



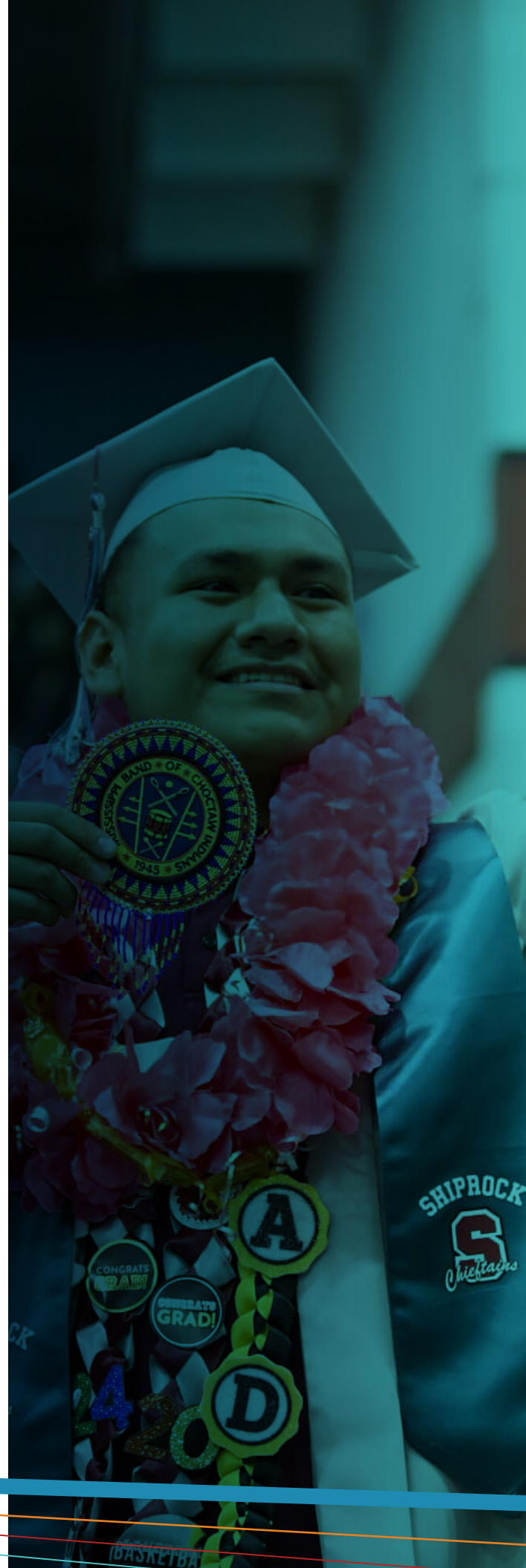
NEW MEXICO
Children's Cabinet

2025 **ANNUAL
REPORT**



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Introduction

Created by the Children’s Cabinet Act of 2005, the New Mexico Children’s Cabinet was established to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and advance an equitable system of service delivery for all New Mexico children. The Cabinet is administratively tied to the Office of the Governor and its responsibilities include: a budget inventory of funding allocated to children and families, collaboration on behalf of this population, and the creation of a report that details these efforts. Chaired by the Governor, vice chaired by the Lieutenant Governor, and comprised of 18 state member agencies, it is one of 31 state-level cabinets across the country devoted to improving outcomes for children and families. As required by statute, the Cabinet meets six times per year and releases an annual report categorized by five outcome areas: Educated, Healthy, Involved, Safe, and Supported.

Under the Lujan Grisham administration, the Children’s Cabinet has advanced equity for families through diverse, interwoven efforts. These efforts impact every child in New Mexico, regardless of location or socioeconomic status. This report shares the Cabinet’s progress, organized by the five outcome areas designated by law.

Recognizing that the first three years of life are the most critical for healthy development, the Children’s Cabinet published the [Thriving Families Prevention Plan](#) in January 2024. This plan identifies strategies to reduce ACEs for New Mexico’s youngest children (ages 0-3). **Outcomes that align with the Thriving Families Plan will be indicated in bold throughout the report.**

2025 MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Family Income Growth

In 2024, median family income in New Mexico grew faster than in any other state, ranking New Mexico first for both year-to-year growth and longterm gains.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey

Child Resilience

Approximately 81 percent of children 0-5 in New Mexico are reported as flourishing—demonstrating curiosity, resilience, and positive social-emotional development in Fiscal Year 25 (FY25).

Source: National Survey of Children’s Health, New Mexico

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Children with two or more ACEs decreased to 23 percent in 2024, down from 27 percent in 2021.

Source: New Mexico EDI Snapshot 2024 (PED/UCLA)

Kindergarten Readiness

Forty-eight percent of NM kindergarteners are on track in all five developmental domains: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, communication skills and general knowledge. Over 71 percent are on-track in individual domains—in alignment with national kindergarten cohorts.

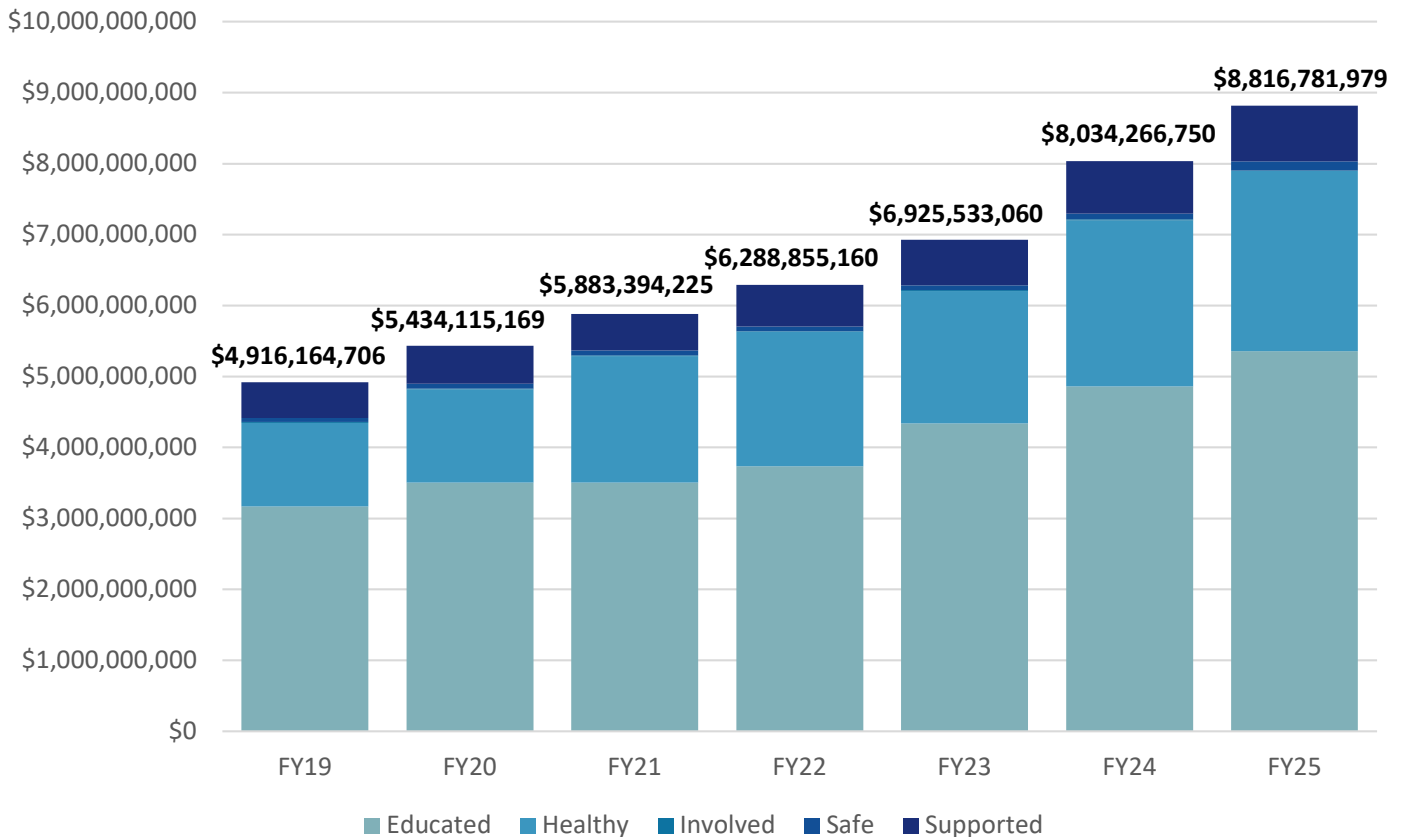
Source: New Mexico Early Development Instrument 2024 Snapshot, ECECD

SPENDING BY OUTCOME

The following table reflects FY19 through FY25 expenditures by Children’s Cabinet member agencies in five designated outcomes: Educated, Healthy, Involved, Safe, and Supported. Spending in nearly all categories has increased over time, demonstrating greater support for families over the course of this administration.

Figure 1. Spending by outcome has steadily increased over time.

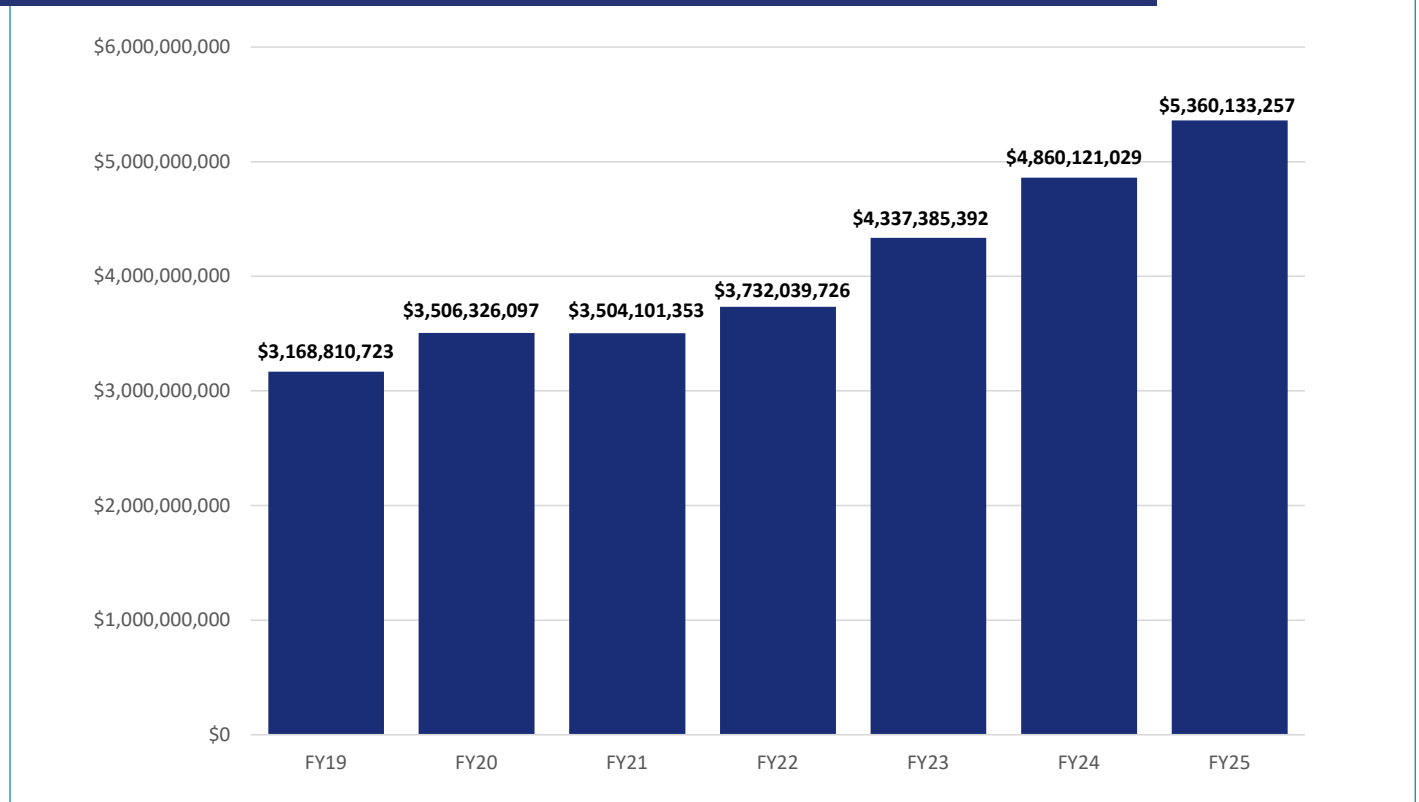
Primary Outcome	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Educated	\$3,168,810,723	\$3,506,326,097	\$3,504,101,353	\$3,732,039,726	\$4,337,385,392	\$4,860,121,029	\$5,360,133,257
Healthy	\$1,179,553,933	\$1,314,542,825	\$1,785,471,742	\$1,896,051,964	\$1,869,058,188	\$2,337,706,672	\$2,534,678,724
Involved	\$11,563,250	\$10,585,956	\$8,439,661	\$11,292,355	\$12,262,898	\$17,448,070	\$11,208,354
Safe	\$57,919,035	\$67,729,936	\$69,053,109	\$67,494,394	\$67,301,082	\$81,988,946	\$127,233,297
Supported	\$498,317,764	\$534,930,354	\$516,328,358	\$581,976,721	\$639,525,498	\$737,002,031	\$783,528,344
Grand Total	\$4,916,164,706	\$5,434,115,169	\$5,883,394,225	\$6,288,855,160	\$6,925,533,060	\$8,034,266,750	\$8,816,781,979



ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY OUTCOME

EDUCATED *Children are prepared for and experience success in school.*

Figure 2. Total spending by Educated outcome has increased over time.



Science-of-Reading

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has prioritized reading and literacy at every age, engaging all three education agencies (Early Childhood Education and Care Department, Public Education Department, and Higher Education Department) to provide comprehensive, informed literacy instruction to diverse learners. As a result, New Mexico now has one of the strongest science-of-reading (SOR) policy frameworks in the country, with aligned legislation, training, coaching, and expected outcomes.

To date, over 10,000 public school educators and administrators have enrolled in or completed science-of-reading structured literacy training. The Public Education Department (PED) has provided coaching support to more than 1,500 educators serving approximately 25,000 K–5 students in structured literacy support model schools. In addition, PED provides 72 expert literacy coaches and grants to model schools implementing structured literacy in grades K-12. Early data shows that structured-literacy model schools have outperformed comparison schools, including a reported three percent higher gain in reading proficiency. PED’s summer reading program helps students continue

Proficiency in third to eighth graders has risen ten percent since 2022, reaching 44 percent proficient in 2025. Students in third, sixth, and eighth grades posted the largest one-year gains on record.

Source: SY24–25 New Mexico Measures of Student Success and Achievement

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reading throughout the summer, avoiding drops in reading proficiency over school breaks. Since its creation in 2024, the program has served 16,140 students. Participants in the Summer Reading Program show learning gains of eight percent, while peers who did not participate in the program demonstrated a six percent loss in learning.

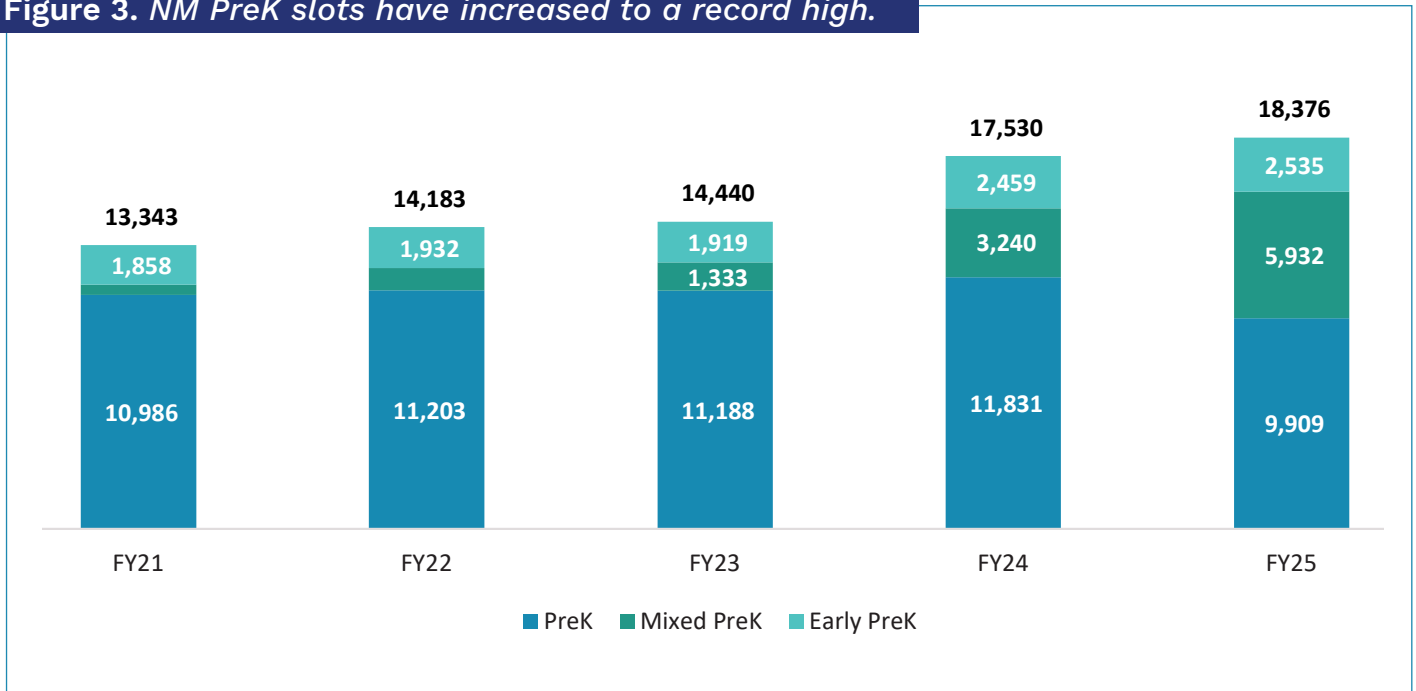
NM PreK

Between 2023 and 2024, New Mexico’s preschool education program, known as NM PreK, served record high numbers of preschool children, and in 2024 ranked sixth nationally in preschool accessibility for three-year-olds, up from 13th only two years before.

NM PreK expanded to a historic 18,376 funded slots in FY25, up from 13,343 in FY21, reflecting steady growth and expanding opportunity for families in every part of the state.

Source: Early Childhood Education & Care Department 2025 Annual Outcomes Report

Figure 3. NM PreK slots have increased to a record high.



Source: Early Childhood Education and Care Department 2025 Annual Outcomes Report



Just Right Reader Science of Reading Literacy Packs™ and Dolly Parton Imagination Library

In Fall 2025, the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) partnered with the PED to strengthen early childhood literacy. Through this grant, over 11,000 NM PreK children received Just Right Reader Science of Reading Literacy Packs™ and almost 4,000 Home Visiting participating families received Just Right Reader Board Books™. This investment provides families with fun, research-based books aligned with Early Learning Standards to support lifelong reading skills.

On May 30, 2025, Governor Lujan Grisham signed an executive order expanding the Dolly Parton Imagination Library statewide, providing free monthly books to children from infancy to age five and making New Mexico the 21st state in the country to offer the program statewide. New Mexico's investment builds on a grassroots effort that began in 2010 in Grant County, where the program first served eight children. To date, two million books have been mailed to families across the state, serving 30,111 children. The Imagination Library program addresses a critical need in New Mexico: research shows daily reading with children doubled from 17 percent to 33 percent in homes that receive Imagination Library books.

In FY25, The Dolly Parton Imagination Library distributed 360,000 books to young children throughout NM.

Source: Imagination Library of Grant County

Adult Literacy

In 2025, the Higher Education Department (HED) awarded 26 grants to adult literacy and education programs through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA). This grant funds projects that focus on one-on-one and small group tutoring for low literacy adults. There are now 44 adult education and literacy programs throughout the state. In addition, New Mexico saw a 44 percent increase in certificates awarded by adult education programs and a 35 percent increase in program participation. By helping caregivers increase their knowledge and earning potential, these programs also help New Mexico families rise out of poverty.

In FY25, New Mexico ranked 26th for adult education outcomes, up from 50th just five years ago.

Source: New Mexico Higher Education Department, FY25 Adult Education Outcomes and National Ranking

Higher Education Enrollment

In 2025, more than 40,000 students attended college and trade schools through New Mexico's Opportunity Scholarship program. Between 2019 and 2025, New Mexico jumped 20 spots in national higher education rankings: from 40th in 2019 to 20th in 2025, reflecting the growing number of students enrolled in higher education programs throughout the state. HED is also a critical partner in developing the early childhood workforce—currently, 23 of 42 New Mexico higher education institutions offer early childhood credentials or

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degrees, and from 2020–2024, there was a 15 percent increase in students completing early childhood degrees, from certificates to graduate programs. Central New Mexico Community College alone has 900 students currently pursuing early childhood degrees.

Adult Education

In FY25, New Mexico Adult Education (AE) was ranked 26th in the nation, the highest national AE ranking New Mexico has ever received. At the same time, high school equivalency attainment increased by 25 percent and overall adult education enrollment increased by nearly ten percent. The AE student retention rate also met HED’s yearly goal of 70 percent student retention rate. Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs for adult learners aim to strengthen family stability and workforce readiness. In FY25, IET enrollment by adult learners increased by almost 50 percent compared to FY24.

Since 2021, college enrollment in New Mexico has grown nearly 15 percent, making New Mexico one of only two states in the nation to see college enrollment growth since 2020.

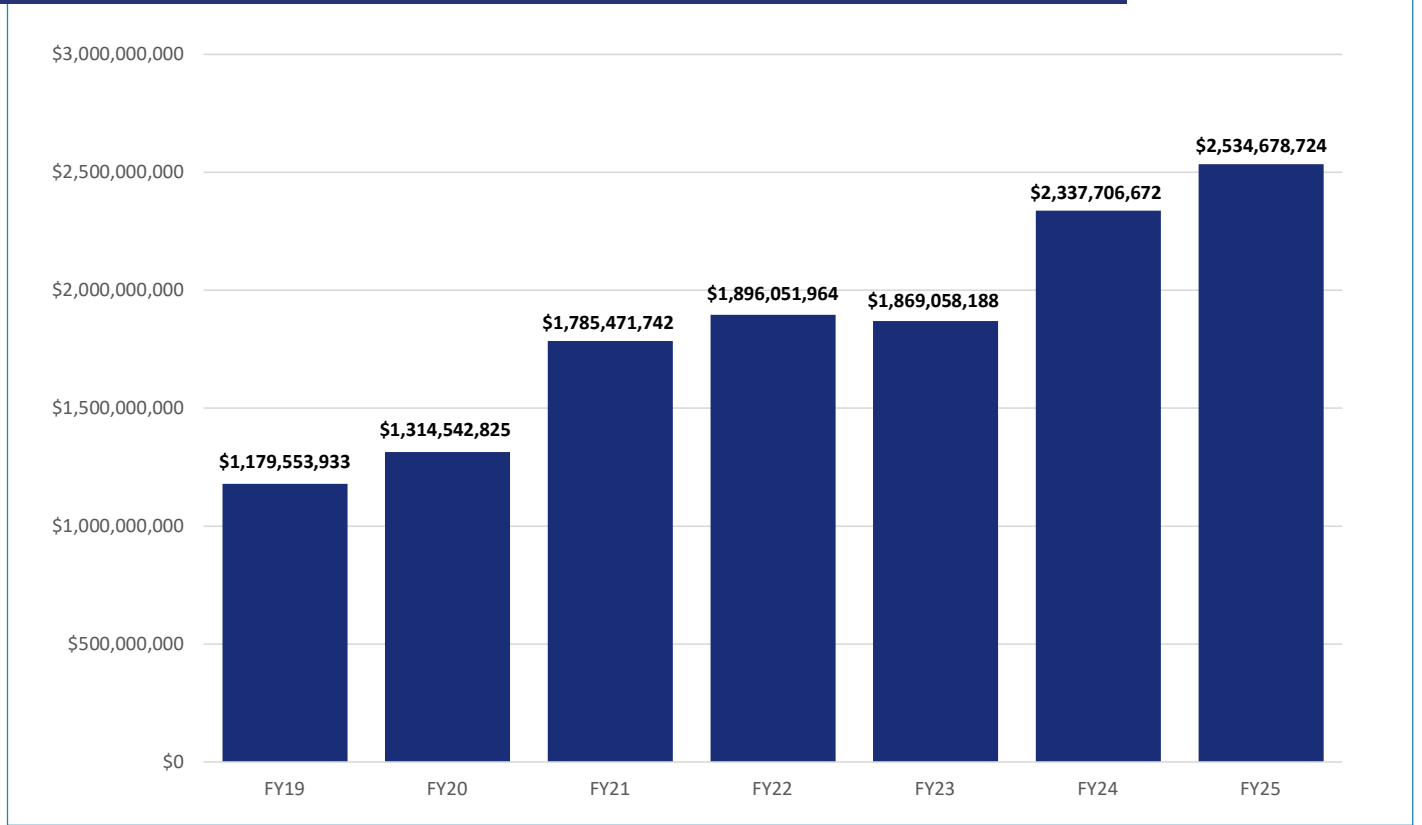
Source: New Mexico Higher Education Department

In FY25, 4,950 AE students gained at least one measurable skill, compared with 2,683 in FY23, a 118 percent increase. Additionally, 1,222 AE students earned high school equivalency certificates, compared with 804 in FY23—a 52 percent increase.

TFP Metric: Increase total number of Adult Education students that attained at least one measurable skill gain.



Figure 4. Total spending by Healthy outcome has increased over time.



Infant Mortality Reduction

In 2023, New Mexico’s infant mortality rate fell from 5.9 deaths per 1,000 births in 2022 to 4.4 deaths per 1,000 births, making it one of the top eight states for lowest infant mortality rates.

Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Syndrome (SUID) accounted for 0.9 of these deaths in 2023 and 0.8 in 2024.

TFP Measure: Decrease rate of SUID.

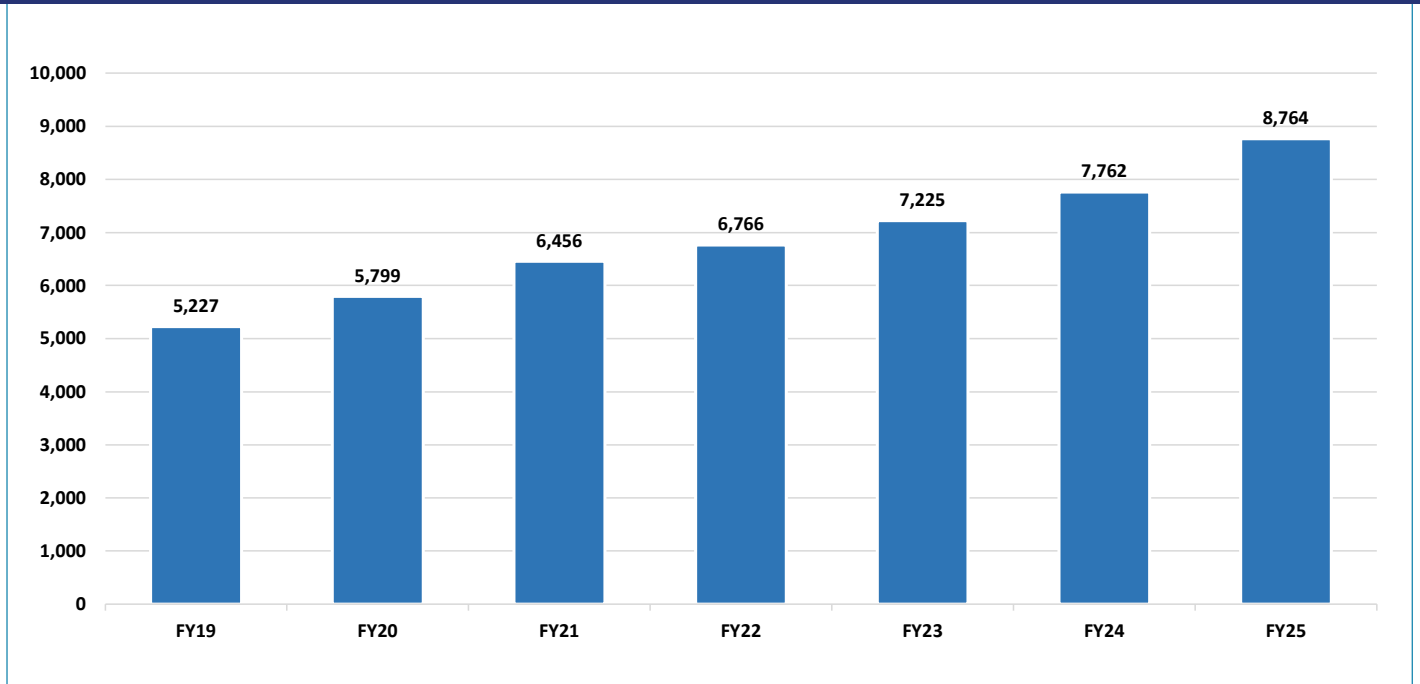
Home Visiting

Home visitors help families screen their children for healthy development, connect them with vital resources, and support caregivers throughout a child’s first five years. Home visiting is offered in each of New Mexico’s 33 counties, with 37 providers serving 7,280 families and 8,764 children prenatally through age 5 in FY25. Most home visiting providers use an evidence-based model, making them eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. In FY25, home visiting providers served 1,467 families through Medicaid, a significant increase from 402 families in FY24.

In FY25, 96 percent of eligible children enrolled in home visiting received a developmental screening, and 96 percent of those identified as at-risk were referred to early intervention services.

Source: Early Childhood Education and Care Department Data Dashboard <https://www.nmececd.org/ececd-data-dashboard/>

Figure 5. Total number of children receiving home visiting services has increased over time.



Source: Early Childhood Education and Care Department 2025 Annual Outcomes Report

Infant Mental Health

The Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD) and ECECD support caregivers in promoting infant mental health by administering programs that strengthen caregiver-child interactions and connect caregivers to resources. The Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) program, administered by CYFD, is an evidence-based, relationship-focused therapeutic intervention for infants, young children, and their caregivers, with the primary goal of promoting and strengthening the adaptive functioning of the infant-caregiver relationship through clinical treatment while supporting permanency for the infant. In 2025, the CPP program served a total of 335 infants and 386 caregivers throughout the state. The Social and Emotional Early Development (SEED) Initiative, administered by ECECD, provides infant early childhood mental health consultation to early childhood educators and program directors, helping them become more confident, reflective, and better equipped to respond to the social and emotional needs of young children. As of February 2026, 297 classrooms, 1,062 early childhood staff, and 4,360 children have benefited from this program.

Behavioral Health

In 2025, the New Mexico Legislature passed historic behavioral healthcare legislation (SB 1, 2, and 3) aimed at creating and sustaining a statewide network of behavioral health services in every community. Leading this reform is an interdisciplinary committee made up of leadership from the Health Care Authority (HCA), the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and AOC appointees. The Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) are critical partners in statewide behavioral health efforts. The CCBHCs were launched by HCA in Doña Ana, Eddy, San Juan, McKinley, Santa Fe, Bernalillo, and Sandoval counties

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in January 2025. CCBHC's deliver 24/7 evidence-based comprehensive mental health and substance use disorder services to children, youth, and adults, regardless of their ability to pay. As of December 2025, CCBHCs had served approximately 6,000 Medicaid members, including 1,658 youth aged 0-21.

School-based health centers, which function as a partnership between the New Mexico Department of Health (DOH), Office of School and Adolescent Health (OSAH), and Managed Care Organizations, are another crucial behavioral health initiative. After expanding access to services in 2024, school-based health centers served more than 16,000 patients in the 2023-2024 school year, helping to support the physical and mental well-being of students. Additionally, through its Children's Behavioral Health Services, CYFD oversees the development and implementation of New Mexico's children's behavioral health service array, including prevention, early intervention, and treatment services, as well as infant and early childhood mental health programming, community-based supports, and workforce development efforts to strengthen trauma-responsive care.

Increased access to behavioral health programs has made a positive impact on young people statewide. In 2024, the New Mexico Youth Risk and Resilience Survey (YRRS) showed marked improvements in youth mental health after trending negatively for eight consecutive years. Young people also reported being less likely to consume drugs or alcohol: the YRRS showed that young people were 40 percent less likely to consume alcohol than in 2019 and 37 percent less likely to consume cannabis.

The most recent YRRS conducted in 2023 showed that youth are 26 percent less likely to attempt suicide as compared to 2021, and 25 percent less likely to experience frequent mental distress.

Source: New Mexico Youth Risk and Resilience Survey

Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)

Numerous agencies work together to coordinate care and services for substance-exposed infants and their families. In 2025, DOH, HCA, ECECD and CYFD collaborated to holistically support 1,800 substance-exposed newborns and their families who received a Plan of Safe Care (POSC, also known as a CARA plan). This program has grown to accommodate the need in New Mexico through offering intensive case management to all families with a POSC, following the child through their first year of life. As a result, DOH provided navigation services to 1,608 babies and their families in FY25.

ECECD's early childhood services complement CARA navigation services through bolstered, voluntary supports for family health and well-being.

Approximately 1,100 CARA families, or 61%, engaged with ECECD services in FY25, including early intervention, home visiting, Families FIRST, and child care. This reflects an approximate 25 percent increase from FY24.

TFP metric: Increase percent of newborns exposed to substances who are served by ECECD programs.

Maternal Health Investments

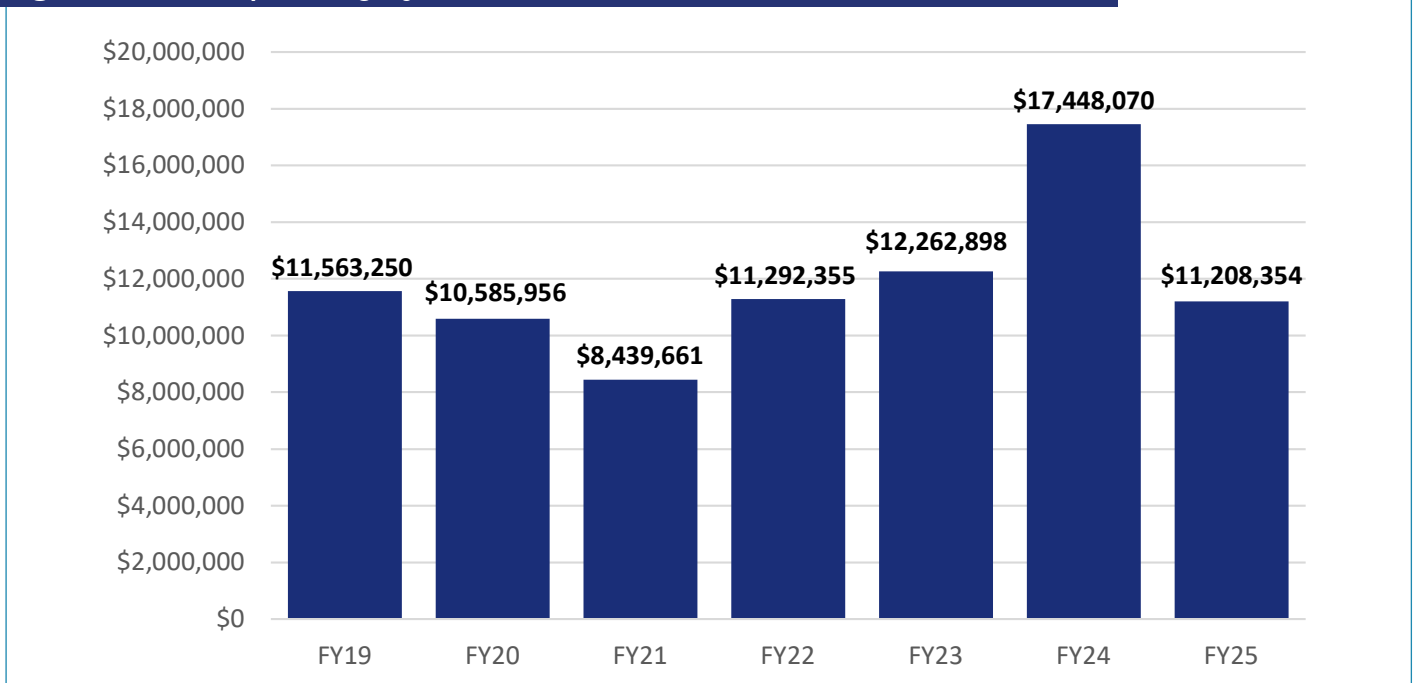
The expansion of home visiting, doula, and midwifery programs throughout the state have allowed more pregnant people to access prenatal and postnatal care. In 2025, funding from

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the Rural Health Care Delivery fund helped expand maternal and child health services in rural communities, including Cibola, Grant, Luna and McKinley Counties. Following the passage of HB214 in the 2025 legislative session, the NMDOH Maternal Health Program created a doula certification program; as of December 2025, 48 doulas have received their certification, making them eligible to bill Medicaid for their services. Midwives follow a similar reimbursement process. In 2025 New Mexico also passed HB56, “Medicaid Reimbursements for Birth Centers,” a law which mandates pay parity between birthing hospitals and freestanding birth centers. This entitles birth workers to equal compensation regardless of where they practice. Additionally, Medicaid covers all postpartum individuals for a full year following birth, which maximizes the opportunity to access postpartum healthcare.

INVOLVED *Children are actively engaged in their communities.*

Figure 6. Total spending by Involved outcome has varied over time.*



*Funding decreased between FY24 and FY25 because the Department of Finance and Administration, Indian Affairs Department, and Office of African American Affairs recategorized existing expenditures to more accurately reflect the correct outcome areas.

Family Involvement as Foundation

Family engagement is a core tenant of the Children’s Cabinet. Families share their experiences as members of various councils, such as ECECD’s Family Leadership Council, HED’s Student Parent Alliance, PED’s Family Cabinet; as members of task forces, including the Economic Development Department (EDD) Sustainable Economy Task Force; or through workgroups, including HCA’s CARA workgroups. In addition to these formal roles, member agencies actively solicit feedback from stakeholders by regularly administering surveys and holding community conversations.



Workforce and Apprenticeship Initiatives

In FY25, the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) expanded its investments in pathways to high-demand careers by offering pre-apprenticeship programs, Registered Apprenticeship Programs, STEM jobs preparation, training and employment services for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth programs, and StepUp programs.

In FY25, DWS saw a 7.4 percent increase in Two-Parent Households receiving TANF.

TFP Metric: Increase the percentage of mandatory two-parent households in compliance with the TANF New Mexico Works program.

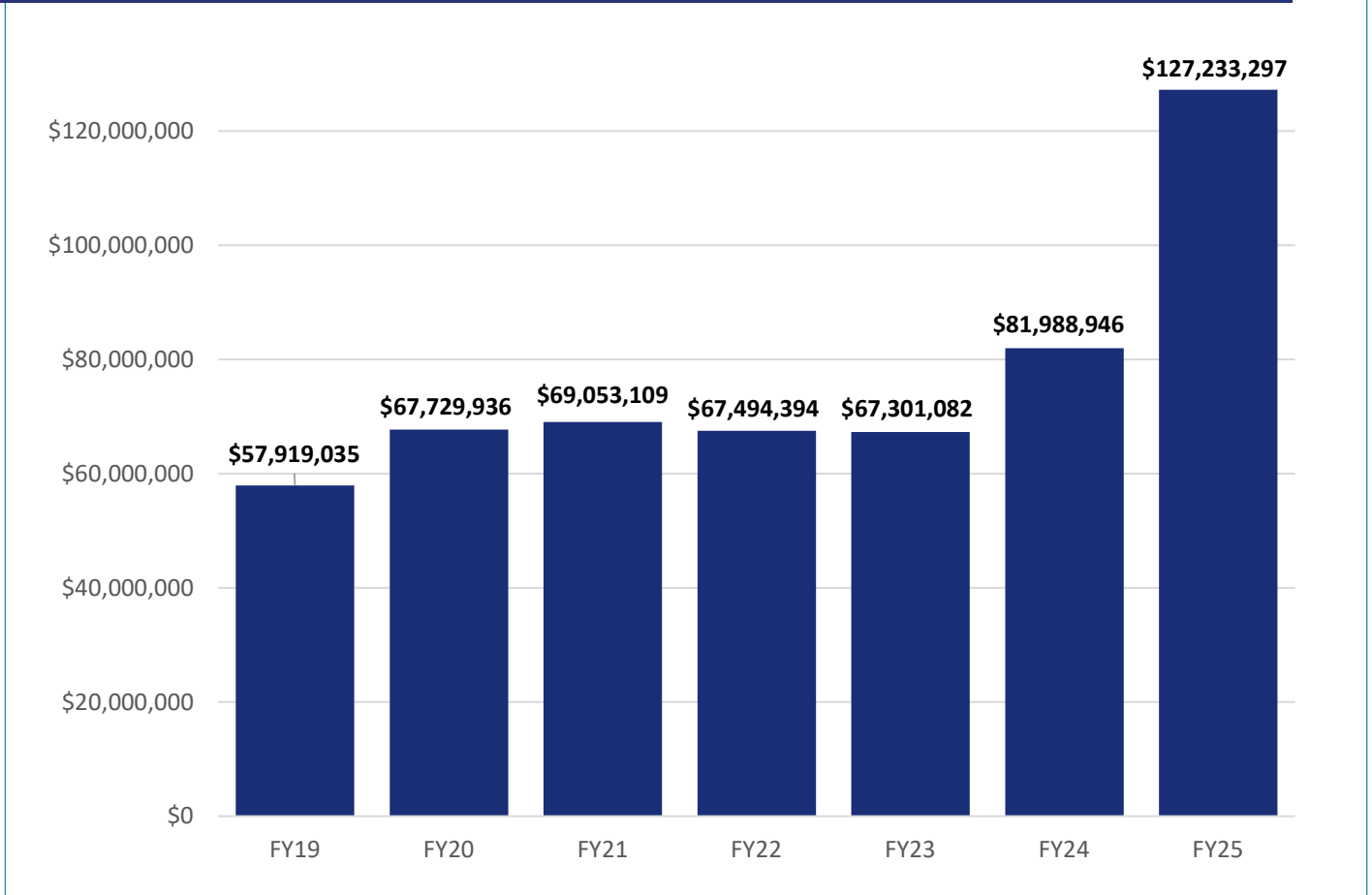
Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) are an industry-driven training model that provide individuals with a pathway to a sustainable career while earning wages through hands-on learning with an employer sponsor. DWS administers several RAPs that support children, including two programs that prepare early childhood educators and two that prepare K-12 educators. The early childhood educator RAPs include the Aprende program at Santa Fe Community College, which enrolls 37 apprentices, and the Hobbs Municipal Schools, which enrolls 6. Hobbs Municipal Schools also runs a K-12 educator RAP, which enrolls 10 apprentices preparing to be elementary school teachers. DWS approved a K-12 teacher preparation RAP conducted by PED that enrolls 48 apprentices.

Pre-apprenticeship programs similarly provide this earn-and-learn model in shorter durations for young people to provide introductory career exploration and a skill building opportunity. At the end of FY25, 305 pre-apprentices completed the DWS Pre-apprenticeship Opportunity Program, which includes high school students, and 365 pre-apprentices were in progress in this program at the end of FY25.

Early Childhood Development Career Technical Education

Public education students around the state are on track to become early childhood professionals through the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Career Technical Education (CTE) Program. This curriculum begins in middle school and ends in high school, introducing students to concepts of child development, multiculturalism, psychology, and other relevant early childhood topics. It enables students to orient themselves towards early childhood settings by gaining real-life teaching and caregiving experiences. This program has seen enormous growth over the past year, including a 158 percent increase in the number of students enrolled in ECD CTE courses: from 4,389 PED students enrolled in the 2024-2025 school year to 11,351 students enrolled in the 2025-2026 school year.

Figure 7. Total spending by Safe outcome significantly increased from FY24 to FY25.



Family Resource Centers

In 2024, four Family Resource Centers (FRCs) were established in Chaves, Doña Ana, Rio Arriba, and Valencia counties by CYFD. These community hubs have been created to serve as a “one stop shop” for services. As the lead agency, CYFD led the RFP process and provides funding and contract oversight, with community-based nonprofit providers operating the centers and partner agencies co-locating services. In addition, CYFD’s Family Services Division supports programming within FRCs so that clients can get multiple, overlapping needs met. The Aging & Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD), DOH, DWS, ECECD, and HCA have established partnerships to co-locate within these resource hubs to help families more seamlessly navigate systems.

Within their first year, the FRCs collectively served over 1,000 New Mexico families including 1,798 children.

TFP metric: Increase the number of Family Resource Centers in high-risk counties.

Gun Safety

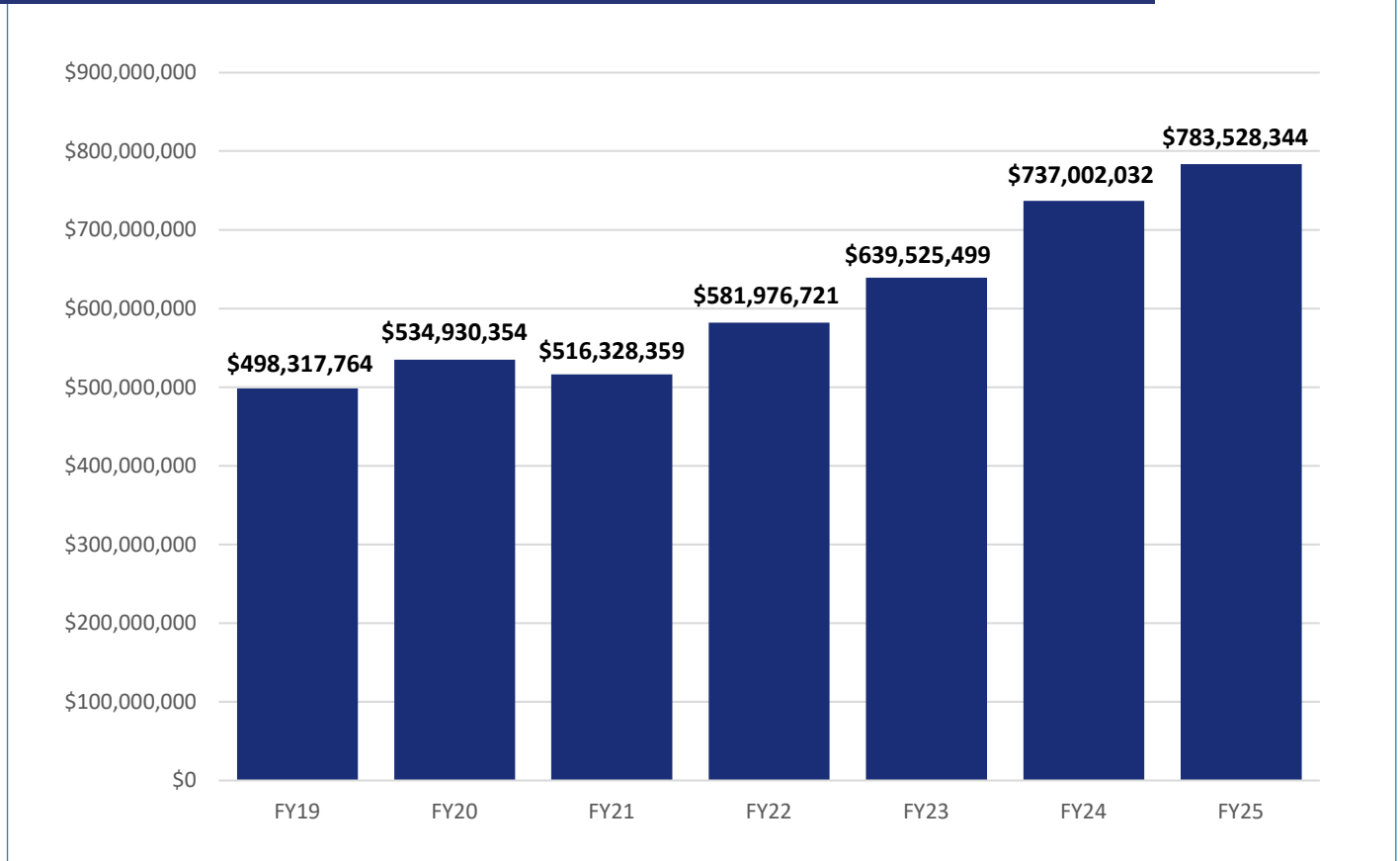
The Safe Storage New Mexico program, which offers free cable gun locks, distributed over 11,000 locks to New Mexicans in 2025, resulting in safer gun storage for thousands of households. On January 6, 2024, the NM State Police held gun buyback programs in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Espanola, and Farmington, resulting in 1,289 guns collected and an additional 33 donated.

Child Maltreatment

New Mexico's rate of child maltreatment has been in steady decline since peaking in 2020, when rates of maltreatment reached 6,953 children. In 2023, 5,599 children were victims of maltreatment, down from 5,747 in 2022 and 5,903 in 2021. (Source: [Together We Thrive | NM CYFD's Transformation Transparency Site.](#))

SUPPORTED *Children successfully transition to purposeful adulthood and employment.*

Figure 8. Total spending by Supported outcome has increased over time.



Universal Child Care

In November 2025, New Mexico became the first state in the nation to offer universal child care, removing economic barriers and supporting workforce participation. As of January 2026, an additional 13,293 children have been enrolled in child care since universal child care was launched. Forty-three percent of newly enrolled families were previously eligible for child care assistance, meaning their income fell at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). This has allowed more mothers of young children to enter or stay in the workforce, building on positive labor trends for the state.

In 2024, New Mexico's labor force participation rate for women with children under 18 was 76.9 percent, up from 76.5 percent in 2023 and 75.5 percent in 2022.

TFP Metric: Increase the Labor Force Participation Rate for women with children under 18.



Child Care Facility Revolving Loan Fund

After the 2025 legislative session, the Child Care Facility Revolving Loan Fund (CCFRLF) received over \$12 million dollars to provide low-interest, long-term loans to eligible child care providers to make health and safety improvements to child care facilities, expand or create new ones, or invest in operating capital. In September 2025, ECECD partnered with the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) to open the loan's application, and as of February 2026, NMFA has begun the underwriting process to approve loans for ten projects and is working with their governing board to approve funding for two additional projects. Once all projects are complete, NMFA and ECECD expect that an additional 1,100 children will be able to receive high-quality child care through new and expanded facilities.

Kinship Caregiver Support

The Governor signed the Kinship Caregiver Support Pilot Program Act into law on April 6, 2025. Administered by Aging & Long Term Services Department (ALTSD), this program provides legal assistance, financial support, and navigation support to qualifying kinship caregivers who do not receive financial support from CYFD. Kinship caregivers in Rio Arriba and San Juan counties began receiving services in November 2025. As of March 2026, the program has 70 families enrolled, with 47 families in Rio Arriba and 23 families in San Juan. Of the participating families, 60 are receiving a financial stipend. The Taos County pilot will launch in April 2026. ALTSD contracts with Pegasus Legal Services for Children to assist adults providing kinship guardianship to children with legal process of establishing guardianship. In FY25 Pegasus provided direct legal assistance to 415 families, direct legal representation to 189 families, and community education services to 775 families statewide.

Child Poverty Reduction

In September 2025, the US Census Bureau released the Official Poverty Measure (OPM), a three-year review which reflects household income, poverty, health insurance, and other financial metrics. Also of note is the supplemental poverty index, another federal poverty measure which incorporates state support programs and tax provisions. Under this measure, child poverty in New Mexico fell by 10.3 percent in FY25.

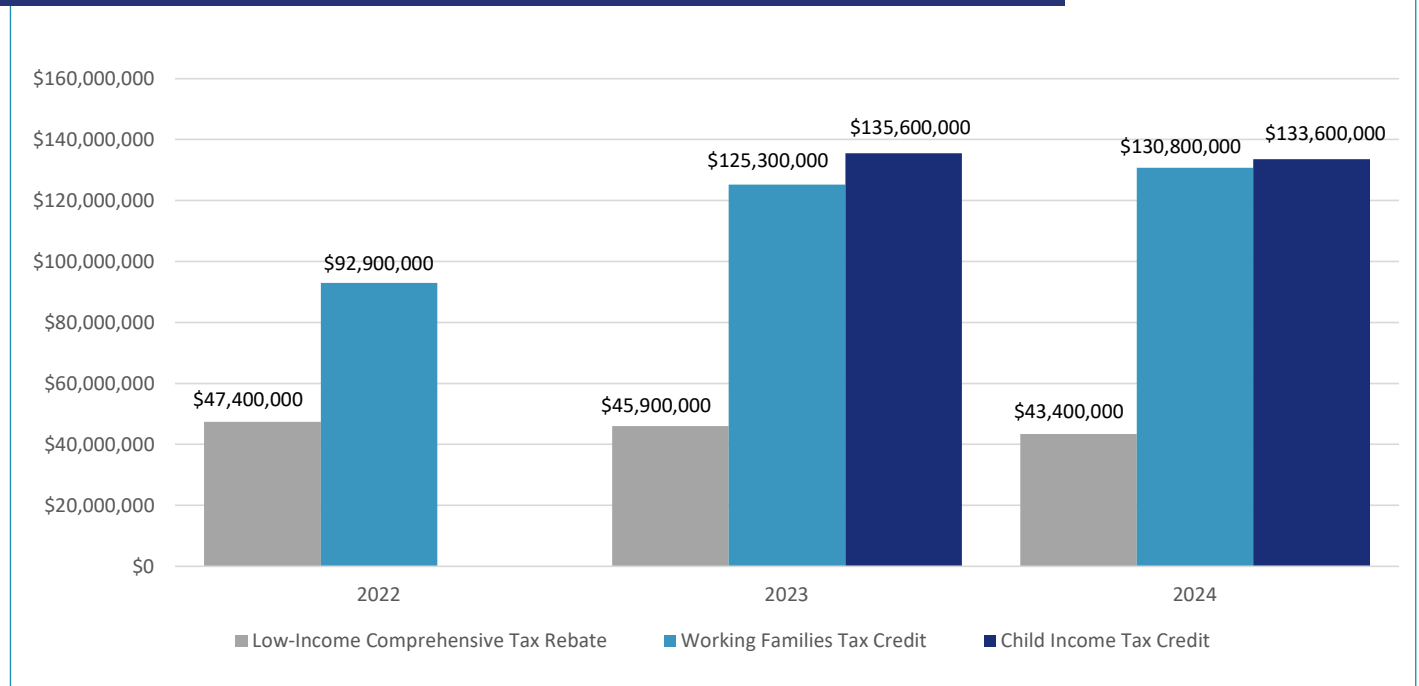
While nationally the OPM fell by 0.3 percent, it fell by 1.3 percent in New Mexico. Additionally, child poverty in New Mexico was reduced by 3.3 percent—the largest reduction in the nation.

Source: New Mexico 2025 Tax Expenditure Report

Tax Credits and Rebates

The Working Families Tax Credit is based on the federal earned income tax credit. In FY25, the NM Tax and Revenue Department received 208,205 claims, totaling nearly \$136 million in credits to taxpayers. The Child Income Tax Credit enables parents and caregivers to claim a tax credit for every qualifying child. In FY25, the State had 257,526 claims, adding up to more than \$139 million in tax credits. Another critical rebate for families is the Low-Income Comprehensive Tax Rebate, which provides a rebate of up to \$731 to taxpayers with a modified gross income of less than \$36,000.

Figure 9. NM supports taxpayers through tax credits and rebates.



Source: New Mexico Tax and Revenue Department's 2025 Expenditure Report

Office of Housing

Housing is a fundamental aspect of safety for children and families: safe and stable housing allows caregivers to work and children to consistently attend school. Recognizing this, DWS has created the Office of Housing with approximately \$140 million allocated from the state's general fund. This office, which is currently focused on site readiness and housing innovations, has issued a Request for Proposals to contract with qualified organizations already involved in housing activities. The Office of Housing will serve as a hub for building projects and will address related housing challenges across the state, seeking innovative and sustainable solutions to house New Mexico families.

NM GRADS (Graduation, Reality, and Dual-role Skills)

Operated by PED, the GRADS program is a statewide initiative for expectant and parenting teens located in 30 school sites throughout the state. In 2025, 311 teen parents were served throughout New Mexico. Eighty seven percent of GRADS mothers graduated on time, compared with 57 percent of teen parents nationally.

Cellphone Restriction in Schools

In 2023, nine in ten schools in New Mexico reported cyberbullying, highlighting the prevalence of technology and online engagement during classroom hours. With the passage of Senate Bill 11 "Anti-Distraction Policy in Schools" in 2025, state leaders are taking steps to address this considerable challenge. The act requires that each school district and charter school create and implement a wireless communication device policy as guided by PED. Including charter schools, 99 percent of school districts across New Mexico have enacted wireless communication device restriction policies since the law was put into effect on June 20, 2025.



2026 NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE WINS

SB 1 and HB 50 Health Care Compacts

Two bills (SB 1 and HB 50) will expand the state's health care workforce. SB 1 allows physicians licensed in other compact states to practice in New Mexico more easily; HB 50 streamlines the licensure process for social workers. Both bills support children, families, and vulnerable populations across New Mexico.

SB 3 Commitment Procedure Changes & Definitions

This bill strengthens authorities' ability to pursue involuntary civil commitment for individuals who pose a danger to themselves or others, revising the state's definitions of what constitutes a danger to oneself or to others, giving authorities clearer standards to act when someone's mental illness poses a serious risk. This bill gives a tool to communities and families for loved ones that need help.

SB 29 Math Requirements for Teaching License

This bill increases mathematics requirements for teaching licensure or endorsement and provides for a mathematics instructional leadership framework, professional learning plans, screening assessments, multilevel supports and other means to improve student success in mathematics.

SB 37 High Quality Literacy Instruction Act

This bill provides standards for literacy instructional materials, requiring public schools to provide literacy assessments to students in kindergarten through third grade and interventions for students identified as having a reading difficulty. Designed to catch struggling students, this bill also requires PED to assign literacy instructional coaches to certain public schools. It establishes literacy standards, reading assessments and interventions, parental notification, and literacy coaches and teacher support.

SB 64 Create Office of Special Education

This bill codifies the Office of Special Education within PED, creating a Special Education Act. Intended to improve educational opportunities for students with disabilities, the bill details how the Office will develop and maintain a uniform statewide online system for Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). It also compiles all special education laws into one cohesive piece of legislation, which will be housed in and enforced by the Office.

SB 96 Regulated Child Care Zoning Requirements

This bill preempts local municipalities from imposing greater zoning requirements for child care businesses, treating home-based child care facilities as residential for zoning purposes. This allows child care providers greater autonomy in their communities and allows them to open more quickly, avoiding the constraints of local regulations and subsequent fees.

SB 241 Child Care Assistance Program Act

This bill provides for a statewide universal child care system, creating a law that enhances the policy enacted by ECECD on November 1, 2026. It outlines the provisions by which families who are 600 percent or more above the poverty level will have to pay a co-pay in the event of certain preceding economic factors. Early childhood advocates, ECECD, the Governor, and countless others contributed to this historic effort, cementing this impactful win for children, their families, and their communities.

HB 4 Health Care Affordability Fund Distributions

This bill increases revenue to the Health Care Affordability Fund, ensuring coverage stays affordable for working families and small businesses statewide. The FY27 budget approved by New Mexico lawmakers includes \$294.4 million for health care affordability programs — protecting coverage for up to 46,600 New Mexicans and reducing costs for up to 122,000 people statewide.

HB 99 Medical Malpractice Reform

This bill protects patients and doctors, and will help reduce the cost of medical malpractice insurance and attract more physicians to New Mexico. The bill creates tiered caps on punitive damages — \$1 million for independent providers, \$6 million for locally owned hospitals and \$15 million for large systems — and raises the evidentiary standard to from a preponderance of evidence to “clear and convincing,” requiring judicial review before punitive damage claims can proceed.

HB 156 Repeal Special Session Vaccination Laws

This bill secures New Mexico’s ability to purchase childhood vaccines and require insurance coverage immunizations recommended by state health officials. This keeps New Mexicans protected from respiratory viruses and other preventable diseases by ensuring the Department of Health can purchase vaccines for hundreds of health organizations. These include federally qualified health centers, school-based health centers, public health offices and Indian Health Services.





APPENDIX A CHILDREN'S CABINET MEMBERSHIP

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Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham,
Office of the Governor (OOG)

Co-chair

Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales,
Lieutenant Governor's Office (LGO)

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Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
Corrections Department (CD)
Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)
Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)
Department of Health (NMDOH)
Department of Transportation (DOT)
Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS)
Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)
Early Childhood Education and Care (ECECD)
Economic Development Department (EDD)
Health Care Authority (HCA)
Higher Education Department (HED)
Indian Affairs Department (IAD)
Office of African American Affairs (OAAA)
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