

PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD

Early Childhood Education and Care Department

Second Quarter, Fiscal Year 2025

ACTION PLAN

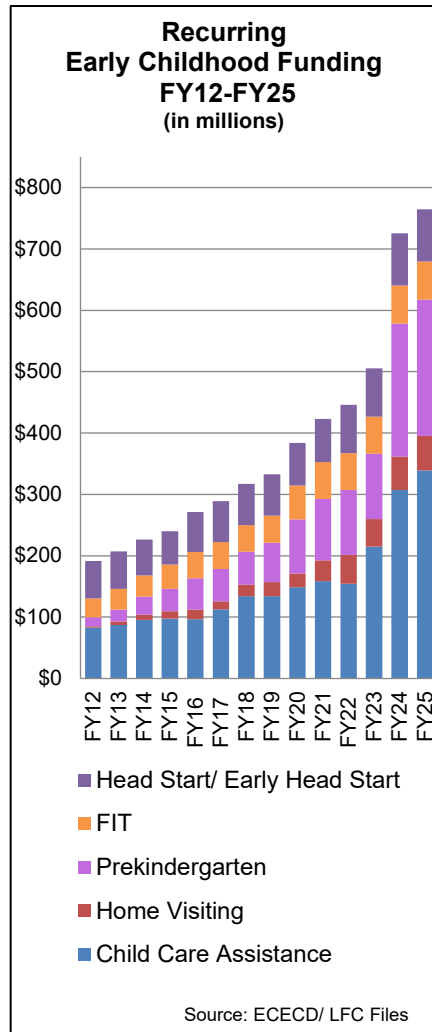
Submitted by agency?	Yes
Timeline assigned?	No
Responsibility assigned?	No

The Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) reported mixed results for the second quarter of FY25. The department also has several measures which are reported annually. Many of the annual measures related to prekindergarten and early learning readiness. While the department did not meet targeted performance for families enrolled in Medicaid funded home visiting, the department has doubled enrollment from the previous fiscal year. Increased enrollment in this program has been a focused performance goal for the Legislature.

Family Support and Intervention

The program primarily consists of three components: the Family, Infant, Toddler (FIT) developmental disabilities intervention program, the Families First case management program, and the Home Visiting parental education and support program. This program reported mixed results for performance targets and did not meet targeted performance for the Families First program and connected families involved with Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) to services. The program has reported an enrollment of only 823 families in the Medicaid-funded home visiting program, below the performance target of 1,500 but an increase above the 402 previous fiscal year. Increasing family enrollment in Medicaid-funded home visiting has been a policy priority of Legislature. If implemented well, in combination with other child welfare interventions, certain home visiting models, such as Nurse Family Partnership, Health Families America, and SafeCare Augmented, could help the state reduce child maltreatment.

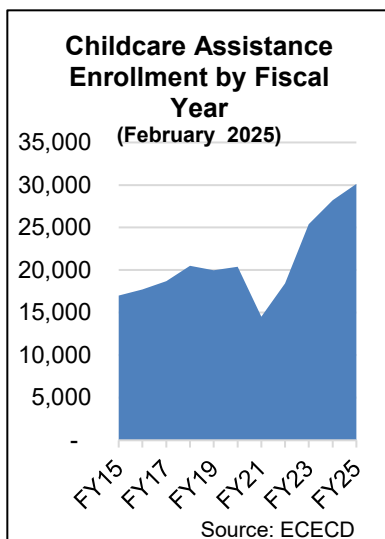
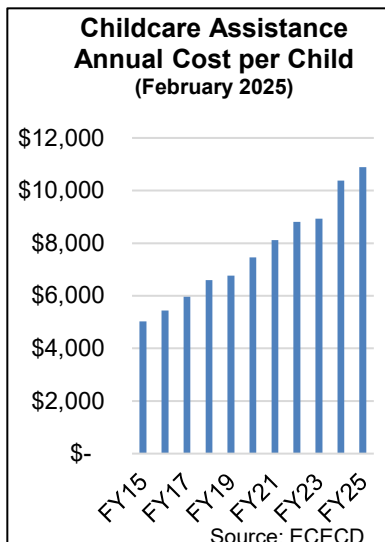
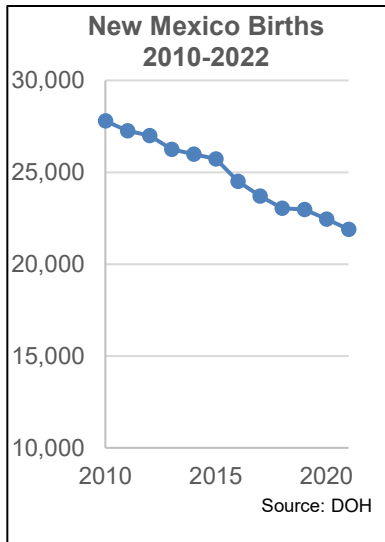
Budget: \$78,0616.6 FTE: 58	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Target	FY25 Q1	FY25 Q2	FY25 Q3	Rating
Number of families enrolled in Medicaid Home Visiting	440	402	1,250	727	823		G
Average annual number of home visits per family	19	22	20	Reported Annually			
Percent of children enrolled in home visiting for longer than six months that receive regular well child exams as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics	88%	91%	90%	91%	91%		G
Percent of parents participating in the New Mexico home-visiting program for at least eight months who demonstrate progress in practicing positive parent-child interactions as demonstrated by the state-approved, evidence-based screening tool	79%	82%	80%	85%	85%		G
Percent of women enrolled in Families First who are eligible for Medicaid and access prenatal care by the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy	90%	90%	93%	82%	90%		Y
Percent of children making significant improvement annually in social emotional skills, knowledge and skills and appropriate behavior	New	Not Reported	78%	78%	78%		G
Percentage of women that are pregnant when they enroll in home visiting who access postpartum care	New	New	90%	81%	79%		R
Percent of eligible infants and toddlers with individual family service	93%	94%	100%	96%	96%		Y



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plan for whom an initial evaluation and initial assessment and an initial individual family service plan meeting were conducted within the forty-five-day timeline

Percent of home visiting families with face-to-face visits, monthly

New 91% NA 94% 93%

Percent of families enrolled in Families First by the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy

New 65% 80% 42% 88%

G

Percent of families enrolled in home visiting by the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy

New 75% 30% 73% 73%

G

Percent of families enrolled in home visiting who receive safe sleep education and supporting materials and follow the recommended safe sleep practices

New 82% 80% 75% 80%

G

Percent of pregnant women enrolled in home visiting who are eligible for Medicaid and access prenatal care by the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy

New 93% 80% 92% 92%

G

Percent of women who are pregnant when they enroll in Families First and access postpartum care

New 100% 75% 44% 44%

R

Percent of Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act families connected to agency services and supports

New 41% 60% 37% 40%

R

Program Rating

R

Y

Y

Early Education, Care and Nutrition

The Early Education, Care, and Nutrition Program is primarily composed of childcare assistance, the Family Nutrition Bureau, and prekindergarten. Prior to the pandemic, childcare assistance average monthly enrollment had been relatively flat, ranging between 18 thousand and 20 thousand children a month. However, in fall 2020, enrollment declined significantly to 15 thousand. In FY21, average monthly enrollment was 14.5 thousand. The average monthly cost per child, however, increased to \$676, or \$8,117 annually. At the close of FY22, monthly enrollment had increased to nearly 22 thousand, and the average monthly cost was at \$734, or \$8,810 annually. In April 2022, ECECD announced Childcare Assistance income eligibility would increase to 400 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) and all copayments would be waived. At the close of FY24, enrollment had increased to around 29 thousand, with an average annual cost per child of \$10,379. As of the second quarter of FY25, average enrollment was close to 30.1 thousand and an average annual cost per child of \$10.9 thousand.

Budget: \$380,195.9 **FTE:** 157

FY23 Actual FY24 Actual FY25 Target FY25 Q1 FY25 Q2 FY25 Q3 Rating

Percent of infants and toddlers participating in the childcare assistance program enrolled in childcare programs with four- or five-stars

58% 65% 75% 69% 63%

R

Average monthly copay as a percentage of monthly income

New New 7% 0% 0%

G

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Average length of time enrolled in months for families receiving childcare assistance	New	18	12	19	19	G
Percent of children attending full-time childcare, defined as thirty hours or more a week	New	73%	75%	76%	67%	R
Percent of enrolled families at or below one hundred twenty-five percent of the federal poverty level	New	42%	70%	43%	40%	R
Program Rating	R	Y				Y

Policy, Research and Quality

The Policy, Research and Quality Program's primary purpose is to manage initiatives to improve the quality of early childhood education and care programs and professional development support for providers. The program also provides data assessment and support in addition to policy development for the department. The program leads the state's childcare tiered quality rating and improvement system, Focus. The department reported meeting targeted performance measures.

Budget: \$37,275.6 FTE: 36	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Target	FY25 Q1	FY25 Q2	FY25 Q3	Rating
Percent of early childhood professionals, including tribal educators, with degrees and/or credentials in early childhood related fields	Not Reported	77%	50%	Reported Annually			
Percent of licensed childcare providers participating in Focus tiered quality rating and improvement system	64%	65%	60%	65%	66%		G
Percent of licensed childcare providers participating in Focus tiered quality rating and improvement system at the four- and five-star level	60%	62%	60%	69%	67%		G
Number of infant early child mental health professionals trained and onboarded	New	15	15	19	21		G
Percent of early childhood professionals receiving support from infant early child mental health consultants	New	30%	10%	37%	33%		G
Program Rating	R	G					G

Prekindergarten

Performance measures for the program are reported annually. New Mexico PreK, an early education program for 3- and 4-year-olds, currently serves over 17 thousand children. Despite certain obstacles to expansion, New Mexico has made substantial strides in ensuring sufficient funding is in place to guarantee all 4-year-olds have access to some form of early education through programs such as Childcare Assistance, New Mexico PreK, or the federal Head Start program. In fact, New Mexico ranks 14th in spending on prekindergarten, 13th for providing access to 3-year-olds, and 13th in access for 4-year-olds, according to the National Institute for Early Education Research

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(NIEER). As of FY25, the state appropriated over \$222 million on prekindergarten and early prekindergarten statewide.

Budget: \$238,173.6 FTE: 17	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Target	FY25 Q1	FY25 Q2	FY25 Q3	Rating
Percent of children who were enrolled for at least six months in the state-funded prekindergarten program who score at first step for kindergarten or higher on the fall observation kindergarten observation tool	New	49%	80%				
Percent of children participating in public and private state-funded New Mexico prekindergarten program for at least six months showing measurable progress on the school readiness spring preschool assessment tool	92%	91%	92%				Reported Annually
Percentage of children who participated in the prekindergarten, for at least nine months, that are proficient in math in kindergarten	63%	52%	75%				
Percentage of children who participated in the prekindergarten program, for at least nine months, that are proficient in literacy in kindergarten	60%	51%	80%				
Program Rating	R	Y					