

Written comments submitted prior to the October 21, 2021 public hearing

**COMMENT 1**

[REDACTED]

Hello,

I would like to state the impact that the recent rule changes have had on my family. I left a physically abusive marriage, and initially I had no job or income and was living with my children in my mom's house after I separated. I got a job and was able to live on my own with my kids, but my income was still not enough to cover all my expenses, including legal fees for my divorce. Over the past year, I have been able to save some money in a college savings account for my kids due to the fact that I didn't need to pay my son's daycare co-payment. I never dreamed that I would be able to set aside money for my kids' college when I could barely pay for everyday expenses. This last year has allowed us to look to the future, instead of being trapped. I hope more families, especially single mothers, can have the same experience and that these policies are made permanent.

Thank you.

**Department response:** ECECD appreciates the comment and will continue to make improvements to New Mexico's early childhood system to ensure all children have access to high quality care.

**COMMENT 2**

[REDACTED]

The increases that were given were a great help. We have many school age children and feel that those children should of also relieved an increase. That age group requires lots of time and materials, replaced due to use and breakage. I hope they look at this a bit closer.

Thank you.

**Department response:** ECECD appreciates the comment and will continue to make improvements to New Mexico’s early childhood system to ensure all children have access to high quality care.

**Department response:** New Mexico’s latest rate increases, including those for school age children, were informed by a cost estimation model with extensive statewide stakeholder engagement and input. ECECD developed this cost estimation model in collaboration with fiscal experts and local stakeholders to set child care subsidy rates at a level that supports the true cost of delivering high quality early childhood services. ECECD will continue to review and study subsidy rates to ensure that rates are based on the cost of providing high quality care.