- The department completed the **Statewide Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Report and Three-Year Plan** in 2021, laying the groundwork for a robust IECMH consultation program that provides child focused care embedded in early childhood care and education settings.