



New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department

Notice of Funding Opportunity: New Mexico PreK

Fiscal Year: 2025

Funding Availability: Up to \$23,644,000

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 residing in New Mexico with eligible 3- and 4-year-old children, regardless of income. The New Mexico PreK program provides voluntary, quality PreK to support children's developmental and school readiness and builds capacity of early childhood programs in communities. PreK program funding is awarded to eligible providers, including tribal, licensed child care centers, licensed child care homes, Head Start, school districts, and/or charter schools through this competitive grant opportunity. ECECD monitors the eligible providers granted awards for compliance with the New Mexico PreK Standards (found [here](#)).

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 FY25, the New Mexico Legislature appropriated additional funding 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 tribal, licensed child care centers, licensed child care homes, Head Start, school districts, and/or charter schools to offer the NM PreK program according to the established New Mexico PreK Standards referenced above. ECECD awards PreK Grants for four years contingent upon available funding and the grantees continued compliance with the NM PreK standards. If you are applying for and are awarded an expansion, your existing award will be amended, and your expansion will have the same term as your existing award.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) outlines requirements for the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) NM PreK Application. All applicants for FY25 NM PreK Grant must complete the application accessible via the New Mexico PreK Application portal accessible via this link:

All applications are due by **3 p.m. Friday, April 19, 2024**. Only completed applications submitted by the deadline with all requested attachments will be considered by ECECD for funding in FY25. The online application is available via the ECECD website at <https://www.nmececd.org/prekgrant/>. **Applications will only be accepted online.**

[If you have any questions about this Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) or application, please email:](#)

ECECD-PreKGrant@ececd.nm.gov

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

ECECD will prioritize funding PreK applications based on the following categories and saturation. "Saturation" refers to the number of slots in Head Start and New Mexico PreK available within the geographic boundaries of a school district (i.e., School District Area):

- Priority 1: NM School District Areas that do not have any School or Community based NM PreK slots.
- Priority 2: NM School District Areas that do not have any School or Community-Based NM Early PreK Slots or serve less than 75% of four-year-olds.
- Priority 3: NM School District Areas with less than 25% saturation of NM Early PreK slots
- Priority 4: NM School Districts that have between 25-50% saturation of NM Early PreK slots.

School District Areas that compose these priorities are listed below.

ECECD will consider all applications for funding and awards will be made based on the following criteria and contingent upon available funding:

- Priority 1: All applications scoring 80 points or higher will be funded first
- Priority 2: All applications scoring 80 points or higher will be funded second
- Priority 3: All applications scoring 80 points or higher will be funded third
- Priority 4: All applications scoring 80 points or higher will be funded fourth
- All non-priority applications scoring 80 points or higher will be funded fifth

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. Scheduled dates may be extended but ECECD will not shorten any timelines.

SECTION I – ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants for the FY25 NM PreK Grant include the following:

- A Local Education Agency (LEAs) or state charter school.
- 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).

FY25 NM PreK eligible applicants must be seeking funding either to open a new PreK 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, which is ECECD, the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED), or the applicable federal agency for tribes and Head Starts. **Programs on a current Corrective Action Plan (CAP) are not eligible to apply for new or expansion funding.**

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

Each NM PreK program must choose from the options below and choose which type of program will be implemented per classroom or home-based program. Each applicant must select their program options in the online application and demonstrate how they will meet the requirements of each program option. Each applicant must also ensure that it plans to pay educators implementing the NM PreK program per the salary parity requirements 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, 2024, 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, per fiscal year

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, 2024.
- 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, per fiscal year

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, 2024 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.
- Maximum group size: 16 children.
- 1:8 adult to child ratio.
- \$12,300 reimbursement per PreK student, per fiscal year.

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, 2024, 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.
- Maximum group size: 20 children.
- 1:10 adult to child ratio.

\$14,300 reimbursement per PreK student per fiscal year.

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, 2024.
- Provide 1380 Instructional hours and 90 hours of family engagement – 1470 total hours.
- Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 8 hours per day.
- Maximum group size: 16 children.
- 1:8 adult to child ratio.
- **\$15,750 reimbursement per PreK student per fiscal year.**

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 or 4 years of age before September 1, 2024, 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.
- Maximum group size: 16 children.
- 1:8 adult to child ratio.
- **\$15,750 reimbursement per PreK student per fiscal year.**

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) per fiscal year.

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 (\$15,750) per fiscal year.

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) per fiscal year.

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 (\$15,750) per fiscal year.

SECTION III – FUNDING

FUNDING IS SUBJECT TO CURRENT AND FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE FOR THE PERIOD OF THE GRANT AWARD. 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 PREK AND EARLY 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 by the number of children served per eligible applicant type and then multiplied by the appropriate rate. Depending on the size of the award, programs may be subject to an annual audit 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.

ECECD will set aside a limited amount of funding for:

- **Transportation – \$1,000.00 per child, per fiscal year.** 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 materials to equip a new PreK classroom.

The following timeline may be amended by ECECD as needed:

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DUE DATE
Grant Application Period Opens	ECECD	Wednesday, March 20, 2024
PreK Application Office Hours <u>via Zoom</u> Spanish interpretation will be available https://nmececd.org.zoom.us/j/89623712358	ECECD	Tuesday March 26, 2024, at 9 a.m. Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 1 p.m. Saturday March 30, 2024, 10 a.m. Wednesday April 3, 2024, at 6 p.m.
Deadline to Submit Written Questions	Eligible Applicants	Friday, April 5, 2024, by 11:59p.m. (MDT)
Response to Written Questions	ECECD	Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Deadline to Submit FY24 Grant Application	Eligible Applicants	Friday, April 19, 2024, by 3 p.m. (MDT)
Grant Award Letters Issued	ECECD	Thursday-Friday, May 30-31, 2024

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 5, 2024.

Application Submission and Due Date

All applications must be submitted no later than 3 p.m. (MDT) Friday, April 19, 2024. Each applicant will receive a notification of receipt. LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, REVIEWED OR CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE FY25 PREK APPLICATION PORTAL AVAILABLE AT: <https://nmececd-ecen.submittable.com/submit>.

Eligible applicants MUST submit an application under the following circumstances:

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

Eligible applicants should NOT submit an application under the following circumstances:

- New requests for basic (half-day) slots – No new applications for basic slots will be accepted.
- Requests for conversion (changes of program option or program type) –
- Requests to reduce enrollment.

Current PreK Providers should submit a written letter of request under the following circumstances.

- Requests for conversion (e.g. changes in program option or program type).
- Requests to reduce enrollment.

Conversion or enrollment reduction letters must be on letterhead and contain:

- Current program option(s)
- Requested changes for program option or type
- Rationale for program changes including statement of how you collaborated with other providers in your community in determining the need for your program option or type conversion.

Conversion and enrollment reduction letters will be accepted March 20 - April 19, 2024, and can be submitted to ECECD-PreKGrant@ececd.nm.gov Letters are due no later than 3 p.m. (MDT) Friday, April 19, 2024.

Applications must be submitted no later than 3 p.m. (MDT) Friday, April 19, 2024. Each applicant will receive a notification of receipt. In addition, applicants will receive a summary of their funding request, which is NOT an actual award notice, within 48 hours of submission.

LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING.

SECTION VI – DEFINITIONS

1. Annual Audit: An annual audit as required by the State of New Mexico law conducted by an independent auditor. ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-F and 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 monthly 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 applicable school year.
9. New Mexico PreK Program Standards: The program standards that all NM PreK programs must follow. The text of the standards are available here)
10. New Program: An eligible applicant that has never received NM PreK funding and wishes to convert to a NM PreK classroom currently in operation or open a new NM PreK 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. Pay 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 applicable 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, 2024. 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. School District Area: The geographic boundaries of a school district that an applicant falls within
18. Tribal Programs: Tribal early childhood programs operated by a Tribal government located in New Mexico.

Funding priority criteria will be determined as listed below. **If a School District Area is not listed, it does not meet ECECD's funding priority criteria.**

Priority 1: Eligible applicants proposing to serve three-year-olds and/or four-year-olds residing in the geographic boundaries of the following NM School District Areas: House Municipal, Jemez Mountain Public Schools, Logan Municipal Schools, Lovington Municipal Schools, Maxwell Municipal Schools

Priority 2: Eligible applicants proposing to serve three-year-olds and or four-year-olds residing in the geographic boundaries of the following NM School District Areas: – Alamogordo Public Schools, Albuquerque Public Schools, Artesia Public Schools, Animas

Public Schools, Belen Consolidated Schools, Bernalillo Public Schools, Carlsbad Municipal Schools, Chama Valley Independent Schools, Cimarron Municipal Schools, Clayton Municipal Schools, Cloudcroft Public Schools, Clovis Municipal Schools, Cobre Consolidated Schools, Corona Public Schools, Deming Public Schools, Des Moines Municipal Public Schools, Dexter Consolidated Schools, Dora Municipal Schools, Dulce Independent School District, Elida Municipal Schools, Estancia Municipal Schools, Eunice Public Schools, Floyd Municipal Schools, Gallup-McKinley County Schools, Grants-Cibola County Schools, Hobbs Municipal Schools, Jemez Valley Public Schools, Lake Arthur School District, Las Vegas City, Lordsburg Municipal Schools, Los Alamos Public Schools, Loving Municipal Schools, Magdalena Municipal Schools, Melrose Municipal Schools, Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools, Mosquero Municipal Schools, Mountainair School Districts, Pecos Independent Schools, Peñasco Independent School District, Portales Municipal Schools, Quemado School District, Reserve Independent Schools, Rio Rancho Public Schools, Roswell Independent Public Schools, Roy Municipal Schools, San Jon Schools, Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools, Springer Municipal Schools, Tatum Municipal Schools, Texico Municipal Schools, Tucumcari Public Schools, Tularosa Municipal School District, Vaughn Municipal Schools, Wagon Mound Public Schools, West Las Vegas Public Schools

Priority 3: Eligible applicants proposing to serve three-year-olds residing in the geographic boundaries of the following NM School District Areas: Bloomfield Schools, Central Consolidated Schools, Pojoaque Valley Schools, Raton Public Schools, Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools

Priority 4: Eligible applicants that are proposing to serve three-year-olds residing in the geographic boundaries of the following NM School District Areas: Aztec Municipal Schools, Espanola Public School District, Farmington Municipal Schools, Fort Sumner Schools, Gadsden Municipal Schools, Hagerman Municipal Schools, Hatch Valley Public Schools, Hondo Valley Public Schools, Lake Arthur Municipal Schools, Las Cruces Public Schools, Los Lunas Public Schools, Moriarity-Edgewood School District, Questa Independent School District, Santa Fe Public Schools, Socorro Consolidated Schools, Taos Municipal Schools