



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood
Education & Care Department

Legislative Health and Human Services Committee

August 21, 2020

AGENDA

- ECECD Overview
- Transition Updates
- Program Updates
- ECECD Responds to COVID-19
- Question and Answer

Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) Overview

ECECD Foundational Goals

Equitable Access

To high-quality early childhood opportunities

Collaboration and Coordination

A more coordinated and comprehensive prenatal-to-five system

Quality

Research-based, trauma-informed practices, and a multigenerational, risk-based approach

ECECD Programs



- Pre-Kindergarten and Early Pre-Kindergarten
- Child Care Licensing and Child Care Assistance
- Home Visiting
- Family, Infant and Toddler (FIT)
- Food and Nutrition Programs
- Families FIRST
- Head Start State Collaboration

ECECD's Divisions

Administrative Services Division

- Budget and Finance
- Human Resources
- Background Check

Family Support and Early Intervention Division

- FIT
- Home Visiting
- Families First

Early Care, Education and Nutrition Division

- Child care Licensing and Assistance
- New Mexico PreK
- Food and Nutrition

Policy, Research and Quality Initiatives Division

- Workforce Development and Quality Supports
- Data, Assessment and Research
- Policy and Planning

ECECD Top Priorities



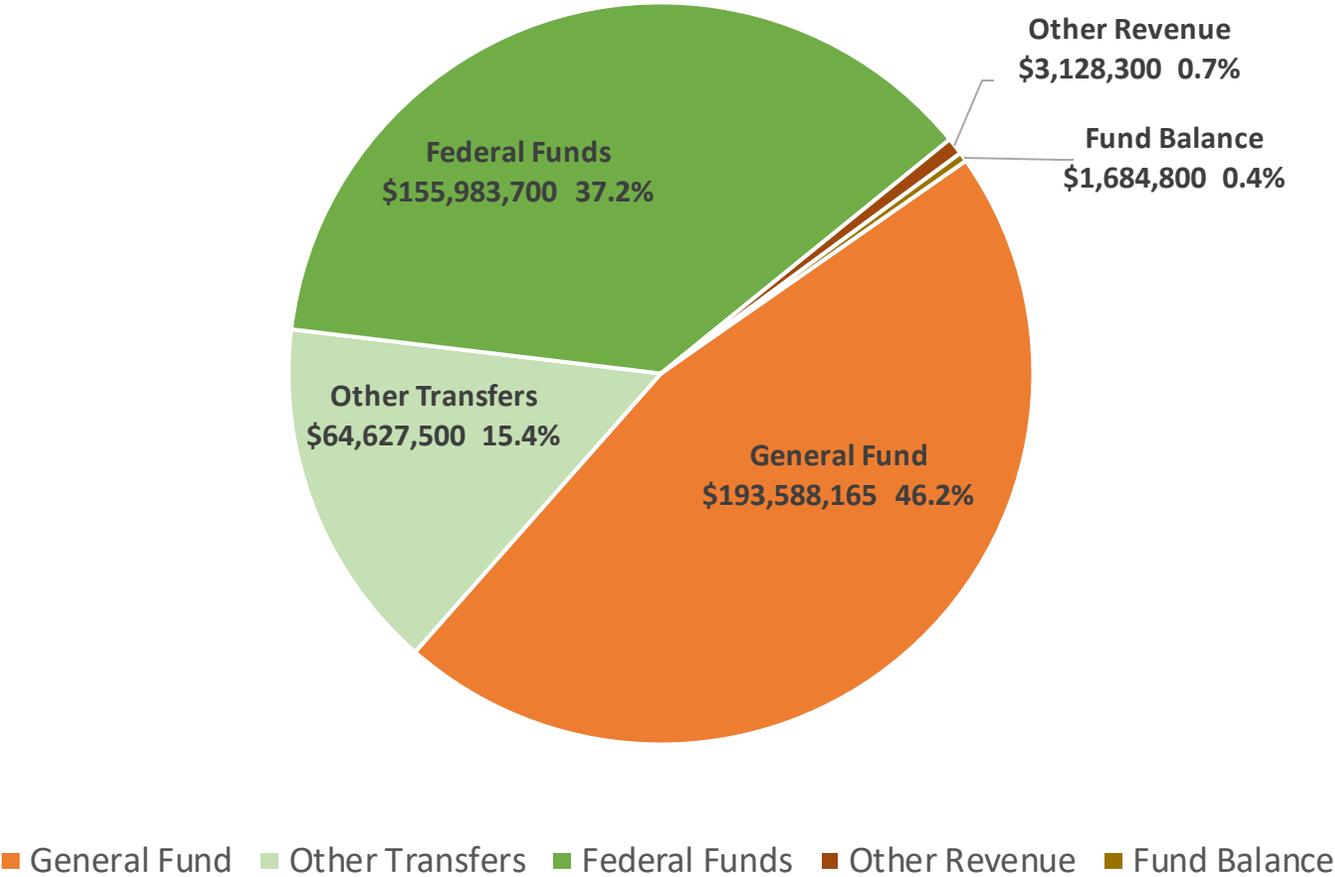
- **Seamless transitions** from prenatal to early childhood programs to Kindergarten;
- **Access** to quality early childhood care and education programs;
- Effective **collaboration** with child welfare programs and health and behavioral health;
- Effective **data** systems
- Aligned early childhood **workforce development** system; and
- Promote **culturally and linguistically** appropriate programming and equal education and care opportunities to non-English-speaking families

ECECD Budget for FY 2021
= \$419+ million

Over 50% of the Department's budget is federally funded, including TANF and Medicaid

Most of ECECD's budget supports direct services

FY21 ECECD Operating Budget by Funding Source



ECECD Key Partners



- Children's Cabinet
- School Districts and Charter Schools
- Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- Medicaid Managed Care Organizations
- Early Childhood Funders Group
- Early Head Start and Head Start
- Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)
- Tribal Health and Education Leaders
- Pritzker Children's Initiative
- NM Pediatric Society
- Behavioral Health Collaborative

ECECD Tribal Collaboration



- Established tribal liaisons for each ECECD program
- Partnered with the Indian Affairs Department on a survey of tribal partners to determine appropriations priorities
- Engagement with Indian Education Advisory Council and tribal leaders
- Submitted annual report on tribal consultation
- Established a cohort of Pueblo women pursuing early childhood degrees and credentials
- Set-aside funding for Summer Jumpstart program
- Delivered Infant Wellness packages to all tribal communities

Transition Updates

Transition Actions (Dec. 2019-June 2020)



- Hired key staff
- Established the Early Childhood Advisory Council
- Released joint application for New Mexico PreK (public and private)
- Moving contracts and federal funding to ECECD (in process)
- Launched ECECD website
- Transitioned data systems to ECECD
- Aligned organizational structure to support ECECD priorities and goals

Current transition activities (July 2020-July 2021)

- Establish Albuquerque and Santa Fe Offices
- Prepare a four-year early childhood education and care finance plan
- Develop an outcome measurement and a workforce development plan
- Complete the development of the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)
- Conduct cost of quality studies for child care and home visiting

Program Updates



Family Support and Early Intervention Division

Home Visiting, NM FIT, Families FIRST



Community- Based Home Visiting

- Served 6,263 families throughout New Mexico in FY 20
 - 152 families served under the Centennial Home Visiting Program (Medicaid funded)
- FY21 Budget: \$25,482,500 (SGF and Federal Funds)
- FY21 SGF increase: \$2,970,000 to serve 1,000 additional families through Centennial program

"Most memorable experience with my home visitor was that she still sent books to my son. That was something my son always looked forward to when we had our visits. He knew who sent him the books too."

Families FIRST

- Served 1,727 families in FY 20
- FY21 Budget: \$1,799,500
- Families FIRST nurses provided COVID testing and education
 - 2,874 hours dedicated for COVID efforts from March-July 2020.
 - Supports for COVID include:
 - Rapid response efforts
 - Department of Health Hotline
 - COVID testing procedure and instructions
 - Connecting families to resources

Family, Infant and Toddler (FIT) Program



- Served 14,923 children - FY20
 - 11,641 children with Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP) in FY20
- FY21 Budget: \$33,231,500 (SGF, IDEA Part C-Federal, private insurance)
- 33 FIT Provider Agencies
- 15 FIT Satellite Offices

Early Care, Education and Nutrition Division

Child Care Services, Family Nutrition Program, NM PreK

Child Care Services



Child Care Licensing and Regulatory Unit

- License and monitor the health, safety and quality of child care centers and homes
- Child care can be provided in licensed facilities for children six weeks to twelve years
- License and monitor 975 centers and homes and register over 1,500 homes annually

Child Care Assistance Program

- Serve an average of 19,000 children per month
- Support for low-income families
- implemented eligibility at 200% FPL entry and 250% FPL exit
- Provides a safe, nurturing learning environment for children

Family Nutrition Programs



Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

- Meal reimbursement for early childhood and before- and after-school programs, emergency housing shelters, hospitals and clinics
- At-Risk CACFP supports low-income children when schools are closed

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

- Nutritious meals to children during the summer
- Meals provided through local sponsoring agencies, local government agencies, faith-based organizations, summer camps, school food authorities and other eligible institutions

Nutrition Education Programs

- Training and technical assistance for SFSP and CACFP programs
- Quality nutrition education tools and guidance for child care providers and families across the state
- Nutrition education component is unique to New Mexico and helps teach skills and healthy habits that will last a lifetime

Family Nutrition Programs

July 2019 to June 2020			
Program	Children Served	Meal Sites	Meals Served
CACFP Centers	34,747	715	7,651,517
CACFP Homes	7,393	1,693	3,105,757
CACFP Total	42,140	2,408	10,757,274
CACFP At Risk	10,277	224	1,113,921
SFSP	35,320	536	4,497,612
Total Meals	87,737	3,168	16,368,807.00



New Mexico PreK

Funded 7,327 PreK Students FY21 in Public Schools

- Converted 687 slots from half-day to full day
- 5,518 in full-day program
- 1,809 in part-day program

Funded 3,767 PreK Students FY 21 – Community-Based Settings

- 3,623 in a full-day program
- 144 in a part-day program

Funded 1,890 Early PreK Students FY 21 – Community-Based Settings

- 1,821 in a full-day program
- 69 in a part-day program

Funded 514 Mixed Age PreK Students FY 21 – Community-Based Settings

- 485 in a full-day program
- 29 in a part-day program

ECECD Responds to COVID-19

Support Provided During the Public Health Emergency

Personal
Protective
Equipment

COVID Safe
Practices

Technical
Assistance

Communication

Surveillance
Testing

Financial
Resources

Health
Insurance

Telehealth Visits

Meals

Child Care Services and COVID-19



Group Size

- Started with small group sizes (8)
- Expanded to 10
- Currently at 20 (1:10 ratio) for children 3 and older

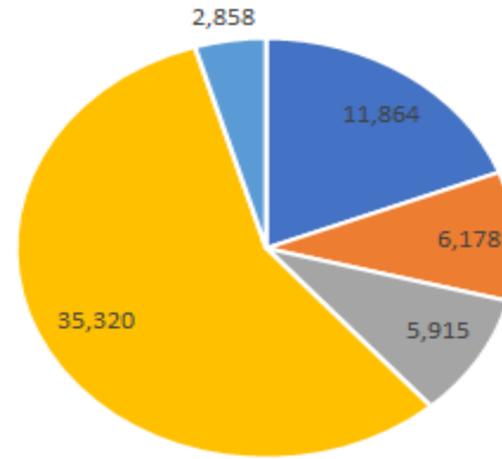
COVID-19 Safe Practices (CSP)

- Full engagement and participation of the child care sector
- Daily health screenings
- Physical distancing
- Full mask compliance everyone over the age of 3
- Stable groups of children
- Intensified cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting

Mandatory reporting requirements to ensure adherence to CSPs.

Family Nutrition Programs and COVID-19

Feeding Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic (March-June 2020)



■ CACFP Centers ■ CACFP Homes ■ CACFP At Risk ■ SFSP ■ Meals To You

Program	# Children Served (ADA)	# Meal Sites	# Meals Served
CACFP Centers	11,864	504	1,490,948
CACFP Homes	6,178	1,496	1,010,495
CACFP Total	18,042	2,000	2,501,443
CACFP At Risk	5,915	159	249,893
SFSP	35,320	386	3,810,050
Meals To You	2,858	15	222,742
Total	62,135	2,560	6,784,128.00

PreK and Early PreK - onsite and offsite SY19-20

- Home activities
- Online support
- COVID-safety child care guidelines

Summer JumpStart PreK Program

- 6-8 weeks of summer programming for Pre-K children.
- Prioritized access for low-income students and students with special needs
- Kindergarten transition and social and emotional development
- Served 1,334 children in 91 sites across the state

PreK SY20-21 Reentry

- Guidance to programs - flexibility and parental needs
- COVID-Safe Practices
- Communication with families
- Most programs will transition to hybrid onsite-offsite home learning or in-person learning

NM PreK and COVID-19



Home Visiting and FIT and COVID-19



Home Visiting and FIT programs transitioned services to 100 percent telehealth.

- Services provided:
 - Video conferencing and telephone sessions
 - Phone calls/Text messaging and emails
- Delivered:
 - Relief care packages
 - Curriculum handouts
 - Screening tools and developmentally appropriate activities
- Other actives:
 - Virtual walks, story time, check-ins
 - Parent and child observations
 - Personalized letters
- 9,311 FIT children received telehealth services March 11 – July 31, 2020; providers conducted 199,391 hours of telehealth services
- COVID-19 Safe Practices Guidelines (forthcoming)

Families FIRST and COVID-19



- Family FIRST (FF) adapted services during the pandemic.
 - Telehealth
 - Telephone assessment
 - Use exam rooms to provide services to families
 - Implemented verbal consents

***Community Story:** FF Nurse supported a mother from Clovis, NM who was dealing with anxiety and depression after giving birth. FF provided the attention, care and resources the mother needed to support her social and emotional needs. Mother exhibited trauma from previous homelessness and financial instability. Both mother and child are enrolled under Families FIRST and are being connected to the services and programs they need.*

Question and Answer



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