



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood

Education & Care Department

Overview of ECECD Programs

Child Care Services

The Child Care Services Bureau (CCSB) administers the **Child Care Assistance** and the **Child Care Regulatory Oversight** programs. The child care assistance program helps parents/legal guardians who are working, going to school, or in a job training program with child care expenses. The Regulatory Oversight Unit ensures that licensed child care centers and homes and registered homes provide a quality, safe, and healthy environment for children.

New Mexico PreK

New Mexico PreK is a free program that equips three- and four-year-old children with the early literacy, math, and social-emotional skills they will need to enter Kindergarten ready to thrive. NM PreK is available in both school-based and community-based settings.

Family Infant Toddler (FIT)

All children grow and develop at their own pace. However, sometimes children have special developmental needs or health concerns that may put them at risk or cause a developmental delay. **FIT** provides early intervention services to children from birth to age three who have or are at risk of developmental delay—as well as their families.

About the **Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD)**

In 2019, Gov. Lujan Grisham and the New Mexico Legislature created the Early Childhood Education and Care Department, **consolidating all early childhood programs and services into a single cohesive, equitable, and effective system** designed to meet the needs of New Mexico families and young children ages prenatal-to-five.

Vision

All New Mexico families and young children are thriving.

Mission

Optimize the health, development, education, and well-being of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers through a family-driven, equitable, community-based system of high-quality prenatal and early childhood programs and services.

Learn more about ECECD at nmececd.org

Toll free: (800) 832-1321

ececd-ecs-customerservice@ececd.nm.gov



@NewMexicoECECD

How to **Apply** for **Services**

- **Step 1:** Take the Am I Eligible Survey, at eligibility.ececd.state.nm.us.
- **Step 2:** Complete the five minute survey to determine which programs you may qualify for.
- **Step 3:** Apply for services and request a referral by completing the Online Application.

How to **Find** **Child Care**

ECECD's Child Care Finder website can help your family find care that meets your unique needs. The Child Care Finder allows parents and caregivers to search for one of the 1000+ child care programs statewide, filtering by proximity, age of child, quality rating, tuition, language, program type, and more. Childcare.ececd.nm.gov

Families FIRST

Families FIRST case management services assists clients in gaining access to medical, social, and educational services that are necessary to foster positive pregnancy outcomes and promote healthy infants and children in New Mexico.

Home Visiting

New Mexico's free **home visiting** program connects parents and caregivers with a friendly expert for regular, planned visits in the comfort of your home. Babies don't come with instructions, but home visitors guide you to the answers you need to be a happy and healthy family. You can trust them for guidance on a wide range of topics including safe sleep, injury prevention, nutrition, child care, breast feeding, and more

Food and Nutrition

The Food and Nutrition Bureau administers two USDA Child Nutrition Programs: the **Child and Adult Care Food Program**, which provides free meals year-round in child and adult care settings, and the **Summer Food Service Program**, which partners with community organizations throughout New Mexico to feed children during summer months when public school meal programs are not in operation.

Head Start Collaboration Office

ECECD maintains a strong partnership with federal Head Start/ Tribal Head Start recipients through its **Head Start Collaboration Office** (HSCO) and engagement with the New Mexico Head Start Association. ECECD facilitates partnerships between Head Start recipients and the other services addressing the needs of low income pregnant women, children, and families ensuring that efforts to meet local needs are coordinated and that limited resources are deployed efficiently in communities.



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