The Early Childhood Education and Care Department's (ECECD)
Child Care Services Bureau (CCSB)

Provider Discussion







Agenda

- Overview of Updated Regulations
- Background Checks
- COVID-19
- Training
- FOCUS
- Business Toolkit
- Common Deficiencies
- Reminders



New Administrative Code and Regulation Updates

8.9.4.1 ISSUING AGENCY: Early Childhood Education and Care Department ("ECECD")

New number is 8.9.4

Title 8: Social Services

Chapter 9: ECECD

Part 4: Child Care Licensing; Child Care

Centers, Out of School Time Programs,

Family Child Care Homes, And

other Early Care And Education Programs

New number is 8.9.5

Title 8: Social Services

Chapter 9: ECECD

Part 5: Non-Licensed Child Care;

Requirements Governing Registration Of

Non-Licensed Family Child Care Homes

Licensed Regulation Updates

Cell Phone Usage for **Centers**

8.9.4.22 D(2)(o) - employee cellular telephone usage policy that directs and defines safe and appropriate use.



Revised Language *for* **Director Qualifications for Centers**

8.9.4.23 (B) 1 - A bachelor's degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field. Related fields include: early childhood special education, family studies, family and consumer sciences, elementary education with early childhood endorsement or other degree with successful completion of courses in early childhood or any bachelor's degree with a transcript containing **two or more Early Childhood courses**.



Licensed Homes Regulation

8.9.4.36 (A) HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR HOMES: (3) - If a home promotes tooth brushing activities, the provider will store toothbrushes so that they do not drip on other toothbrushes and so that they are separate from one another, with bristles exposed to the air to dry, labeled and not in contact with any other surface.



Tribal Government License

8.9.4.11A (6) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT LICENSE:

(a) Centers and homes operating on sovereign tribal lands are governed and inspected by the federal Tribal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Lead Agency. Therefore, such centers and homes do not require an inspection by the New Mexico licensing authority. (b) Providers licensed by the Tribal CCDF Lead Agency program must submit the following to obtain licensure from ECECD: (i) Licensing application; (ii) Proof of Tribal CCDF Lead Agency approval; (iii) Annual submission of a letter or memorandum attesting that the Tribal CCDF's programs' director and all staff are in compliance with state, federal or Tribal background check clearances; (iv) Annual submission of a list of the director and all staff employed by the Tribal CCDF program, listing each individual staff member's name, date of birth, and home address; and (v) W-9 form and supporting documentation, if applicable.



Non-licensed Regulation Update

8.9.5.22 (S) - In case of a fire, the caregiver's first responsibility is to evacuate the children to safety. An up to date emergency evacuation and disaster preparedness plan must be available by the caregiver, which shall include steps for evacuation, relocation, shelter in-place, lock-down, communication, reunification with parents, individual plans for children with special needs and children with chronic medical conditions, accommodations of infants and toddlers, and continuity of operations. The plans shall be approved annually by the registered authority and the department will provide guidance on developing these plans.

What's <u>New</u> with Background Check Regulations?

8.9.6.1 ISSUING AGENCY:

Early Childhood Education and Care Department ("ECECD").

New number is 8.9.6

Title 8: Social Services

Chapter 9: ECECD

Part 6: Governing Background Checks

and Employment History

For more information visit

nmececd.org/comprehensive-background-check-process/



Background Check Process

- Register for fingerprinting at: https://nm.state.identogo.com
 - Select: Schedule a New Appointment
 - ORI # **NM931220Z**
 - Fingerprint Reason:
 - 5 year background check renewal, select NMSA 9-29-8-1 ECECD EMPL-facilities, homes programs, depart-cont prov
 - Volunteer, select NMSA 9-29-8-1 ECECD VOLS-facilities, home programs, depart-cont prov
 - New Applicant, select NMSA 9-29-8-1 ECECD applicant facility / home program
 - Schedule the Location along with a date and time to be fingerprinted.
- Second, it is very important to submit the ECECD Child Care Center Packet along with your TCN number and/or receipt immediately to: **ECECD.BCU@ececd.nm.gov**. They will not know you have been fingerprinted unless they receive your form.

The form may also be mailed to: ECECD Background Check Unit, PO Drawer 5619, Santa Fe, NM 87502

8.9.6 NMAC | JULY 31, 2023



Comprehensive **Background Check Process**



Child Care Centers

Step 1: Register for fingerprinting at: https://nm.state.identogo.com

Step 2: Select Schedule a New Appointment

Step 3: ECECD's Originating Agency Identifier (ORI)#: NM931220Z

Step 4: Select a Fingerprint Reason:

- · 5-year background check renewal, select: NMSA 9-29-8-1 ECECD EMPL-facilities, home programs, depart-cont prov
- · Volunteer, select: NMSA 9-29-8-1 ECECD VOLS-facilities, home programs,
- New Applicant, select: NMSA 9-29-8-1 ECECD applicant facility/home program

Step 5: Schedule location along with date and time to be fingerprinted.

Step 6: Choose Payment Method

- · Select Billing Account
 - Enter Billing Account Number: ZNM0F0059
 - . (Note: Please ensure all your information has been entered correctly prior to

Step 7: Submit the ECECD Licensed-Registered Home Packet Updated 07.27.23.pdf along with your fingerprint registration receipt immediately to: ececd.bcu@ececd.nm.gov. We will not know you have been fingerprinted unless we receive your form!

The form may also be mailed to:

ECECD Background Check Unit PO Drawer 5619 Santa Fe, NM 87502

▶ Out of State Background Checks

If an applicant has lived in another state within the past 5 years, we require them to obtain a background check from that state(s). The background check unit will provide the state's appropriate forms and instructions to the center or home for completing criminal history and abuse and neglect requests. Completion of these requests is essential in preventing delays.

▶ ECECD Website | Comprehensive Background Check Process



Learn more about ECECD at nmececd.org Toll free: (800) 832-1321 | ececd-ecs-customerservice@ececd.nm.gov



Guides steps can be found at:

nmececd.org/comprehensive-background-check-process/

Background Check FAQ's

Out-of-State Background Checks

If an applicant has lived in another state within the past 5 years, we require them to obtain a background check from that state(s). The background check unit will provide the state's appropriate forms and instructions to the center or home for completing criminal history and abuse and neglect requests. Completion of these requests is essential in preventing delays.

How Fast are background checks being processed?

A Background check may take up to 45 days. If an applicant has resided out of New Mexico in the past 5 years there are required additional checks however a determination will be made at the 45 day mark.

Are Provisional Clearances being sent?

Yes, currently the BCU is issuing Provisionals for applications received after 10/5/2023. We are in compliance with our regulations which states the notice of provisional employment will be issued within 5 days.

Where can I get my fingerprints taken?

http://www.identogo.com/locations

When should I contact the Background Check Unit to check on my Status?

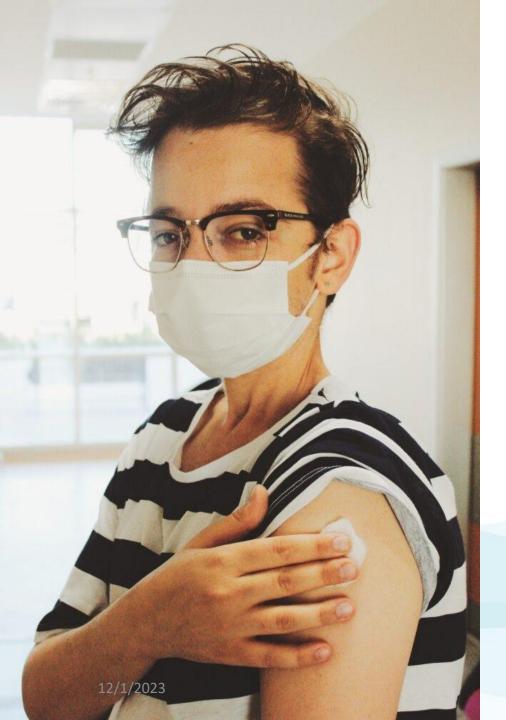
Please allow 5 business days for processing. If you have not received a response within 5 days, please reach out to them at the information below.

Who can I contact for more information?

Background Check Unit at 505-827-9910 or ECECD.BCU@ececd.nm.gov

COVID-19 Updated Information





Required Practices

- Licensed providers may operate at group sizes and ratios according to their licensed Star level
- Training on health and safety practices is required for all staff, including cooks and transportation staff.
- Good hygiene practices are required, including frequent handwashing/sanitizing
- Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned often throughout the day and disinfected at the end of each day.

For more information visit nmececd.org/covid-19/

Processes

What Families Should Expect of Early Childhood Providers

Child care providers in New Mexico are required to follow the health and safety requirements listed above. Staying home when you are sick or have symptoms of a contagious illness protects your own health and those around you.

What Early Childhood Professionals Expect of Families

Consistently follow the COVID-19 health and safety requirements listed above. Staying home when you are sick or have symptoms of a contagious illness protects your own health and those around you.

How is ECECD helping child care facilities keep their staff and children healthy and safe?

When a positive case occurs, ECECD implements its Rapid Response process. Providers are still required to report positive cases.

Rapid Response Portal for Child Care Programs

If you need assistance with making an online report, you can call the ECECD Rapid Response Hotline (1-833-866-3272) and provide your email address, your EPICS or license ID if available, your phone number, and whether it is a positive case or close contact. Calls will be returned in the order received between the hours of 8 AM – 5 PM, Monday through Friday. If you need further assistance, please contact your local office. For access to the portal visit: https://ececd.vaccinenm.org/

Need to meet the CCDF Training Requirements

- You can do this online through Quorum
 - Quorum is a unique online professional development program for early education professionals. Quorum annual memberships include unlimited online training for staff and providers.
- Cut the Cooties: Communicable Disease Prevention 2 hours
- Safe Sleep & Sweet Dreams for Infants 2 Hours
- From food to Physical Activity 4 hours
- Understanding Child Abuse & Prevention 3 Hours
- Keeping our Children Safe: Planning Ahead and Being Prepared 4 hours
- Traveling with Precious Cargo -3 hours

Please note the Back to Basics training is still a recommended training and available on NMELS



FOCUS Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System

Benefits

- An increase of the per-child subsidy rate provided upon successful verification of each subsequent star level
- A consultant–guided pathway to continuous improvement with adaptive support to meet program needs
- Access to on-site or community-based training, professional development, and technical assistance
- Supportive networking opportunities among providers

Eligibility

The FOCUS Program and Verification process is free to any licensed early childhood family child care home, child care center, or out-of-school time program in New Mexico that meets the entry-level, 2-star criteria. In order to become eligible, Head Start and other early care and education programs operated by the military or tribal communities must show compliance with the relevant regulatory agency

How to Apply

- To access application
 newmexicokids.org/focus-application
- Contact:
 - TQRIS Manager at 505-629-9783
 - UNM ECSC Verification
 Team at focusverification@unm.edu
- ECECD is launching a multi-year redesign of FOCUS, New Mexico's tiered quality rating and improvement system. More information can be found with your TQRIS team.

Child Care Business Toolkit

services platform to support child care providers. The platform contains robust resources to support child care providers.

ECECD's Child Care Business Toolkit is a foundation for early care and education professionals striving to meet the everincreasing demands of the field. The toolkit contains thousands of practical and customizable resources, including sample policies, procedures, handbooks, forms, job descriptions, interview guides and much more put valuable hours back in your day.

To sign up visit ececdbiztoolkit.org/.



Common Deficiencies

- Personnel and Staffing Requirements
 - Unattended Children
 - Staff Qualifications and Training
 - Personnel and Staffing Requirements
- Services and Care For Children
 - Outdoor Play Areas
 - Social Emotional Responsive Environment
 - Physical Environment
- Building, Ground and Safety Requirements
 - Safety Compliance
 - Housekeeping
 - Light, lighting fixtures and electrical

Administrative Requirements

- Administrative Records
- Children's Records
- Personnel Records
- Health and Safety Requirements
 - First Aid Kit Requirements
 - Medications logs
 - Handwashing

Helpful Reminders

- Report all incidents and complaints to our call center at 1-888-351-0037 or ChildCare.Complaint@ececd.nm.gov
- Complete Applications in full, on time, and with all supporting documents
 - Initials
 - Change of Director
 - Change of Capacity
 - Star Level submit application by 25th of the month
 - Renewal 60 days prior
- Mail completed application with your check or money order written to State of New Mexico

Address to:

Early Childhood Education and Care Department

Child Care Services Bureau – Licensing Unit

PO Drawer 5619

Santa Fe, NM

87502-5619

Questions?





Agenda

- Expanded Eligibility up to 400% FPL
 - Application Process
- Waived Copays and Allowable Fees
- Increased Provider Payment Rates
- PreK Letter and avoiding Dual Payment
- Reporting Non-Attendance
- Provider Dashboard
- Provider CCA Orientation



Support for Families and the Child Care Providers

- Increase income limits for families on the child care assistance program to 400% Federal Poverty Level for new clients and exit at 425% FPL
- Parent copayments for the child care assistance program are waived for all families starting May 1, 2022
- Increase in provider payment rates in July 2021 and August 2023



Income Guidelines

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		4000/ EDI						
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	_	_	_	_	_	350 % FPL	400 % FPL	425 % FPL
\$19,720.00	\$1,643.33	\$2,136.33	\$3,286.67	\$4,108.33	\$4,930.00	\$5,751.67	\$6,573.33	\$6,984.17
\$24,860.00	\$2,071.67	\$2,693.17	\$4,143.33	\$5,179.17	\$6,215.00	\$7,250.83	\$8,286.67	\$8,804.58
\$30,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,250.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,250.00	\$7,500.00	\$8,750.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,625.00
\$35,140.00	\$2,928.33	\$3,806.83	\$5,856.67	\$7,320.83	\$8,785.00	\$10,249.17	\$11,713.33	\$12,445.42
\$40,280.00	\$3,356.67	\$4,363.67	\$6,713.33	\$8,391.67	\$10,070.00	\$11,748.33	\$13,426.67	\$14,265.83
\$45,420.00	\$3,785.00	\$4,920.50	\$7,570.00	\$9,462.50	\$11,355.00	\$13,247.50	\$15,140.00	\$16,086.25
\$50,560.00	\$4,213.33	\$5,477.33	\$8,426.67	\$10,533.33	\$12,640.00	\$14,746.67	\$16,853.33	\$17,906.67
\$55,700.00	\$4,641.67	\$6,034.17	\$9,283.33	\$11,604.17	\$13,925.00	\$16,245.83	\$18,566.67	\$19,727.08
\$60,840.00	\$5,070.00	\$6,591.00	\$10,140.00	\$12,675.00	\$15,210.00	\$17,745.00	\$20,280.00	\$21,547.50
\$65,980.00	\$5,498.33	\$7,147.83	\$10,996.67	\$13,745.83	\$16,495.00	\$19,244.17	\$21,993.33	\$23,367.92
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\$76,260.00	\$6,355.00	\$8,261.50	\$12,710.00	\$15,887.50	\$19,065.00	\$22,242.50	\$25,420.00	\$27,008.75
\$81,400.00	\$6,783.33	\$8,818.33	\$13,566.67	\$16,958.33	\$20,350.00	\$23,741.67	\$27,133.33	\$28,829.17
\$86,540.00	\$7,211.67	\$9,375.17	\$14,423.33	\$18,029.17	\$21,635.00	\$25,240.83	\$28,846.67	\$30,649.58
\$5,140.00	\$428.33	\$556.83	\$856.67	\$1,070.83	\$1,285.00	\$1,499.17	\$1,713.33	\$1,820.42
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Apply Online

- Apply now: <u>eligibility.ececd.nm.gov</u>
- Submit application via email to <u>ChildCareAssistance@ececd.nm.gov</u>
- Apply in person at a local office near you





To Apply for Child Care Assistance:

Please present the following documentation when applying:

- Completed Application for Child Care Assistance
- Current proof of income from Employment or Self-Employment (if applicable)
- Verification of any other countable income
- Birth Verification for all applicant household children (even if you do not need child care for them)
- Verification of Educational Activity/School Schedule for adults (if applicable)
- Picture ID for Applicant
- Current verification of New Mexico Residency (lease agreement, utility bill, mortgage)
- Demonstration of Incapacity (if applicable)
- Proof of Custody/Dependency for household members (if applicable)
- TANF participation (recipients may be required to obtain a Work Participation Agreement for TANF approved activity such as job search; volunteer work, etc. from their TANF caseworker.)
- ECECD Approved Child Care Provider Center/Home Provider's information: Name, Address, and Phone number or EPICS ID#

You can find a list of Acceptable Documents for each required type of verification at nmececd.org/child-care-assistance/

Waived Copays and Allowable Fees

 Family's copayments have been paid by ECECD since May 1, 2022, for ALL families and prior for some families as of Sept 1, 2020

NOTE: Copays waived for ALL families approved for Child Care Assistance effective May 1, 2022, until the foreseeable future

- Providers are <u>not</u> allowed to charge educational/registration fees or other fees related to education and activities of children/families
 - The department has included these fees in our rates to providers per the Cost Estimation Model
- Provider are allowed to charge incidental fees and gross receipts tax
 - Such as field trips, special lunches, etc.
 - Gross receipts tax is determined by county/city/local government



Payment Rates

(see rate table document handout)

Cost Model Reimbursement Rate Flyer (in English and Spanish) can be found at nmececd.org/child-care-assistance

**Please note new rates went into effect August 1, 2023 **



Child Care Assistance Rates

Effective August 2023

The New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) announced updated regulations that will ensure qualifying New Mexico families will continue to receive the child care assistance program (CCA) to access child care without a copayment and child care providers will receive increased rates to achieve and maintain quality care and learning environments, including sufficient funding to pay competitive wages to their early childhood professionals.

This document provides information on the reimbursement rates paid by ECECD directly to child care providers for children participating in the Child Care Assistance Program.

- Most New Mexico parents now qualify for Child Care Assistance. Compare the rates below to your tuition rates and encourage parents to apply for Child Care Assistance.
- Increasing your FOCUS Star Level can increase your revenue \$3,000-10,000 per year for just one child! For more information, visit: nmececd.org/focus-tqris

Full time: Care provided for an average of 30 or more

Part time 1: Care provided for an average of 8-29 hours

an average of 8-19 hours per week per month - pay

Part time 3: Care provided for an average of seven or

less hours per week per month - pay at 25% of full time

Part time 3: Care provided for an average of seven or

less hours per week per month - pay at 25% of full time

Non-traditional hours of care: Care provided between

the **after hours** of 7 p.m. - 7 a.m. Monday through Friday

or care provided during weekend hours between 12 a.m.

Saturday morning and 12 a.m. Monday morning.

may have two providers): Care provided for

hours per week per month - pay at 100% of full time

per week per month - pay at 75% of full time rate.

at 50% of full time rateweek per month.

rate.

NTHLY RATES acity: 7-12 children)

amount of funding per child equivalent to five to 15 percent of the lister rate. More information is listed on page 5.

If you offer non-traditional hours of care, ECECD will pay you an addition

1115.00 836.25 557.50

910.00 682.50 455.00

408.75

272.50

911.25 607.50

468.75 312.50

136.25

2-Star FOCUS **

2 + Star FOCUS **

4-Star FOCUS ***

1035.00 776.25

r FOCUS **

	Full Time	Part Time 1	Part Time 2	Part Time 3
ant	1040.00	780.00	520.00	260.00
ddler	1000.00	750.00	500.00	250.00
school	830.00	622.50	415.00	207.50
ool	475.00	356.25	237.50	118.75

ar FOCUS **

	Full Time	Part Time 1	Part Time 2	Part Time 3
int	1115.00	836.25	557.50	278.75
dler	1050.00	787.50	525.00	262.50
chool	910.00	682.50	455.00	227.50
ool	545.00	408.75	272.50	136.25

5-Star FOCUS ***

AB.		Full Time	Part Time 1	Part Time 2	Part Time
No. of the last of	Infant	1315.00	986.25	657.50	328.7
9-5	Toddler	1250.00	937.50	625.00	312.5
	Preschool	1120.00	840.00	560.00	280.0
	School Age	670.00	502.50	335.00	167.50

REGISTERED HOME MONTHLY RATES

Registered Homes/In Home Child Care

1100.00 825.00 550.00

530.00 397.50 265.00

1175.00 881.25 587.50

600.00 450.00 300.00

562 50

475.00

543.75

84375

1075.00 806.25

Preschool 870.00 652.50 435.00

3-Star FOCUS **

1125.00

5-Star FOCUS ***

	Full Time	Part Time 1	Part Time 2	Part Time 3
Infant	425.00	318.75	212.50	106.25
Toddler	425.00	318.75	212.50	106.25
Preschool	375.00	281.25	187.50	93.75
School Age	350.00	262.50	175.00	87.50

275.00

217.50

281 25

237.50

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MONTHLY RATES

LICENSED FAMILY HOME MONTHLY RAT 2-Star FOCUS

		~ ~			
	Full Time	Part Time 1	Part Time 2	Part Time 3	
Infant	1075.00	806.25	537.50		
Toddler	775.00	581.25		268.75	
Described in		501.25	387.50	193.75	
Preschool	700.00	525.00	350.00	175.00	
School	500.00			113.00	
Age	500.00	375.00	250.00	125.00	

3-Star FOCUS ***

	Time	Part Time 1	Part Time 2	Part
Infant	1150.00	862.50	575.00	Time
Toddler	865.00	648.75	432.50	287.50
Preschool	800.00	600.00		216.25
School	550.00		400.00	200.00
Age	550.00	412.50	275.00	137.50

5-Star FOCUS ****

	Time	Part Time 1	Part Time 2	Part Time
Infant	1925.00	1443.75	962.50	
Toddler	1500.00	1125.00		481.25
Preschool	1125.00		750.00	375.00
School	1125.00	843.75	562.50	281.25
Age	750.00	562.50	375.00	187.50

FOCUS is New Mexico's Quality Rating and Improvement System for child care programs.

nmececd.org/focus-tgris



	TOO A A				
	Full Time	Part Time 1	Part Time 2	Par Time	
Infant	1150.00	862.50	575.00		
Toddler	005.00		375,00	287.5	
- Culting	865.00	648.75	432.50	216.2	
D					

2 + Star FOCUS ++

roduter	865.00	648.75	432.50	216.25
Preschool	800.00	600.00	400.00	
School Age	550.00	412.50	275.00	200.00
			275.00	137.50

	Full Time	Part Time 1	Part Time 2	Part Time 3
Infant	1500.00	1125.00	750.00	375.00
Toddler	1100.00	825.00	550.00	
Preschool	1000.00	750.00		275.00
School		700.00	500.00	250.00
Age	650.00	487.50	325.00	162.50



Full Time	Part Time 1	Part Time 2	Part		1925.00	1443.75	962.50	481.2
V/0000 / 0000000		The Control of the Co	F-ALL	Toddler	1500.00	1125.00		
1375.00	1031.25	687.50	3	Preschool		1120.00	750.00	375.0
1325.00	993.75	662.50	-		1125.00	843.75	562.50	281.25
1160.00	870.00	580.00	,	School Age	750.00	562.50	375.00	187.50
1100.00	670.00	380.00					-10100	187.50

For more information, visit:

DC 2	LICENSED CENTER	MONTHLY RATES
PG. Z	LIGETTO	D. C.

- PG. 3 LICENSED GROUP HOME MONTHLY RATES
- PG. 4 REGISTERED HOME MONTHLY RATES
- PG. 4 LICENSED FAMILY HOME MONTHLY RATES
- PG. 5 NON-TRADITIONAL HOURS

Learn more about ECECD at nmececd.org Toll free: (800) 832-1321

ececd-ecs-customerservice@ececd.nm.gov

12/1/2023

PG. 3

Non-Traditional Care

Providers may also receive additional money for afterhour and weekend care if approved on the contract

	1-10 hrs/wk	11-20 hrs/wk	21 or more hrs/wk
After hours	5%	10%	15%

	1-10 hrs/wk	11-20 hrs/wk	21 or more hrs/wk
Weekend hours	5%	10%	15%

After hours = After 7 p.m. and before 7 a.m.

Weekend hours = 12 a.m. Saturday - 12 a.m. Monday



Provider Reporting Requirements

- Notify ECECD within 14 calendar days of last day of attendance
- If a child will be out for an extended period of time, up to 6 weeks, provider will notify ECECD of start date of absence, expected return date and reason for absence
 - Documentation may be requested
 - This will allow payment to continue while child remains enrolled



PreK Letter and Avoiding Dual Payment

On August 7, 2023 ECECD issued a notice reminding providers that the department will NOT pay child care benefits for the hours that children attend Head Start, New Mexico PreK, school or other programs per 8.9.3.11 (J) NMAC.

* PLEASE report any updates needed to children's contracts to ECECD *



Provider Dashboard

Sign up for the Provider Dashboard: to approve contracts online, review your payment history, as well as other features.

Navigating the EPICS Provider Dashboard
Webinar

Navigating the EPICS Provider Dashboard

Get Item

- Visit: www.nmels.org
- Once you complete your training, it gives you certificate. It will also give a System Access form.
- Complete this and send with certificate to: ECECD-ECS-ProviderGovernance@ececd.nm.gov





Want to learn more about the Child Care Assistance Program?

Visit www.nmels.org and take the Child Care Assistance Provider Orientation training.



Quick References

- Comprehensive Background Checks: nmececd.org/comprehensive-background-check-process/
- Background Check Registration: https://nm.state.identogo.com
- Health and Safety Information: <u>nmececd.org/covid-19/</u>
- COVID-19 Rapid Response Portal: https://ececd.vaccinenm.org/
- FOCUS Application: newmexicokids.org/focus-application



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