



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood Education & Care Department

About the **Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD)**

In 2019, Gov. Lujan Grisham and the New Mexico Legislature created the Early Childhood Education and Care Department. The Department officially launched on July 1, 2020.

The Department's aims to create a more cohesive, equitable, and effective early childhood system in New Mexico. That means **coordinating a continuum of programs from prenatal to five—and ensuring that families in every corner of the state can access the services they need.** New Mexico is only the fourth state to create a department like this.

Vision

All New Mexico families and young children are thriving.

Mission

Optimize the health, development, education, and well-being of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers through a family-driven, equitable, community-based system of high-quality prenatal and early childhood programs and services.

Overview of **ECECD Programs**

Child Care Services

The **Child Care Services Bureau (CCSB)** administers the Child Care Assistance and the Child Care Regulatory Oversight programs. The child care assistance program helps parents/legal guardians who are working, going to school or in a job training program with child care expenses. The Regulatory Oversight Unit ensures that licensed child care centers and homes and registered homes provide a quality, safe, and healthy environment for children.

Families FIRST

Families FIRST case management services assists clients in gaining access to medical, social, and educational services that are necessary to foster positive pregnancy outcomes and promote healthy infants and children in New Mexico.

Family Infant Toddler (FIT)

All children grow and develop at their own pace. However, sometimes children have special developmental needs or health concerns that may put them at risk or cause a developmental delay. **FIT** provides early intervention services to children from birth to age three who have or are at risk of developmental delay—as well as their families.

Learn more about ECECD at www.nmececd.org

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How to Apply for Services

- First, take the Am I Eligible Survey, at eligibility.ececd.state.nm.us.
- Answering a few questions take less than five minutes and helps you determine which programs you may qualify for.
- Apply for services and request a referral by completing the Online Application.

New Mexico PreK

New Mexico PreK prepares three- and four-year-old children for school readiness through funding from the Early Childhood Education and Care Department. Children who attend PreK enter kindergarten knowing more letters, more letter-sound associations and heightened familiarity with words and book concepts.

Home Visiting

New Mexico's Home Visiting program is designed to promote child well-being and prevent traumatic or detrimental childhood experiences. Home visiting is a relationship-based program for families who are pregnant or have children under age five. Home visitors come to see you in the convenience of your home or via remote telehealth sessions. Home Visiting is free for all New Mexico families regardless of income.

Family Nutrition

The Family Nutrition Bureau administers two USDA Child Nutrition Programs (**Child and Adult Care Food Program** and **Summer Food Service Program**), which provide federal funds to participating institutions to initiate and maintain non-profit food service programs for eligible children and adults.



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