

Welcome
Bienvenidos
Yá'át'ééh
Chào mừng

July 2026 Community Call



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood

Education & Care Department



Instrucciones de Interpretación

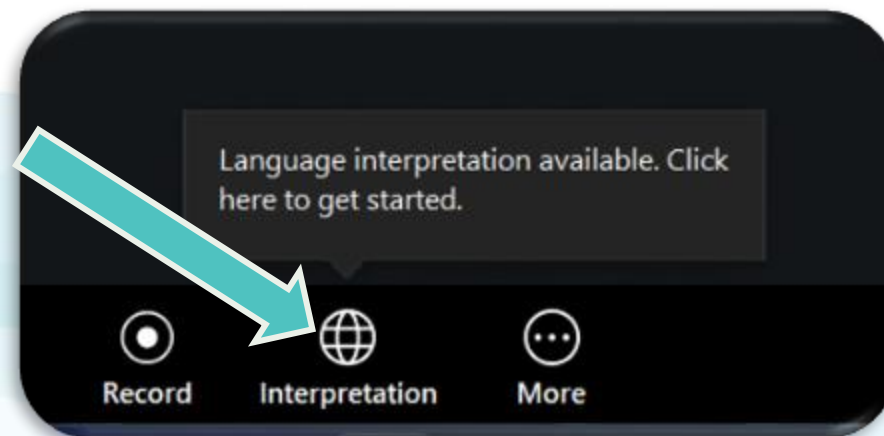
Inglés > Español

The bottom of the page features a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, light blue and teal shapes that create a sense of movement and depth.

Paso 1: Seleccione el símbolo de interpretación y Elija del menú *Español 2*

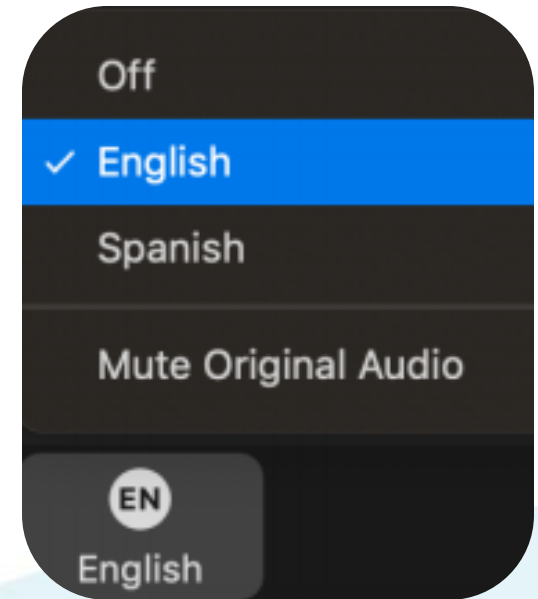
Localize el símbolo de Interpretación

1. Busque el ícono de **Interpretación** (globo) en la barra inferior.
2. Si no lo ve, presione **Más (More)** (...) y seleccione “Interpretation”.
3. En celular, **deslice hacia la izquierda** en la barra inferior para encontrar **Interpretación**.



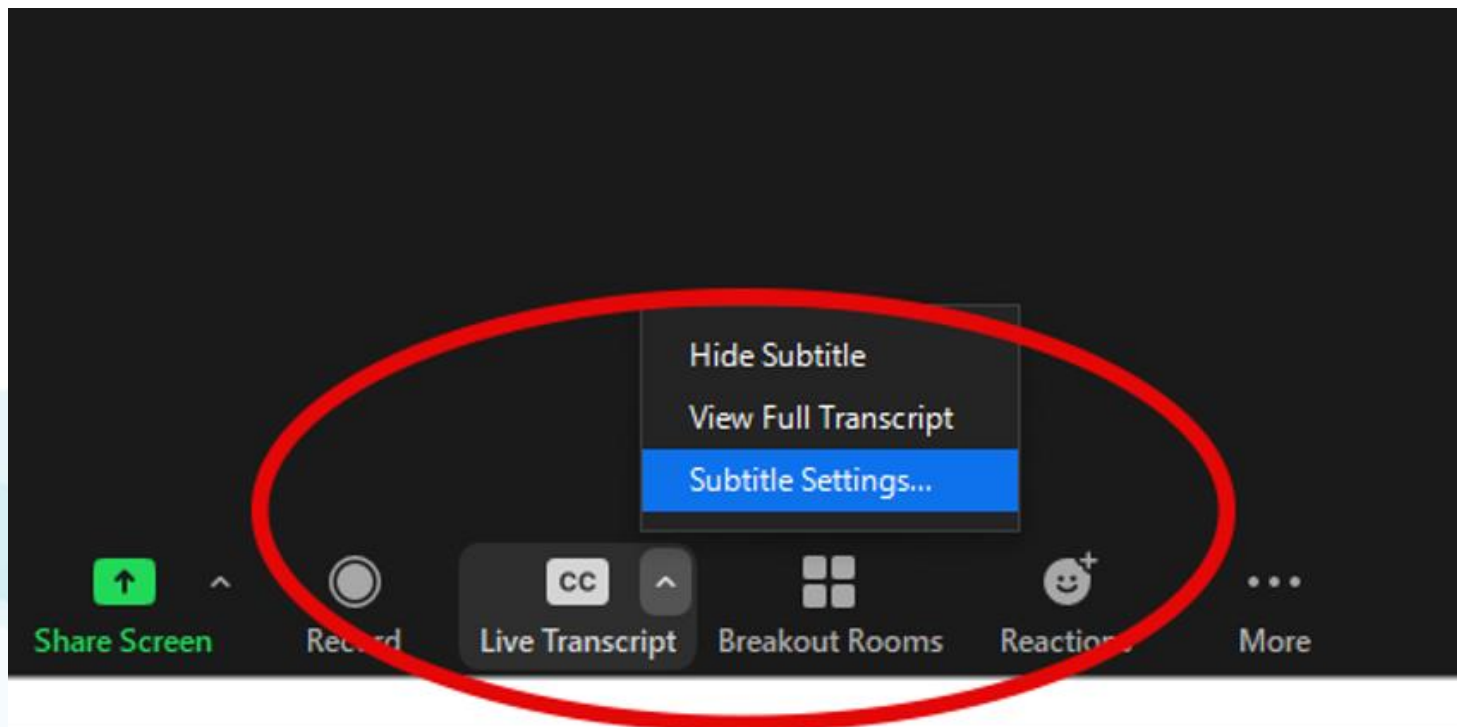
Paso 2 Audio: Elija del menú *en Español*

- Vas a ver el menú; clic “Spanish”
- Si usted prefiere escuchar SOLO Español, también clic “Mute Original Audio” De lo contrario, oirás el español alto y claro y el inglés en voz baja.
- Usted escuchara ahora la interpretación en Español.
- Si eliges “English”, automáticamente escucharás sólo inglés.



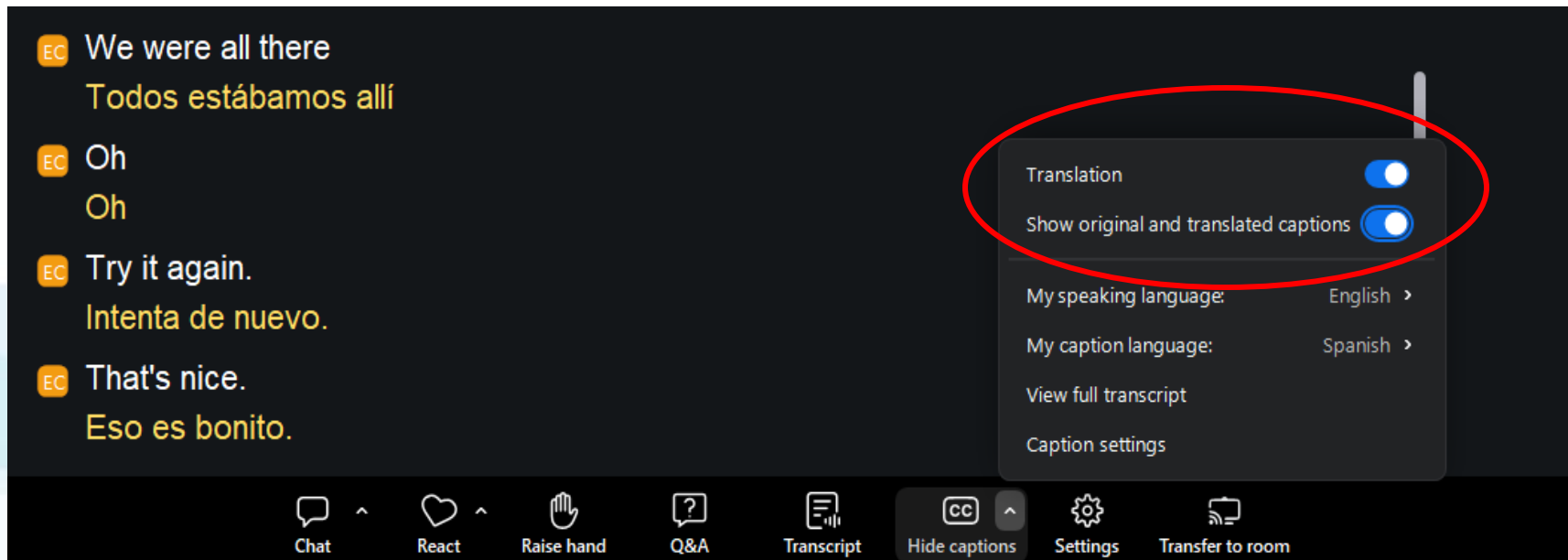
Enable Closed Captions

- See the Show Captions or CC button in the toolbar.
- Click it and choose Show Captions to turn them on (or Hide Captions to turn off).
- You can click the small arrow next to CC/Captions to adjust caption size.

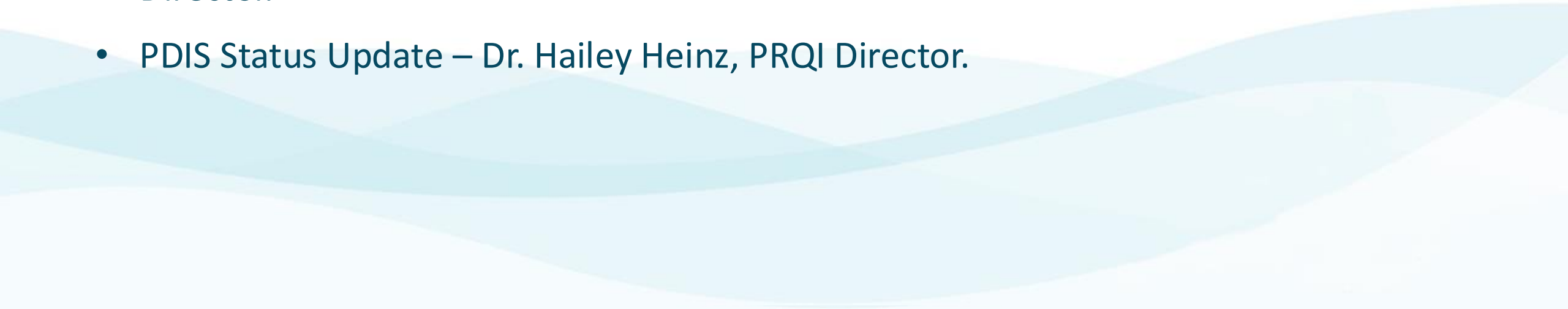


Habilitar subtítulos traducidos

- Vea el botón de Mostrar subtítulos o CC en la barra de herramientas.
- Haga clic en él y elija mostrar subtítulos y subtítulos traducidos para activarlos (o Ocultar subtítulos para desactivarlos).
- Si desea ver solo la traducción, seleccione “traducción”.
- Si prefieres ver los subtítulos originales y los traducidos, selecciona ambas opciones.



Agenda

- Welcome and Spanish Interpretation Instructions – Jaime Bencomo, Deputy Communications Director.
 - Updates and Announcements – Elizabeth Groginsky, Secretary.
 - CARA Update/CARA Foundations – Department of Health.
 - Accessibility Update – Emily Stern, Access Manager.
 - Home Visiting Standards, Policies and Procedures, and Periodicity – Ali Hedrick, FSEI Director.
 - PDIS Status Update – Dr. Hailey Heinz, PRQI Director.
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- The bottom of the slide features a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, light blue and teal shapes that create a sense of movement and depth.

Updates and Announcements



Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky



Universal Child Care Lawsuit Update

- June 11, 2026 | District Judge Elaine Lujan dismissed the lawsuit, ruling in ECECD's favor that:
 - The case was moot after passing Senate Bill 241.
 - The petitioners lacked good standing.
 - The case did not meet the legal standard for a writ of mandamus.
- The decision provides clarity for families, child care providers, and ECECD staff.
- The ruling affirms the Governor's and Legislature's vision for a sustainable universal child care system serving New Mexico families.
- On June 17 a new petition was filed with the Supreme Court and is pending response.

Public Rulemaking for 8.9.3 and 8.9.4 NMAC

- ECECD is proposing updates to 8.9.3 NMAC and 8.9.4 NMAC. These regulations set requirements for the Child Care Assistance program and licensed child care.
- Members of the public are invited to submit written public comments on the proposed rules and provide oral comment at the Public Rule Hearing.
- Important dates:
 - **Public Notice of Rulemaking:** June 9, 2026.
 - **Public Comment Period:** June 9 - July 9, 2026.
 - **Public Rule Hearing:** July 9, 2026 at 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Hybrid meeting).
 - Virtual: [nmececdorg.zoom.us/s/88085154919](https://nmececdorg.zoom.us/j/88085154919) .
 - In-person: PERA Building at 1120 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87502.
- View the proposed rules and more information on the regulatory process on ECECD's website at: nmececd.org/regulation-changes/.

Senate Bill 96 Rollout Plan, Review of Resources, and Roadshow



Senate Bill 96 - Overview

- Senate Bill (SB) 96 makes it easier to open child care programs in neighborhoods and high-density areas, ensuring that high-quality care is accessible where families and businesses need it the most.
- Creates a single, clear, statewide framework for land use that treats child care as a community necessity.
- SB 96 became effective on July 1, 2026. Supportive emergency rulemaking to 8.9.4 NMAC went into effect on July 1, 2026.

Senate Bill 96 - Highlights of the Law

- Licensed and registered child care homes are permitted “by right” in all residential zones—meaning child care homes cannot be treated differently from any other residential homes in the neighborhood.
- Local authorities may not charge business fees or impose any extra restrictions on child care homes, like special permits or additional off-street parking.
- Homeowners’ associations may not ban child care homes from operating in their jurisdictions.
- Licensed child care centers are permitted “by right” in all zones designated for commercial, mixed-use, or multi-family residential.
- Local authorities may not impose building, safety, or nuisance ordinances on licensed centers that are different or more restrictive than those of others in the same zone.

Senate Bill 96 - Emergency Rulemaking

- **Emergency rulemaking to 8.9.4 NMAC effective July 1, 2026:**
 - Clarify that licensed child care homes no longer need zoning approval from their local authority and instead only need verification of the property's zoning designation.
 - Remove the requirement for written approval from the local fire prevention authority for licensed child care homes.
- Licensed family child care homes will receive a fire and safety inspection done by ECECD at the time of their initial, before licensure.
- ECECD is updating its child care licensing documents to align with these regulatory changes.
- These updates ensure licensing requirements are consistent with state law until permanent rulemaking can be completed.

Senate Bill 96 – Helpful Resources



Scan the QR Code to access the fact sheets on ECECD's website.

- ECECD is working to assist cities, counties, homeowners' associations, and child care providers who need to understand the law's requirements.
- Key Resources:
 - **Fact Sheets** for cities and counties, Homeowners' Associations, and child care providers.
 - **Policy Guide:** in-depth policy guide to the new law, emergency rulemaking, and implementation, with answers to key interpretation questions.
 - **Licensing Guide:** step-by-step guide to support providers and local municipalities in establishing child care programs that comply with state and municipal laws.



YOU'RE INVITED

SENATE BILL 96 OFFICE HOURS

ECECD is hosting virtual office hours to assist with the implementation of SB 96.

Providers, municipalities, and community partners are invited to learn how this new law streamlines child care zoning across New Mexico.

Spanish Interpretation provided.

- Thursday, July 16, 4 – 5 p.m.
- Thursday, July 23, 12 – 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 28, 5 – 6 p.m.
- Thursday, July 30, 6 – 7 p.m.
- **Monday, August 24, Staffed Family Child Care Network Presentation.**

Join via Zoom by visiting
nmeccdorg.zoom.us/j/84508827629.



Child Care: Growing Supply Road Show

Sponsored by Growing Up New Mexico and the Low-Income Investment Fund

The road show is intended to:

- Share clear, accessible information about new zoning laws (SB96).
- Celebrate the leaders and partners who advanced this work.
- Connect people to resources for starting a child care business.
- Create space for regional conversations about local implementation.

Locations:

- Gallup – Friday, May 8, 5 - 7:30 p.m. (Past Event)
- Albuquerque – Saturday, June 6, 11:30 - 2 p.m. (Past Event).

- Hobbs – Tuesday, August 25, 5 - 7:30 p.m.
- Albuquerque, South Valley – Sat., Aug. 29, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Alamogordo – Wednesday, September 16, 5 - 7:30 p.m.
- Santa Fe – Thursday, September 17, 5 - 6:30 p.m.
- Las Cruces – Saturday, September 26, time TBD.
- Las Vegas – Friday, October 2, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Silver City – TBD .



[Click here or scan the QR code for more information and RSVP.](#)

CARA Update/CARA Foundations

NM Department of Health Training Team



Samantha Baca



Learning & Development
Training Supervisor (*she/her*)

Samantha.Baca@doh.nm.gov

505-627-3483

Rachel Landry



Learning & Development
Trainer (*she/her*)

Rachel.Landry@doh.nm.gov

505-479-2721

Matthew Trevino



Learning & Development
Trainer (*he/him*)

Matthew.Trevino@doh.nm.gov

505-618-0925

Welcome!

Today's Goals & Objectives:

1. Understand new Plan of Safe Care (PoSC) protocol.
2. Explain roles across different state agencies (DOH, HCA, ECECD, CYFD, ALTSD).
3. Explore CARA training resources available on-demand.



What is a PoSC?

A written support plan created when an infant is exposed to substances such as opioids, stimulants, or alcohol in utero.

Helps improve the health, wellness, and safety of substance-exposed newborns and their families by addressing treatment needs.

Serves as a referral to a CARA Navigator and many other helpful resources/services.

Who Needs a PoSC?

Infants who:

- Exhibit physical, behavioral, or neurological signs or symptoms consistent with prenatal substance exposure or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

Infants of birthing parents who:

- Receive a diagnosis of alcohol use disorder (AUD) opioid use disorder (OUD), or substance use disorder (SUD).
- Are stable on medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) or medication assisted treatment (MAT).



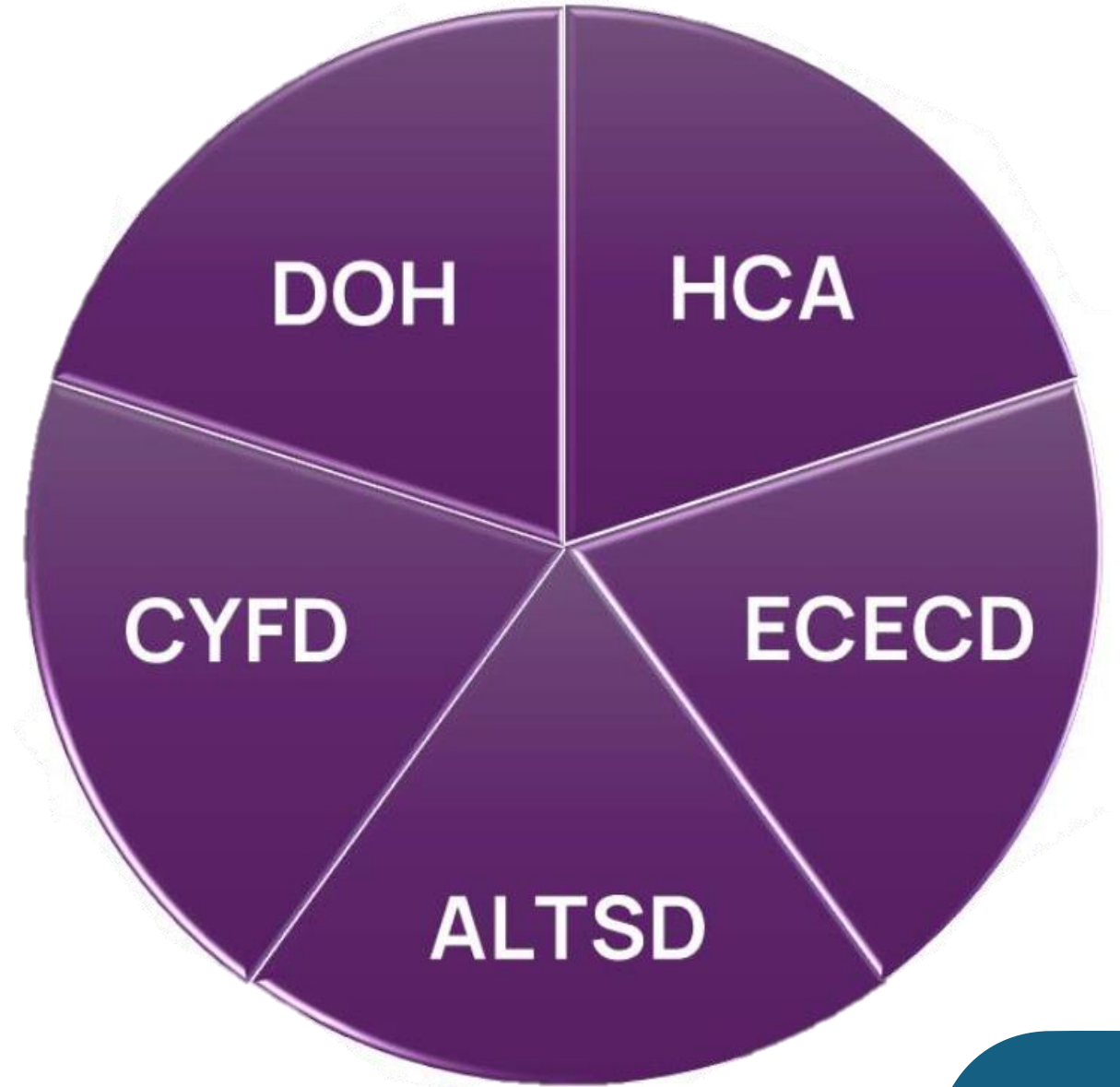
Families of substance
exposed newborns
are **mandated to comply
with the PoSC.**

**Support services must
include home visiting or
early intervention FIT.**



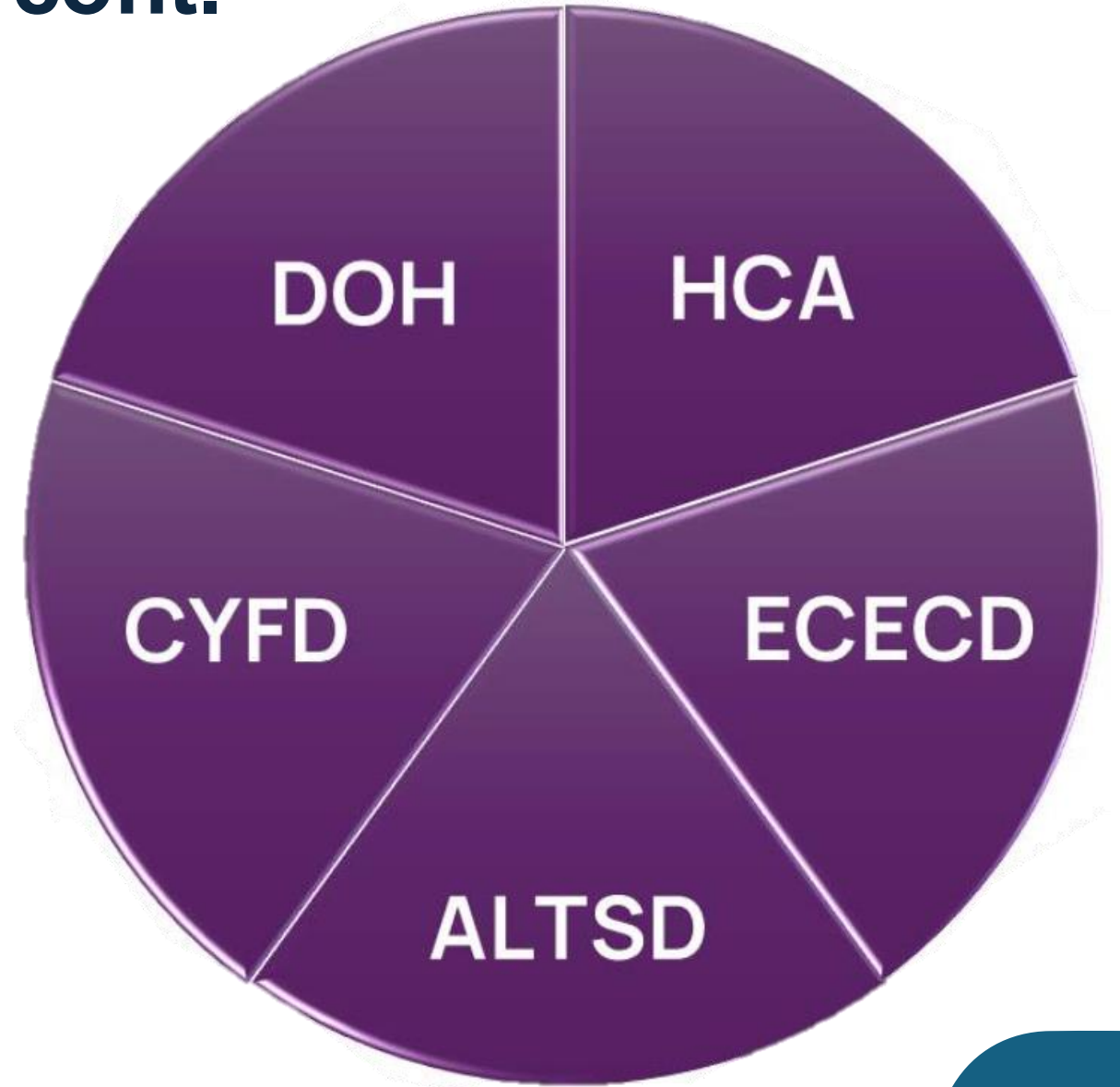
Interagency Collaboration

- **Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD):**
 - **Protective Services Division** investigates reports of abuse or neglect.
 - **Family Services Division** supports families before a crisis.
- **Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD):**
 - Family Connects.
 - Home Visiting.
 - FIT Program.
 - Families First.



Interagency Collaboration, cont.

- **Healthcare Authority (HCA):**
 - Responsible for regulatory oversight and fiscal aspects of CARA as of July 1st, 2026.
- **Aging & Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD):**
 - NewMexi Care.
 - Office of Indian Elder Affairs.
- **Department of Health (DOH):**
 - Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC).
 - Children's Medical Services (CMS).
 - **CARA Navigators.**



CARA Navigators



CARA Navigators:

- Triage, oversee, and implement Plans of Safe Care (PoSC).
- Conduct family assessments to evaluate family's strengths and needs, including fitness of the home environment.
- Refer families to services as needed and provide care coordination to facilitate access.
- Work collaboratively with other agencies to reduce footprints in family homes.
- Follow families for 1 year.

Additional Resources



In-depth CARA Training may be found on **TrainNM**, DOH's Learning Platform:

- Search for "NM Train" or go to **Train.org/nm**.
- Anyone can create an account and access the platform.
- Once logged-in, navigate to "Courses" and search for **CARA Foundations**.
- Click on the first result, then click **Launch**.

Accessibility Update

Emily Stern, ECECD Access Manager



Accessibility and Language Access Laws

Federal law requires that Federal agencies and any recipients of federal funding ensure:

- **Language Access:** Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- **Accessibility:** Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 AA standards.

New Mexico requires that State of New Mexico Agencies ensure:

- **Language Access:** NM 1978 § 9-1-5(B)(11).
- **Accessibility:** Guidance from Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, issued on May 6, 2026, states that government websites must comply with ADA Title II requirements to ensure equal access for people with disabilities.

Under the law, all employees and stakeholders should have *equal access* to the same vital information.

It's not just a legal requirement; it's also the right thing to do!

Types of Disabilities

Physical Disabilities

Can be visible and invisible:

- Mobility impairments.
- Low vision or blindness.
- Chronic illness.
- Deaf or hard of hearing.
- Brain injury/cognitive and processing.
- Learning Disabilities.
- Neurodevelopmental (Autism, ADHD).

Mental Health Disabilities

Less visible and can be intermittent or episodic:

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD and CPD).
- Depression.
- Panic.
- Anxiety.

Intellectual Disabilities

Varying levels of severity:

- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
- Down Syndrome.
- Developmental delays.
- Fragile X Syndrome.

Digital Accessibility Barriers and Solutions

(not an exhaustive list!)

**Low-Vision,
Blindness,
Color-
Blindness.**

**Deaf and
Hard of
Hearing.**

**Dyslexia/
Learning
Disabilities.**

**Cognition
and
Processing.**

**Limited
English
Proficiency.**

**Plain
Language.**

Make content accessible for a screen reader.
Don't use red, orange, green or low-contrast colors.

Provide captions in virtual meetings.

Use sans serif and easy to read fonts.

Clear Information flow and organization and simple designs.
Fillable forms.

Provide interpretation at meetings and translate written documents.

Clear, concise, and easy for the intended audience to understand and use.

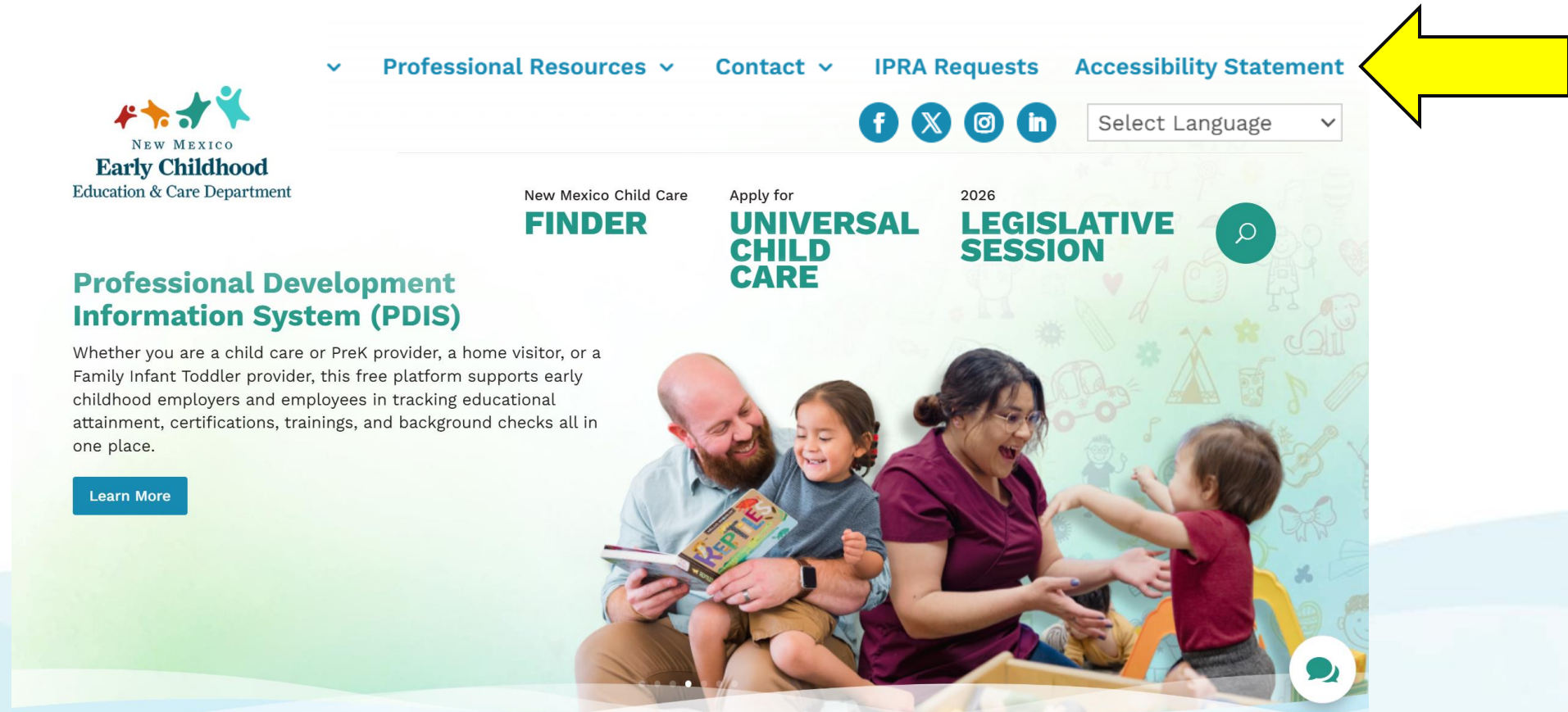
ECECD's Commitment to Access and Accessibility

ECECD is committed to ensuring full, equal, and meaningful access to all programs, services, activities, and digital information. Some examples of how we do that include:

- **Vital Information** – we're working agency-wide to make information and documents that affect **access to, retention in, or termination or exclusion** from program services or benefits **for either employees or external stakeholders**, accessible and understandable.
- **Digital Accessibility** - we are actively working to make our websites easily accessible and user-friendly for everyone, including those with disabilities and limited English proficiency.
- **ADA Accommodation and Language Access Requests** - we are providing a means to request accommodations and interpretation at virtual and in-person public meetings, events and trainings.
- **Contract Provisions** - contracts and grant agreements will include provisions for deliverables and services to meet accessibility and language access requirements.
- **Collaboration** - working with contracted partners to learn more about stakeholder experiences to inform our language access and accessibility initiatives.

ECECD Website Accessibility Statement and Page

The ECECD accessibility statement landing page explains ECECD's compliance, accommodations offered, and how to contact the ECECD Access Manager, Emily Stern.



Find our Accessibility Statement online at

[Accessibility Statement for the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department \(ECECD\)](#)

For more information

To request support, or to report a digital barrier on our website, please contact:

Name: Emily Stern, ECECD Access Manager.

Email: ECECD-access@ececd.nm.gov.

Phone: 505-470-1754.

Relay users: Dial 711.

Home Visiting Standards

Ali Hedrick, Division Director
Family Support and Early Intervention



Why We Updated the Home Visiting Program Standards

- To align and refine the New Mexico Standards in recognition of the diversity of models that are part of the state's home visiting system.
- Distinguish clearly between standards and procedures.
- Establish and align daily operating practices for all publicly funded home visiting programs operating in New Mexico with model expectations to federal and state requirements.
- Ensure best practices for New Mexico families served by home visiting.
- Establish clear definitions within the New Mexico Home Visiting Standards.

Community Feedback Process

Activity	Completion Date
Reviewed Home Visiting Field Survey Data	October 2025
Crosswalked the 5 National Models' Standards and Promising Practice Standards with MIECHV Expectations to Current Standards.	December 2025
Drafted Revisions with Provider Group Meetings.	January, March, April 2026
ECECD Advisory Council Standards Update Presentation.	February, April 2026
Pivot Approach, Research of Home Visiting Procedure Components, Draft of Standards Operating Procedures.	February, March 2026
ECECD Advisory Council Standards and Standard Operating Procedures Update Presentation.	April 2026
ECECD Advisory Council Subcommittee – Program Quality and Accountability, Standards and Standard Operating Procedures Update Presentation.	June 2026
ECECD Community Call Standards and Standard Operating Procedures Update Presentation.	July 2026

New Mexico Home Visiting Standards and Standard Operating Procedures Manual



Scan the QR Code or
[visit
tinyurl.com/4chhkm4n](https://tinyurl.com/4chhkm4n)
to view



PDIS Status Update

Dr. Hailey Heinz, PRQI Director

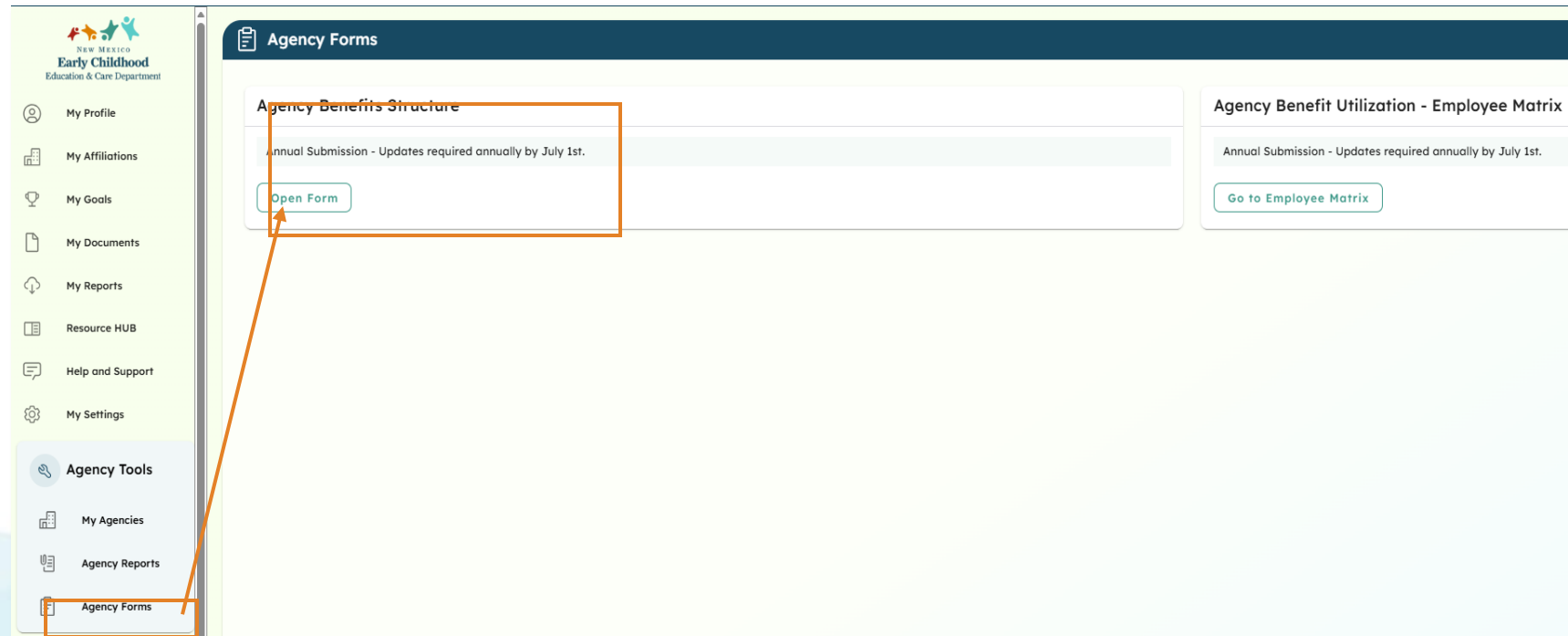


What Exactly is the Professional Development Information System (PDIS)?

- Think of PDIS as a “**digital filing cabinet**” that makes it easy for early childhood professionals to plan, manage, and track their professional development goals in one place for the length of their career, regardless of where they work.
- This tool is built specifically to support early childhood professionals, to make their lives easier, and to provide pathways to new and expanded opportunities.

New Feature: Benefits Reporting

1. Log into your PDIS account.
2. Click **“Agency Forms”**, located under **“Agency Tools”** in the left-side menu.
3. Click **“Open Form”**, which is below **“Agency Benefits Structure & Prior Year Costs”**.



New Feature: Benefits Reporting (2)

Agency Benefits Structure

Benefits Structure

Agency
Nikhil's Test 7

Agency Status

Select the option that best describes your agency. Your selection will determine the benefits questions presented below.

☐ I am the sole provider for this agency
Select if you operate independently without additional employees

☒ My agency has multiple employees
Select if your agency employs full-time, part-time or contracted staff.

For each benefit, check which employee types were covered on January 1st of the current calendar year. Selecting No means the benefit was not offered on January 1st of the current calendar year.

Employer-Subsidized Insurance

Benefit	Full Time (FTE)	Part Time (FTE)	Contractor	No
Health Insurance	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dental Insurance	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vision Insurance	☐	☐	☐	☐
Life Insurance	☐	☐	☐	☐
Short Term Disability	☐	☐	☐	☐
Long Term Disability	☐	☐	☐	☐
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	☐	☐	☐	☐

Employer-Subsidized Retirement

Benefit	Full Time (FTE)	Part Time (FTE)	Contractor	No
401K Match	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pension	☐	☐	☐	☐

Paid Leave

Benefit	Full Time (FTE)	Part Time (FTE)	Contractor	No
Paid Time Off (PTO)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sick Leave	☐	☐	☐	☐
Holiday Leave	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bereavement Leave	☐	☐	☐	☐
Parental Leave	☐	☐	☐	☐

Cancel

Save Submit

Agency Benefit Utilization - Employee Matrix

A checked box indicates the benefit is utilized by that employee. An unchecked box indicates the benefit is not utilized. This matrix requires an annual update.

Agency
test 3

Search employees

2 employees/ No Save Data

Deselect All

Select All

Save Matrix

Employee		Employer-Subsidized Insurance							Employer-Subsidized Retirement	
		Health	Dental	Vision	Life	Short Term Disability	Long Term Disability	AD&D	Contribution Matching	Pension
Select All		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Andrea	Administrative Assistant/Office Manager	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Andrew	Assistant Director	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

☒ Benefit utilized ☐ Not utilized

No Save Data

Submit Final Matrix

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Deadlines and Compliance

- Initial deadlines have passed for all program types.
- For child care, regulations now require that key information be kept in PDIS for licensing compliance.
- Licensing will begin citing child care programs for noncompliance starting September 1.
- PDIS required for wage scale and career ladder participation (all programs).

Uptake as of July 6

Child Care Locations

291		15		2,110		15%
Active Employee		Admins Only		Total		Active Roster

PreK Locations

145		10		382		41%
Active Employee		Admins Only		Total		Active Roster

Home Visiting Locations

40		3		59		73%
Active Employee		Admins Only		Total		Active Roster

FIT Locations

30		0		62		48%
Active Employee		Admins Only		Total		Active Roster

Head Start Locations

45		0		98		46%
Active Employee		Admins Only		Total		Active Roster

Family Connects Locations

2		0		2		100%
Active Employee		Admins Only		Total		Active Roster

How is ECECD Supporting Onboarding?

- **Here Now:**

- A dedicated landing page with user guides in English and Spanish, Frequently Asked Questions, and more! [Click Here: www.nmececd.org/pdis/](http://www.nmececd.org/pdis/).
- Responsive support and troubleshooting at [Click Here: PDIS-Support@ececd.nm.gov](mailto:PDIS-Support@ececd.nm.gov).
- Thorough user guides for agency administrators and early childhood professionals.
- These can be accessed on the ECECD PDIS landing page and the EPICS Provider Dashboard.

- **Coming Soon:**

- Video tutorials demonstrating use of PDIS.
- Regular updates to our Frequently Asked Questions.

Stay Connected with the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department



NMECECD.org



800-832-1321



**PO Drawer 5619
Santa Fe, NM
87502-5619**

ECECD's bi-weekly newsletter delivers agency announcements, resource, training opportunities, and upcoming events straight to your inbox. Join our monthly Community Call (held the first Tuesday of each month) for updates and engagement.

Sign up at nmececd.org/newsroom or [click here](#).



@NewMexicoECECD



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood

Education & Care Department

Next Community Call

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Questions?

Email: ececd.communications@state.nm.us

Website: nmeccd.org

Thank you for your attention!