



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood
Education & Care Department

Legislative Education Study Committee
August 24, 2020

AGENDA

- ECECD Overview
- Child Care and COVID-19
- NM PreK and Summer Jumpstart
- School Reopening Cross Agency Workgroup
- Family, Infant and Toddler Program
- Question and Answer



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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



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

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

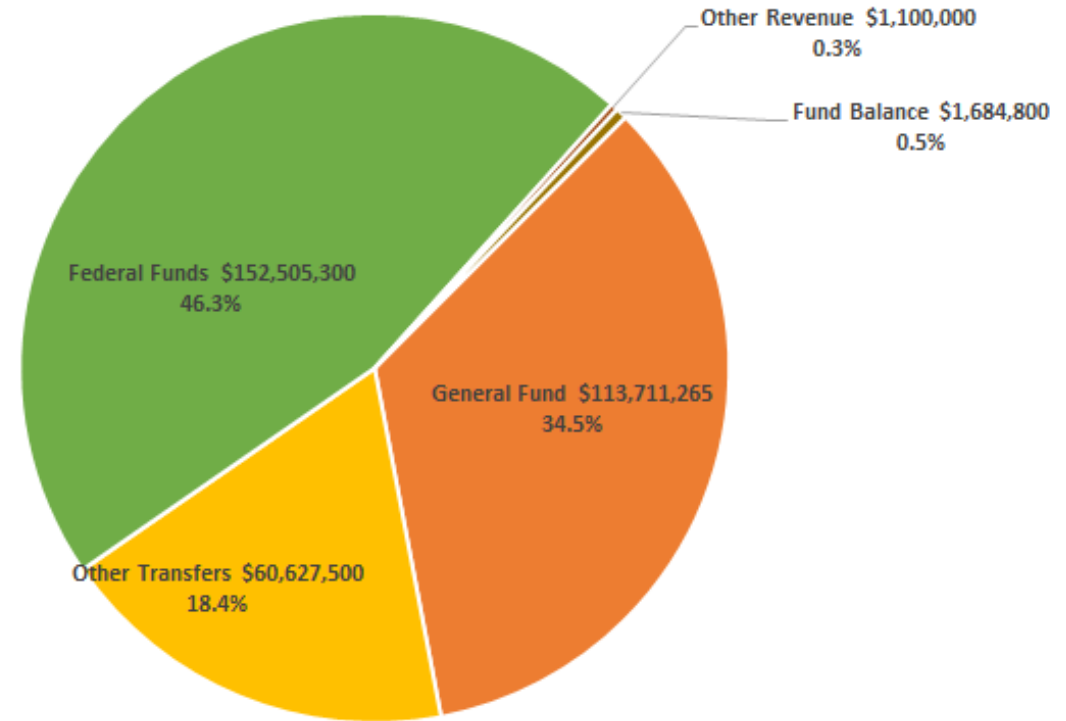
ECECD Top Priorities



- **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 Funding by Source

Early Childhood Education and Care Program P623 Funding by Source



■ General Fund ■ Other Transfers ■ Federal Funds ■ Other Revenue ■ Fund Balance



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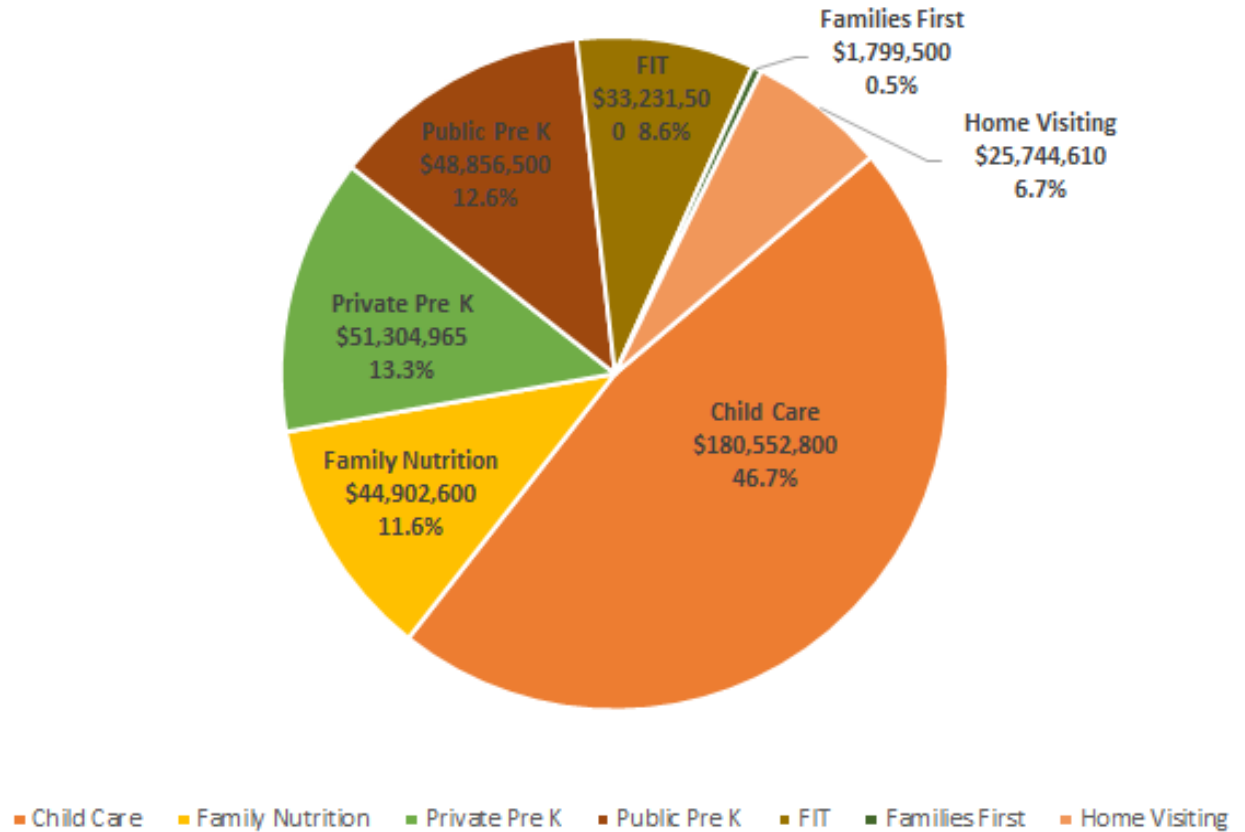
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ECECD Budget for FY 2021
= \$419+ million

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

Most of ECECD's budget
supports direct services

FY21 Operating Budget for Specific ECECD Departments



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 degree
- Set-aside funding for **Summer Jumpstart** program
- Delivered **Infant Wellness** packages to all tribal communities

Child Care and COVID-19

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

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.

Monitoring, Technical Assistance and Professional Development

- Health and Safety Guidance for New Mexico Child Care Centers and Early Childhood Professionals
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Surveillance testing
- Rapid response
- Regional provider meetings
- COVID-19 mandatory response training





Financial Resources for Families and Providers

Essential Child Care Wage Incentive

Child Care Stabilization and Recovery Grants

Child care assistance for essential employees

Waived parent copays for Child Care Assistance

Payment differential for child care assistance contracts

Payment for all children enrolled in child care, regardless of attendance

FIT Program telehealth and reimbursement



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NM PreK, Summer Jumpstart and School Reopening



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

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



School Reopening Cross Agency Work Group

- Public Education Department and ECECD
- Partnering with the Regional Education Cooperatives and the New Mexico Child Care Resource and Referral agency
- Developed a map of child care providers by school district
 - Connect families to licensed providers in their community
 - Strengthen partnerships among public schools and child care providers
- Conducted surveys:
 - Family survey on child care needs and other needs (e.g. food, behavioral health etc.)
 - Child care provider capacity survey

Family, Infant and Toddler Program (FIT)

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

FIT and COVID-19



FIT programs transitioned services to 100 percent telehealth.

- Services provided:
 - Video conferencing and telephone sessions
 - Phone calls/Text messaging and emails
- Other activities:
 - 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
- 1,709 children were determined eligible between March 11 and July 31, 2020; half are under the age of one
- COVID-19 Safe Practices Guidelines (forthcoming)

Question and Answer



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