



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood

Education & Care Department

New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department

Notice of Funding Opportunity: New Mexico PreK

Fiscal Year: 2024

Funding Availability: \$98 million

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) oversees the New Mexico Prekindergarten (PreK) program, a high-quality program that is available to all families with eligible 3- and 4-year-old children, regardless of income. The New Mexico PreK program provides voluntary, quality PreK to support children's development readiness and builds capacity of early childhood programs in communities. PreK program funding is awarded through a competitive grant opportunity outlined below and grantees are monitored for compliance with New Mexico PreK Standards (found at <https://api.realfile.rtsclients.com/PublicFiles/d4a60d4c4e7149c9830debd01d1db554/15f59dcf-f2a9-4667-9a67-ab44d76b43fe/New%20Mexico%20PreK%20Standards-English>) by ECECD.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) outlines requirements for the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) New Mexico Prekindergarten (NM PreK) Application. All applicants for FY24 NM PreK must complete the application accessible via the link on the ECECD website. The application is due **no later than 3 p.m. Friday, April 28, 2023**. Only completed applications submitted by the deadline with all requested attachments will be considered by ECECD for funding in FY24. The PDF application is available via the ECECD website at <https://www.nmeccd.org/prekgrant/>.

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LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, REVIEWED OR CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 9-29-8(B), ECECD is mandated to "coordinate and align an early childhood education and care system to: (1) include child care, pre-kindergarten, early pre-kindergarten, home visitation, early head start, head start, early childhood special education and early intervention and family support; and (2) provide New Mexico families with consistent access to appropriate care and education services." The NM PreK program is a key part of the state's early childhood education and care system, providing a high-quality, voluntary PreK experiences to preschool-aged children regardless of income. **In FY24, the New Mexico Legislature appropriated approximately \$98M to ECECD to enhance and expand the NM PreK program. ECECD is seeking applications from eligible providers to expand, enhance, or create new PreK slots and classrooms statewide, especially in areas where there is a lack of high-quality PreK for children and families.**

The NM PreK Grant is a competitive, multi-year grant for Community and School-Based programs to offer the NM Pre-K curriculum according to the established standards. ECECD awards PreK Grants for four years (i.e., for fiscal year 2024-27), contingent upon available funding and the grantees continued compliance with the NM PreK standards.

ECECD will score all FY24 NM PreK grant applications based on the eligible applicant's responses and the applicable standards and criteria. In addition, ECECD will award additional points based on the following priorities:

- If the applicant proposes to offer PreK or Mixed-Age PreK in a school district area that currently has a saturation of less than 75% for four-year-olds already being served in PreK.
 - These areas are listed in Section VII, below.
- If the applicant proposes to offer Early PreK or Mixed-Age PreK in a school district area that currently has a saturation of less than 25% for three-year-olds already being served in Early PreK.
 - These areas are listed in Section VII, below.
- If the applicant meets one or more of the following geographic criteria:
 - is located within a school district that is classified a micro school district or a rural school district.
 - is located with a community defined as a child care desert (see definition below)
 - is in a location that does not have access to a community-based child care within a 20-mile radius.
 - is in a location that does not have access to Head Start services within a 20-mile radius.

ECECD will make every effort to adhere to the timeline outlined in Section IV of this Notice of Funding Opportunity. These dates are subject to change at the discretion of ECECD. ECECD may extend the scheduled dates but will not shorten any timelines.

SECTION I – ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to be considered for FY24 NM PreK Grant, providers must be one of the following :

- A Local Education Agency (LEAs) or state charter schools.
- Child Care (center and home-based) programs currently licensed by ECECD pursuant to 8.9.4 NMAC .
- A Tribal early childhood education program.
- A Head Start program (Region 11 (Tribal) and Region 6).
- A school operated by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

In addition to being an eligible program type, FY24 NM PreK applicants must also be seeking funding either to open a new PreK program (i.e., classroom or spaces within a family child care program), or to expand the number of children served in an existing NM PreK program. All eligible applicants must be in good standing with its respective regulatory authority.

SECTION II – NEW MEXICO PREK PROGRAM OPTIONS AND PER-CHILD REIMBURSEMENT RATES

Each NM PreK program option is defined below. Each applicant must select their program options in the application and demonstrate how they will meet the requirements of each program option. Each applicant must also ensure that it includes salary parity for classroom educators as part of its application (see the definitions section below for more information). All program options, aside from the Head Start-specific options, are available to all Community and School-Based PreK applicants.

A. New Mexico PreK Extended (Full Day) 4-year-olds

- Services must be provided Monday through Friday. (request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application).
- Children must turn 4 years old before **September 1, 2023**, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.
- Provide 1080 Instructional hours **and** 90 hours of family engagement for a total of 1170 PreK hours.
- Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 7 hours per day.
- Maximum group size: 20 children
- 1:10 adult to child ratio.
- **\$10,300 reimbursement per PreK student**

B. New Mexico PreK Early Extended (Full Day) 3-year-olds

- Services must be provided Monday through Friday. (any request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application).
- Children must turn 3 years old before September 1, 2023.
- Provide 1080 Instructional hours and 90 hours of family engagement – 1170 total hours.
- Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 7 hours per day.
- Maximum group size: 16 children.
- 1:8 adult to child ratio.
- **\$12,300 reimbursement per PreK student.**

C. New Mexico PreK Mixed Age Extended (Full Day)

- Services must be provided Monday through Friday. (any request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application).
- Children must be 3 or 4 years of age before September 1, 2023 and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.
- Provide 1080 Instructional hours and 90 hours of family engagement and family education – 1170 hours total.
- Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 7 hours per day.
- Group Size: 16 children maximum.
- 1:8 adult to child ratio.
- **\$12,300 reimbursement per PreK student.**

D. New Mexico PreK Extended Plus (Full Day) 4-year-olds

- Services must be provided Monday through Friday. (any request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application).
- Children must be 4 years old before September 1, 2023, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.
- Provide 1380 hours of instruction and 90 hours of family engagement and family education – 1470 hours total.
- Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 8 hours per day.
- Group Size: 20 children maximum.
- 1:10 adult to child ratio.
- **\$14,300 reimbursement per PreK student.**

E. New Mexico PreK Early Extended Plus (Full Day) 3-year-olds

- Services must be provided Monday through Friday. (any request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application).
- Children must turn 3 years old before September 1, 2023.

- Provide 1380 Instructional hours and 90 hours of family engagement – 1470 total hours.
- Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 8 hours per day.
- Group size: 16 children maximum.
- 1:8 adult to child ratio.
- **\$15,750 reimbursement per PreK student.**

F. New Mexico PreK Mixed Extended Plus (Full Day) 3 and 4-year-olds

- Services must be provided Monday through Friday. (any request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application).
- Children must be 3 years old before September 1, 2023, or be 4 years old before September 1, 2023, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.
- Provide 1380 instructional hours and 90 hours of family engagement and family education – 1470 hours total.
- Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 8 hours per day.
- Group Size: 16 children maximum.
- 1:8 adult to child ratio.
- **\$15,750 reimbursement per PreK student.**

Head Start Grantee Options ONLY:

In addition to program options A-F above, the following options are only available to existing Region 11 (tribal) and Region 6 Head Start Grantees These options are new for FY24.

G. Dual Enrollment Extended Option

- This option is for Head Start programs to extend to or maintain 1080 instructional hours annually and for children to be dually enrolled in both Head Start and NM PreK.
- The dual enrollment program will require compliance with both head start and NM PreK standards.
- For each child dually enrolled, the program will be paid the difference between the head start per child rate and the NM PreK per child rate (\$12,300)

H. Dual Enrollment Extended Plus Option

- This option is for Head Start programs to extend to 1380 instructional hours annually and for children to be dually enrolled in both Head Start and NM PreK.
- The dual enrollment program will require compliance with both head start and NM PreK standards.
- For each child dually enrolled, the program will be paid the difference between the head start per child rate and the NM PreK per child rate (\$15,700)

I. Blended Enrollment Extended Option

- This option is for Head Start programs to serve non-Head Start NM PreK-only children who are being served within the same classroom with Head Start or dually enrolled children for 1080 instructional hours annually.
- Each NM PreK-only slot will receive the full 3-year old/Mixed-Age Extended rate (\$12,300).

J. Blended Enrollment Extended Plus Option

- This option is for Head Start programs to serve non-Head Start NM PreK-only children who are being served within the same classroom with Head Start or dually enrolled children for 1380 instructional hours annually.
- Each NM PreK-only slot will receive the full 3-year old/Mixed-Age rate (\$15,700).

SECTION III – FUNDING

FUNDING IS SUBJECT TO CURRENT AND FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE PERIOD OF THE GRANT AWARD - FISCAL YEARS 2024 THROUGH 2027. NO GUARANTEE IS MADE OR IMPLIED BY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO OR ECECD AS TO THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED TO THIS GRANT OF AWARD. THIS GRANT PROCESS WILL RESULT IN MULTIPLE AWARDS. THE FUNDING AVAILABLE THROUGH THE GRANT IS FOR STATE-FUNDED DIRECT PREK SERVICES.

ECECD will reimburse for NM PreK services in accordance with the per-child reimbursement rates set forth above. Rates are non-negotiable. ECECD will calculate the total compensation available during the grant period (FY24-FY27) by the number of children served per eligible applicant type and then multiplied by the appropriate rate. Depending on size of award, programs may be subject to an annual auditing requirement.

Depending upon available funding, ECECD may adjust the per child rate in future years and any such changes will be implemented through an award letter amendment as needed.

If funds are available, ECECD will set aside a limited amount of funding for:

- **Transportation – \$1,000.00 per child.** ECECD may award this funding if the program has the capacity to transport children enrolled in NM PreK to and from the program.
- **Start-Up and Safety – Up to \$25,000 per classroom for supplies and equipment, and an additional \$5,000 per classroom for curriculum** to equip a new PreK classroom.

SECTION IV – APPLICATION TIMELINE AND INSTRUCTIONS

The following timeline may be amended by ECECD as needed:

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DUE DATE
Grant Application Period Opens	ECECD	Friday, March 31, 2023
Pre-application Orientation via Zoom	ECECD	Thursday, April 6, 2023
PreK Application Office Hours via Zoom	ECECD	Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Deadline to Submit Written Questions Not Addressed in the Orientation Session	Eligible Applicants	Thursday, April 13, 2023 by 11:59 p.m. (MDT)
Response to Written Questions	ECECD	Wednesday, April 19, 2023
Deadline to Submit FY24 Grant Application	Eligible Applicants	Friday, April 28, 2023 by 3 p.m. (MDT)
Grant Award Letters Issued	ECECD	Thursday-Friday, June 8-9, 2023

Written Questions

Answers must be submitted via email to ECECD at ECECD-PreKGrant@ececd.nm.gov. Questions must be submitted prior to 11:59 p.m. (MDT) on April 13, 2023.

Application Submission and Due Date

All applications must be submitted **no later than 3 p.m. (MDT) Friday, April 28, 2023**. Each applicant will receive a notification of receipt. **LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, REVIEWED OR CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING.** Applications (including required attachments may be submitted via email to the email address listed below, mailed to the address listed below, or hand-delivered to one of the addresses listed below. **APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED LATE OR INCOMPLETE IF ALL REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS ARE NOT INCLUDED.**

Email Address

ECECD-PreKGrant@ececd.nm.gov

Mailing Address

Applications may be mailed to the following address:

Attention: Shana Runck
 Early Childhood Education Department
 PO Drawer 5619
 Santa Fe, NM 87502-5619

Hand Delivery Addresses

Applications may be hand-delivered to the following ECECD office addresses. Applications will not be accepted at other ECECD offices:

Early Childhood Education and Care Department
 PERA Building
 1120 Paseo De Peralta
 Santa Fe, NM 87501

Early Childhood Education and Care Department
 4801 Indian School NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87110

Providers MUST submit an application under the following circumstances:

- New Program
- Renewal Request
- Expansion Request
- Basic (Half-Day) to Extended (Full-Day) Conversion Request

Providers should NOT submit an application under the following circumstances:

- Existing programs with no changes – current grant agreements will be amended prior to July 1, 2023 to reflect the new per-child rates.
- New requests for basic (half-day) slots – No new applications for basic slots will be accepted.

- Changes of Program Option - No applications for changes of program option will be accepted.
- Requests to reduce enrollment.

Existing PreK Providers should submit a written letter of request under the following circumstances. Additional guidance for this request will be sent to existing PreK Providers:

- Expansion of hours from current Extended (3-year old, 4-year-old, and Mixed-Age) to Extended Plus.
- Requests to reduce enrollment.
- Existing programs requesting curriculum funds - \$5,000 per classroom.

Letters should be on letterhead and submitted to (email address) no later than 3 p.m. (MDT) Friday, April 28, 2023.

Applications must be submitted no later than **3 p.m. MDT Friday, April 28, 2023**. **Each applicant will receive a notification of receipt.**

LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, REVIEWED OR CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING. APPLICATIONS THAT DO NOT INCLUDE ATTACHMENTS WILL BE CONSIDERED LATE OR INCOMPLETE.

SECTION VI – DEFINITIONS

1. **Annual Audit:** An annual audit as required by the State of New Mexico law by an independent auditor. <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-F> and <https://nmonesource.com/nmos/nmsa/en/item/4423/index.do#!b/57-22-6>
2. **Child Care Desert:** A Census Tract with one or less child care slots per every three children age 0-12
3. **Community-Based Applicants:** A licensed child care center, licensed family child care facility, or Head Start program applying for a NM PreK grant.
4. **Existing Program:** A program/provider that currently has a NM PreK grant or agreement with ECECD.
5. **Family Income Eligibility:** There is no income requirement for NM PreK families.
6. **Invoicing:** Programs must invoice ECECD to be reimbursed for NM PreK services. Invoicing is based on the number of children served during the month.
7. **Micro School District:** A School district with fewer than 200 students enrolled.
8. **Mixed PreK Classroom/Program:** A classroom or program that serves children who have attained their third or fourth birthday prior to September 1 of the school year.
9. **New Mexico PreK Program Standards:** The program standards that all programs must follow and available at <https://api.realfile.rtsclients.com/PublicFiles/d4a60d4c4e7149c9830debd01dbe554/15f59dcf-f2a9-4667-9a67-ab44d76b43fe/New%20Mexico%20PreK%20Standards-English>.
10. **New Program:** An eligible applicant that has never received NM PreK funding and wishes to convert a classroom currently in operation or open a new classroom.
11. **NM Child Care Licensing Regulations:** The New Mexico child care licensing regulations can be found at <https://www.srca.nm.gov/parts/title08/08.009.0004.html>
12. **Parity:** At minimum, all teachers with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education must be paid at least \$50,000 a year, and no teacher without a bachelor's degree in early childhood education may be paid more than \$50,000 a year. Educational assistants must be paid a minimum of \$15/hour
13. **PreK Classroom/Program:** A classroom or program that serves children who have attained their fourth birthday prior to September 1 of the coming school year.
14. **Renewal Request:** A renewal request is a request submitted by an existing PreK provider that has a contract for NM PreK services that will expire June 30, 2023. A renewal request is considered a new application and must be fully completed.
15. **Rural District:** A district with at least 40% of its population in a rural area as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.
16. **School-Based Applicants:** School-Based eligible applicants may apply for all program options. To support an equitable mixed-delivery PreK system that supports parent choice, both Community and School-Based programs are eligible to apply to serve 3- and 4-year-old children beginning in FY24.
17. **Tribal Programs:** Tribal early childhood programs operated by a Tribal government in New Mexico.

SECTION VII – PRIORITY DISTRICTS

Any type of eligible PreK site located in school districts indicated with a 'Y' below will receive priority points as indicated in the Background and Purpose Section outlined above. A district may meet priority criteria for three-year-olds, four-year-olds, or both, as indicated in the table below ('N' indicates it does not meet the priority criteria for that age group). **If a school district is not listed, it does not meet priority criteria for either age group.**

SCHOOL DISTRICT – PRIORITY DISTRICTS ONLY	<75% of 4 YEAR OLDS SERVED	<25% of 3 YEAR OLDS SERVED	SCHOOL DISTRICT – PRIORITY DISTRICTS ONLY	<75% of 4 YEAR OLDS SERVED	<25% of 3 YEAR OLDS SERVED
Alamogordo Public Schools	N	Y	Jal Municipal Schools	N	Y
Albuquerque Public Schools	Y	Y	Jemez Mountain Public Schools	Y	Y
Animas Public Schools	N	Y	Jemez Valley Public Schools	Y	Y
Artesia Public Schools	Y	Y	Las Cruces Public Schools	Y	N
Belen Consolidated Schools	Y	N	Las Vegas City	Y	N
Bernalillo Public Schools	N	Y	Logan Municipal Schools	Y	Y
Bloomfield Schools	Y	Y	Lordsburg Municipal Schools	N	Y
Capitan Municipal Schools	Y	Y	Los Alamos Public Schools	Y	Y
Carizoso Municipal Schools	Y	N	Los Lunas Public Schools	Y	N
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	Y	Y	Loving Municipal Schools	Y	Y
Central Consolidated Schools	N	Y	Lovington Municipal Schools	Y	Y
Chama Valley Independent Schools	N	Y	Magdalena	N	Y
Cimarron Municipal Schools	Y	Y	Maxwell Municipal Schools	Y	Y
Cloudcroft Public Schools	N	Y	Melrose Municipal Schools	Y	Y
Clovis Municipal Schools	Y	Y	Mesa Vista	N	Y
Cobre Public Schools	N	Y	Mosquero Municipal Schools	N	Y
Corona Public Schools	Y	Y	Moriarty-Edgewood School District	Y	Y
Deming Public Schools	Y	Y	Pecos Independent Schools	N	Y
Des Moines Municipal Schools	N	Y	Peñasco Independent School Dist.	N	Y
Dexter Consolidated Schools	Y	Y	Pojoaque Valley Schools	Y	Y
Dora Municipal Schools	N	Y	Portales Municipal Schools	Y	Y
Dulce Independent School District	Y	Y	Raton Public Schools	Y	Y
Elida Municipal Schools	N	Y	Rio Rancho Public Schools	Y	Y
Eunice Public Schools	Y	Y	Roswell Independent School Dist.	Y	Y
Farmington Municipal Schools	Y	N	Ruidoso Municipal School District	Y	Y
Floyd Municipal Schools	N	Y	San Jon Schools	N	Y
Fort Sumner	N	Y	Santa Fe Public Schools,	Y	N
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	Y	Y	Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	Y	Y
Grady Schools	N	Y	Springer Municipal Schools	Y	N
Grants-Cibola County Schools	Y	Y	Texico Public Schools	N	Y
Hagerman	N	Y	Tatum Public Schools	N	Y
Hobbs Municipal Schools	Y	Y	Tucumcari Public Schools	Y	Y
Hondo Valley Public Schools	Y	Y	Vaughn Public Schools	N	Y
House Municipal Schools	Y	Y	Wagon Mound	N	Y