

Welcome

Wednesday, September 10, 2025



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood

Education & Care Department

Investing for tomorrow, delivering today

Thank you for your attention!

Agenda

- Sacred Beginnings Announcement - Dr. Joannie Suina, Assistant Secretary for Native American Early Education and Care
- Share Your Story: How Has Child Care Assistance Impacted Your Family? – Sonya Martinez, Communications Director



Secretary Updates



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Welcome New ECECD Leadership!

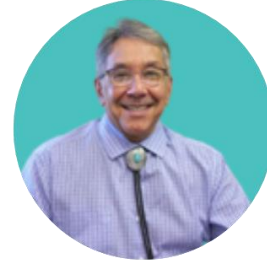


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REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

AginginNM.org



NEW MEXICO

CONFERENCE ON AGING

ENGAGE AS YOU AGE

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2025

GLORIETA CONFERENCE CENTER



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GLORIETA CONFERENCE CENTER

Conference Highlights

Three days of programming featuring:

- Interactive workshops and information sessions
- Engaging speakers, activities, and entertainment
- Insurance, health, caregiver, long-term care, and other resources
- Meals and snacks
- Exhibits and networking
- Shuttles to and from Santa Fe and around the venue
- Concert by Al Hurricane Jr.

Resources

- Multi-state agency expo
- On-site benefits sign-up opportunities
- Recreational activities including pickleball, zip lining, nature hikes, crafts and more!

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

AgingInNM.org



Save the Date: Early Childhood Education and Care Advisory Council

- **Wednesday, September 24, 2025** from 1-4 p.m. in Silver City, NM
- **Wednesday, December 10, 2025** from 1-4 p.m. in Albuquerque, NM

All meeting details, including Zoom links, agendas, recordings, and presentation slide decks, are posted on the Early Childhood Education and Care Advisory Council page on ECECD's site: nmececd.org/ecec-advisory-council

Your voice matters for Early Childhood in New Mexico!

- Thank you to all of you who have completed the New Mexico Early Childhood Survey for Families. *If you have not completed the survey yet, you still have time!*
- Share your thoughts and opinions about what is working well and what could be improved in New Mexico's early childhood system by participating in the Early Childhood Survey for Families.
- The survey is voluntary and also available in Spanish. As a thank you, you can enter a raffle for a \$50 gift card after you complete the survey.



<https://bit.ly/FamilySurveyNM>

Your voice matters for Early Childhood in New Mexico!

Share your thoughts about what is working well and what could be improved in New Mexico's early childhood system by completing the **New Mexico Survey for Families**.



Completing the survey should take about 20 minutes.



Your responses are confidential.

Ready to share feedback?

Scan the QR code or visit the link:



<https://bit.ly/FamilySurveyNM>



¡Tu opinión es importante para mejorar la Primera Infancia en Nuevo México!

Comparte tus opiniones sobre lo que está funcionando bien y lo que se podría mejorar en el sistema de la primera infancia de Nuevo México completando la **Encuesta para Familias**.



Completar la encuesta tomará aproximadamente 20 minutos.



Tus respuestas son confidenciales.

¿Listo para compartir tu opinión?

Escanea el código QR o visita el enlace:



<https://bit.ly/EncuestaFamiliasNM>



Universal Child Care in New Mexico



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New Mexico is First State in Nation to Offer Universal Child Care!

- Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department announced on Monday that New Mexico will become the first state in the nation to guarantee no-cost universal child care starting **Nov. 1**.
- **This initiative makes child care available to all New Mexicans, regardless of income, by:**
 - Removing income eligibility requirements from the state's child care assistance program
 - Continuing the waiver of family copayments
- This fulfills the promise made in 2019 when the governor and Legislature created ECECD. Since then, New Mexico expanded no-cost child care to families earning up to 400% of the federal poverty level, easing financial strain on tens of thousands.
- With universal child care, **every family in New Mexico** will benefit—saving an average of **\$12,000 per child annually**.

More information and toolkit: nmeccd.org/universal

Building the Workforce to Scale Universal Child Care

New Mexico is on the path to achieving **universal child care**, a cornerstone for family well-being and economic prosperity, with the goal of ensuring every family has reliable, high-quality care regardless of income or location.

- **The challenge:** Meeting rapidly growing demand while ensuring quality, accessibility, and sustainability.
- **The solution:** Focus on two critical drivers:
 - **Workforce** – recruiting, retaining, and compensating providers to stabilize the sector.
 - **Scale** – expanding capacity to serve more infants and toddlers, expanded hours, and infrastructure investments.





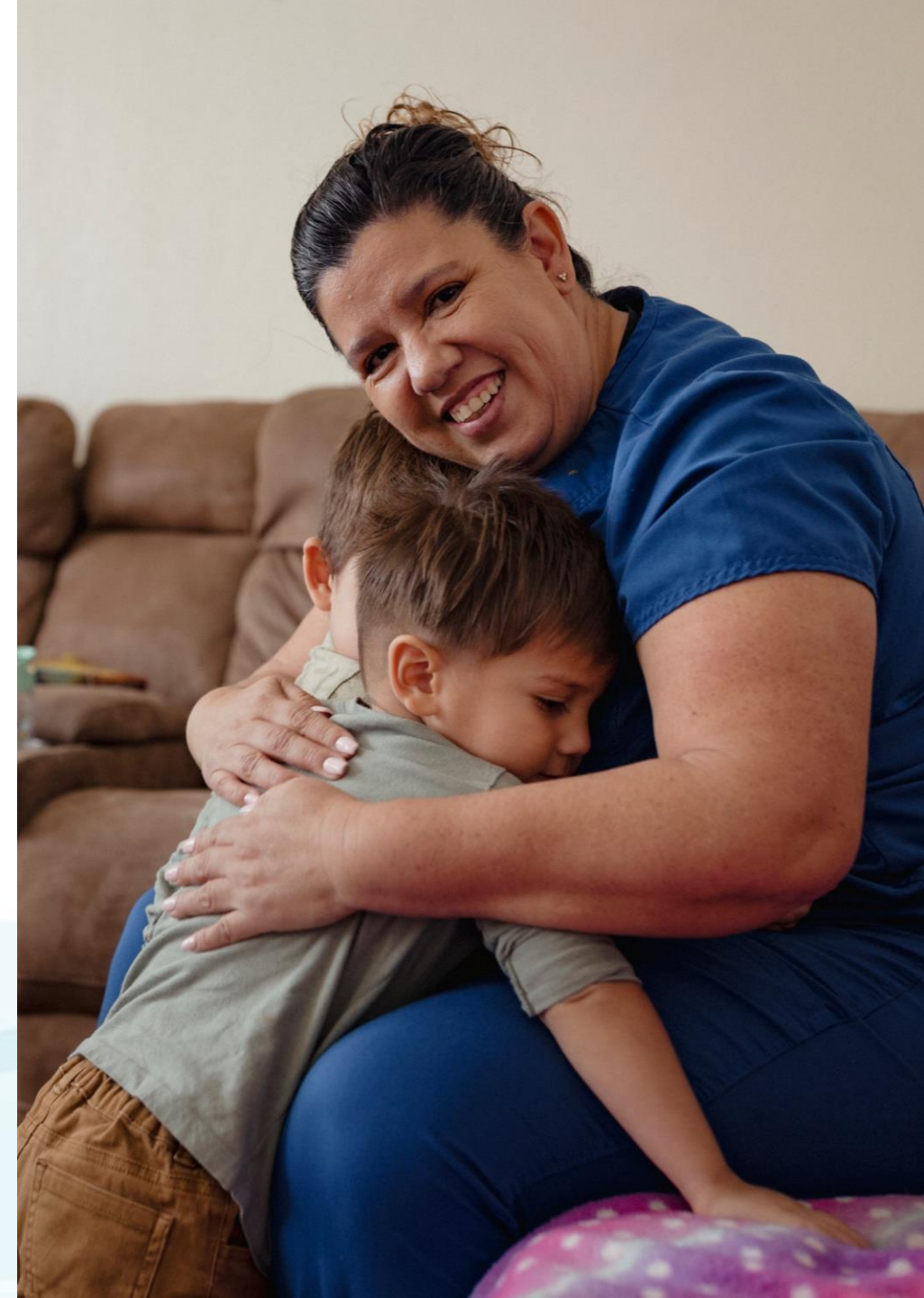
Investments in early childhood education and care yield substantial long-term benefits for individuals and society—a 13% annual return on investment through improved outcomes in education, health, and economic productivity.

Monday, September 15, 2025



Workforce - Recruiting, Retaining, and Compensating Providers

- **Increase rates** for all child care providers
- **Higher reimbursement** for licensed providers open 10+ hours/day who pay the cost model wage floor to entry level staff.
- **Implement the wage and career lattice** to support long-term recruitment and retention.
- Coordinate with the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) on **apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship** programs.
- **Reduce administrative burdens** for families, providers, and ECECD staff.



Scale – Expanding Capacity

- Build new capacity for **12,000** infants and toddlers statewide.
- Incentivize providers with rate increases tied to quality and availability.
- Expand care during non-traditional hours to meet family needs.
- **Invest in infrastructure through:**
 - Low-interest loan programs
 - Capital outlay for new child care centers
 - Repurposing state-owned buildings for child care
- Collaborate with **anchor businesses** to provide employee-supported child care.



Sacred Beginnings Announcement

Dr. Joannie Suina, Assistant Secretary for Native American Early Childhood



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Sacred Beginnings

A Learning Tour of Native American Early Education and Care

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Native American Early Education and Care (OAS) at ECECD is excited to kick off Sacred Beginnings, a statewide learning tour to strengthen government-to-government relationships and listen directly to communities about early childhood strengths, needs, and priorities.

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(Pueblo of Cochiti)

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Share Your Story: How Has Child Care Assistance Impacted Your Family?

Sonya Martinez, Communications
Director



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Testimonials

- ECECD is looking for testimonials that highlight the ways families across New Mexico are experiencing the benefits of expanded Child Care Assistance (CCA).
- Send your full name, contact information, and a brief description of your family's experience to ececd.communications@ececd.nm.gov.
- A member of ECECD comms staff will reach out to you for additional information.



Next Community Call

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025

Questions?

Email: ececd.communications@state.nm.us

Website: nmececd.org

Thank you for your attention!