



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood
Education & Care Department

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

NEW MEXICO CHILD CARE SUPPLY BUILDING GRANT

The New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) prioritizes increasing access and quality to early childhood services to meet the needs of children, families and communities. In an effort to expand, ECECD has committed 10 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (Sec. 2202, Public Law 117-2) Child Care Stabilization Administration Funds to support the New Mexico Child Care Supply Building Grant. The Child Care Supply Building Grant is a competitive grant. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and funds awarded will be subject to the requirements and restrictions outlined in the Information Memorandum related to the [ARPA Child Care Stabilization](#) and ECECD's 5 Star capacity and group ratio as detailed in the [FOCUS Essential Elements](#).

ECECD is currently accepting Letters of Interest (LOI). The Child Care Supply Building Grant application will open on June 10, 2022, and subject to the availability of funds, will close no later than December 30, 2022.

Purpose. ECECD's aim is to ensure that high quality child care is available and accessible to all New Mexican families that need child care. The Child Care Supply Building Grant will build critically needed high quality child care supply throughout New Mexico, especially in areas of high poverty that are designated as child care deserts.

Qualified Applicants. The Child Care Supply Building Grant is open only to (1) existing licensed or registered child care providers doing business in the State of New Mexico, including eligible head start and tribal early child care providers,¹ who seek to expand child care programs; (2) employers that intend to create or expand child care for their employees; and (3) individuals, corporations, non-profits, governmental or other entities eligible and capable of opening licensed child care in the State of New Mexico. To qualify, applicants must:

- (1) propose to increase the supply of licensed, high quality, child care for infants, toddlers and young children;
- (2) demonstrate the commitment and capacity to build that proposed child care supply;
- (3) demonstrate the ability to open the proposed licensed child care within six months of award;
- (4) commit to operating the proposed child care for at least ten years; and
- (5) commit to operating the proposed child care at ECECD's 5 Star group size and ratio requirements.

Letter of Intent (LOI) is required for consideration.

- (1) Interested applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) that meets the criteria set forth below.
- (2) LOIs that demonstrate the ability to increase access to child care will receive a link from the New Mexico Finance Authority via email with access and instructions on how to complete full application within 30 days of submitting an LOI.
- (3) The LOI must be submitted to ECECD.FederalProgram@state.nm.us.

¹To be eligible to apply for the Child Care Supply Building Grant, a Head Start or tribal early child care program must be able to match the funding request from their federal funds (e.g., Head Start or child care and development block grant).



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ECECD will prioritize LOIs that propose to:

- (1) Increase child care supply in New Mexico's designated child care deserts
- (2) Increase the supply of child care in communities with high poverty
- (3) Increase the supply of Infant and Toddler child care
- (4) Increase the supply of non-traditional hour child care
- (5) Increase the supply before and after school child care

LOI Criteria:

- (1) Submitted on Applicant's letterhead with the following Information:
 - a. Name and Address,
 - b. EPICS ID (for current child care providers) or, (name of business for employer supported child care applicants),
 - c. Email address, and
 - d. Phone number.
- (2) Proposal Details, including:
 - a. Address at which proposed care will be provided,
 - b. Number and type(s) of proposed new child care slots,
 - c. Hours that proposed care will be provided (including times of day and closure dates), and
 - d. Statement that the location is owned, leased, or, if awarded, can be leased for at least five years.
- (3) Statement of Ability to Meet Regulatory Requirements. All potential applicants must review the child care licensing regulations set forth in 8.16.2 NMAC, and include in the LOI:
 - a. A statement that the proposed location does or can meet all licensing regulations, and
 - b. A summary statement of any updates, modifications and renovations needed to license the proposed location.
- (4) Total Funding Request, including:
 - a. Total requested for each proposed classroom,
 - b. Total requested per child care slot,
 - c. Staffing Plan, and
 - d. Statement of Matching Funds (e.g., personal investments, loans, privately and publicly awarded funds).

All awarded providers will be subject to quarterly reporting requirements, and will need to have created the child care slots for which they are awarded within 6 months of the award.

Supplemental Resources:

- 1) [Child Care Desert Map](#)
- 2) [FOCUS Essential Elements](#)
- 3) [8.16.2 NMAC \(Child Care Licensing Regulations\)](#)

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