

Building a Comprehensive, Family-Centered Prenatal-to-Age-Five Early Childhood System

Universal Access, Quality Services, and Improved School Readiness

Elizabeth Groginsky
Cabinet Secretary



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood

Education & Care Department

ECECD *National News*



New Mexico's Investments in Early Care and Education Begin to Show Progress

June 17, 2025 |
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New Mexico made childcare free. It lifted 120,000 people above the poverty line

April 25, 2025 |
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
EARLY EDUCATION RESEARCH

New Mexico Leaps Ahead in National Pre-K Rankings

April 2025 |
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New Mexico's free child care program is bringing relief that millions of U.S. families need

Oct. 30, 2024 |
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How New Mexico made child care free for most families

August 1, 2024 |
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ECECD *Local* News Highlights

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

Pay, career plan proposed for Early Childhood Department workers

ECECD unveiled a historic draft plan aimed at raising wages and establishing a clear career pathway for early childhood professionals in New Mexico.

July 24, 2025 | [Click here to read](#)

New Mexico a 'rising star' in preschool education, report says

New Mexico excelled in preschool development in 2023-24, a school year marked by uneven progress among other states.

April 30, 2025 | [Click here to read](#)



OPINION: Rankings are wrong, New Mexico excels at early childhood care

Child care funding remains a top priority in the state budget, because it builds the foundation for the entire economy.

by Senator Bill Sharer and Barbara Luna Tedrow

June 22, 2025 | [Click here to read](#)



New Mexico governor expands Dolly Parton Imagination Library program

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed an executive order declaring that every New Mexico child from birth to age five.

May 30, 2025 | [Click here to read](#)

'The Early Show with Alax' nominated for Emmy

YouTube series The Early Show with Alax—featuring a charming blue alien host who makes early childhood information fun and engaging—has been nominated for an Emmy.

Sep 25, 2024 | [Click here to read](#)

Vision and Mission

Vision: All New Mexico families and young children are thriving.

Mission: Optimize the health, development, education and wellbeing of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers through high-quality, community-based and family-driven early childhood programs and services.

Our Commitment

Our commitment to New Mexicans is to create a cohesive, equitable, and responsive prenatal-to-five early childhood system that supports families, strengthens communities, and enhances child health, development, education and well-being.

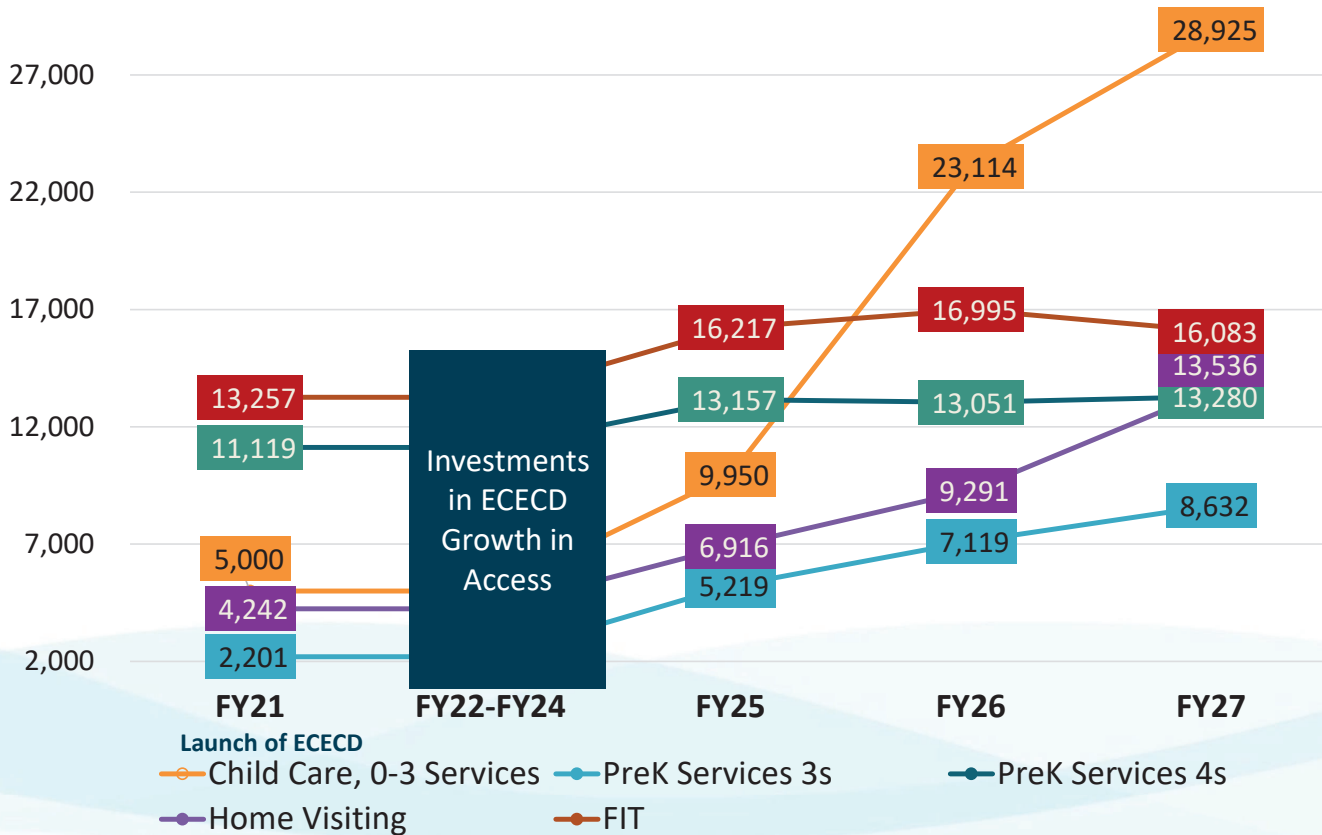
All programs are voluntary, with a goal of ensuring every program is linguistically and culturally responsive

Key Areas of System Focus for Greatest Impact

Context	Components	Connections	Infrastructure	Scale
<i>Policy, funding, and commitment</i>	<i>Equitable, mixed delivery services and supported workforce</i>	<i>Strong linkages across all sectors.</i>	<i>Equitable leadership, governance, financing, data</i>	<i>Comprehensive, accessible system and services.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost modeling to inform investments • Early Childhood Trust Fund • Land Grant Permanent Fund • Federal funding • Philanthropy • Public and political will is aligned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services delivered through public and for-profit and non-profit entities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care • NM PreK • Family Infant Toddler • Home Visiting • Technical Assistance and Professional Development • Pay parity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Cabinet cross agency strategies • CARA • Medicaid funded home visiting • Government to Government • Home visiting coordinated referral portal • Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECECD • Assistant Secretary for Native American Early Education and Care • Tribal Advisory Coalition • Local Early Childhood Coalitions • Early Childhood Education and Care Advisory Council • Early Childhood Integrated Data System • Five Year Finance Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal access to all programs and services • Capacity building • Early Development Instrument

Where We Were, Where We Are, Where We're Going

Projected Growth toward **Universal Access** by Program and Fiscal Year

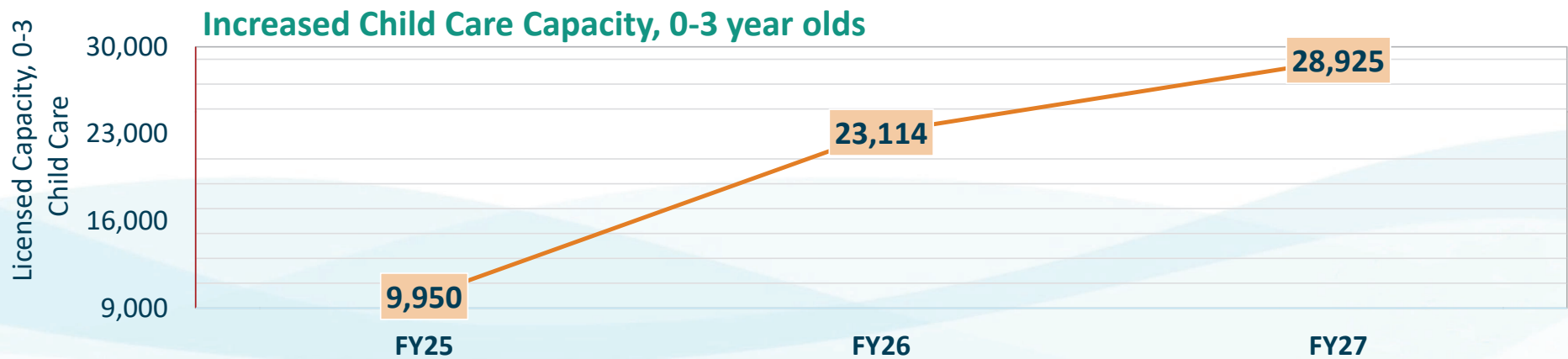
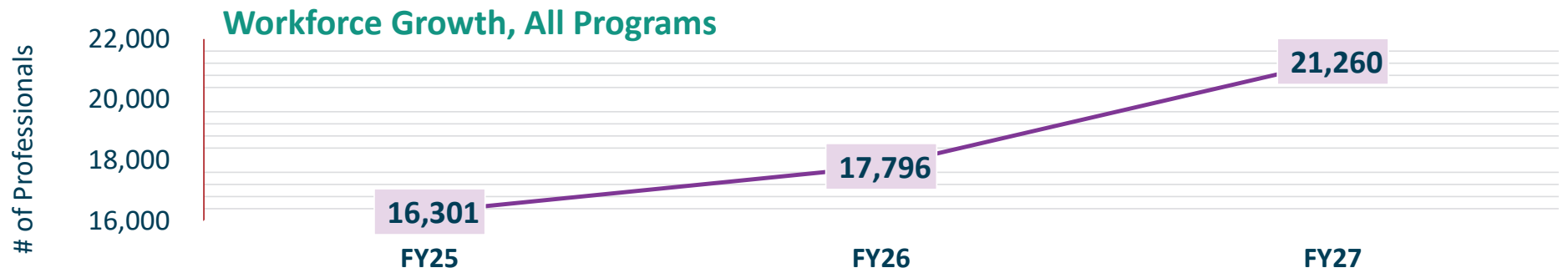


Service	FY21 Percent of Universal Access*	FY27 Percent of Universal Access*
Child Care (0-3)	33%	77%
PreK 4s	69%	84%
PreK 3s	37%	75%
Home Visiting	22%	65%
FIT	21%	29%

*Percent of Universal Access includes ECECD funded services and other investments (e.g. Head Start, Tribal, private sector)

Where We Were, Where We Are, Where We're Going

Increased Growth Needed for Universal Access by Fiscal Year





“I became a home visitor because I saw too many children starting school without the **readiness skills** they needed. By working with families from the very beginning, I can be open about what supports are available and help parents see every step we take to prepare their child for success.”

**Toby Lee, Home Visitor,
Gallup, NM**



Accountability and Transparency

- **Transparency** builds public trust by showing how resources are used and who is being served as New Mexico moves toward universal access
 - Five-year Finance Plan
 - Data dashboards
 - County fact sheets
- **Accountability** ensures ECECD delivers on our commitment to school readiness by measuring outcomes with reliable assessments
 - Classroom Assessment Scoring System
 - Minnesota Executive Function Scale
 - Early Development Instrument
 - Childhood Experiences Questionnaire





New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department

Data Dashboards

The Early Childhood Education and Care Department officially began July 1, 2020. The Department's aim is to create a more cohesive, equitable, and effective prenatal to age five early childhood system in New Mexico, ensuring that families in every corner of the state can access the services they need.

These dashboards share insights about the department's progress towards that goal.

nmeccd.org/eccd-data-dashboard



Child Care Assistance

The Child Care Assistance Program subsidizes the cost of child care for families at or below 400% of the federal poverty level.



New Mexico PreK

New Mexico PreK (NM PreK) is a free voluntary program during the school year that delivers high-quality education in community-based and school-based settings.



Home Visiting

New Mexico's free, voluntary home visiting program is for any family expecting a baby or with children under the age of five.



Family Infant Toddler

ECECD's Family Infant Toddler program connects families with local experts to provide free screenings and evaluations to determine if their child is experiencing, or may be at risk for, a developmental delay or disability.



Child Care Assistance

The Child Care Assistance Program subsidizes the cost of child care for families at or below 400% of the federal poverty level that are working, in school, incapacitated, or searching for employment.

Parent copayments are currently being waived for families on the Child Care Assistance Program.

To learn more, visit: www.nmcecd.org/child-care-assistance

Filter (i)

Clear All Filters

By Month

Last 12 Months (i)

By County

All ▼

By Provider Star Level

All ▼

By Provider Type

All ▼

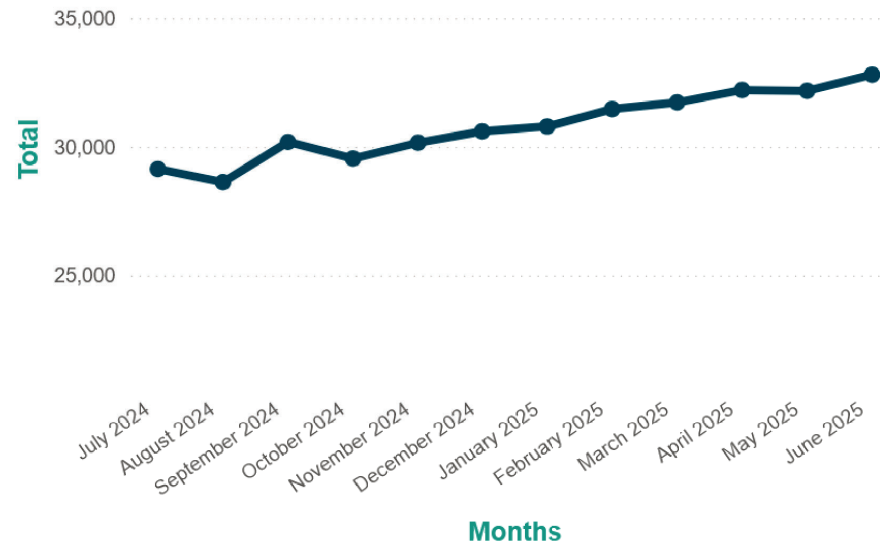
Trends

Children & Enrollments

Providers

Select Metric to Display (i)

Total Children Receiving the Subsidy ▼



June 2025 Highlights

32,800
Total In Month

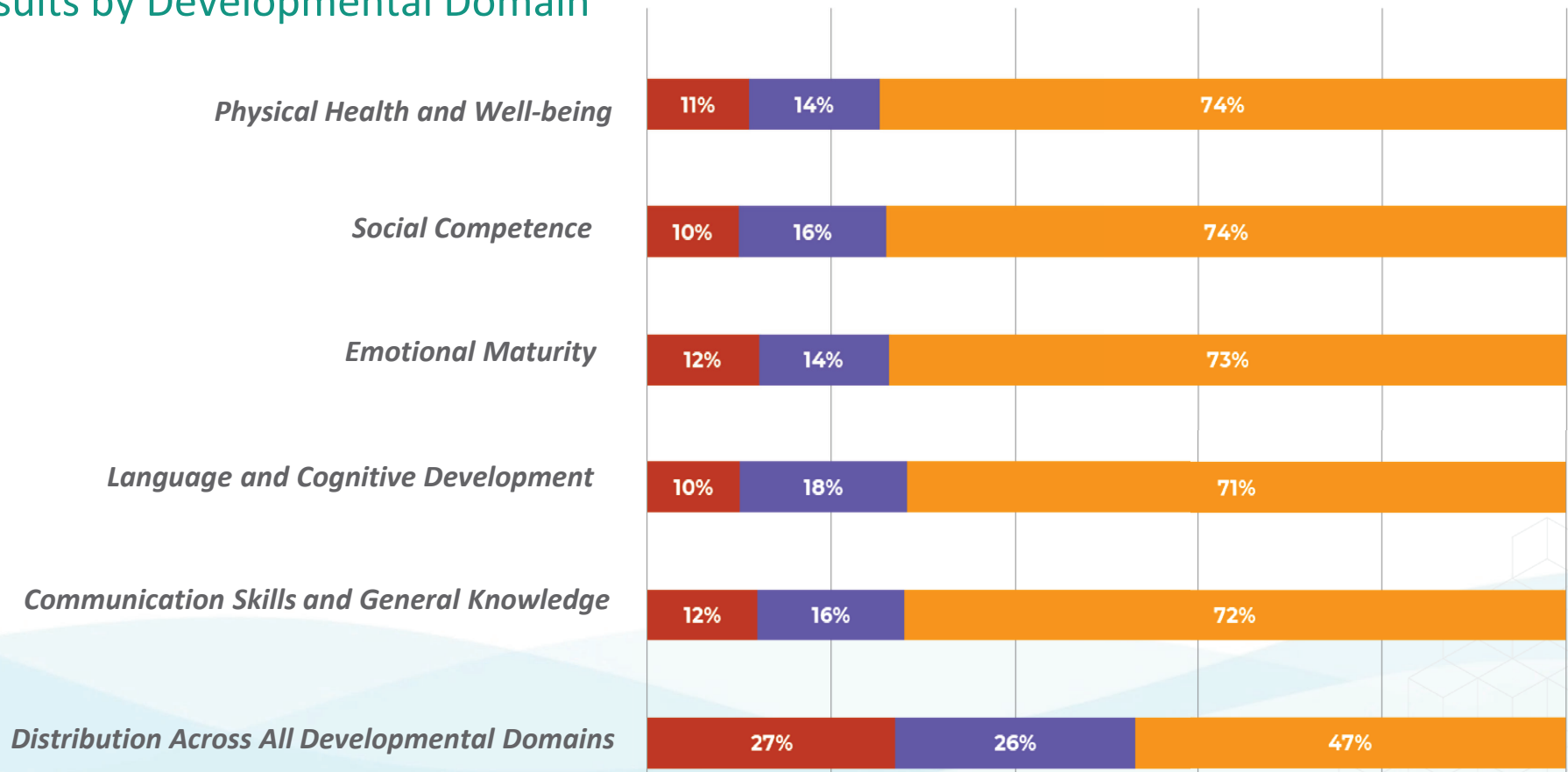
3,663 (i)
Absolute Change (Last 12 Months)

12.6% (i)
Relative Change (Last 12 Months)

New Mexico's Statewide EDI Results 2024

Results by Developmental Domain

nmeccd.org/EDI



ECECD Current Priorities

ECECD is focused on sustainable implementation and expanding the early education and care system to address key gaps, reflected in four priorities

#1

Achieve Universal Access

Ensure all New Mexico families can access affordable, high-quality early childhood programs and services

#2

Grow a Well-credentialed and Compensated Workforce

Implement the wage scale and career lattice and partner with higher education on innovative strategies toward credential and degree completion

#3

Improve Quality

Deliver robust quality supports, gather data on quality and child outcomes, and use that data to drive improvement

#4

Strengthen Family Engagement

Partner with families as active participants in their children's learning and development



“Being able to see the tangible impact on children and families keeps us accountable for delivering high-quality care. Every expansion we make is intentional, based on what our community truly needs.”

Taylor Etchemendy, Child Care Center Owner, Taos, NM



Closing and Call to Action

Our Commitment: ECECD remains dedicated to serving every child and family in New Mexico with equitable, high-quality early childhood services and to use actionable data to drive continuous improvement.

- New Mexico's early childhood system is **stronger**, more **connected**, and more **transparent** than ever before.
- **Access, quality, and accountability** are the foundation for **school readiness** and long-term success.
- Strategic priorities focus on **universal access**, a well-credentialed and compensated **workforce**, consistent **quality standards**, and **engaged families**.



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



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ECECD's bi-weekly newsletter delivers agency announcements, resources, 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.



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