

A New Era for Early Childhood Education and Care in New Mexico

Legislative Education Study Committee

Elizabeth Groginsky, Cabinet Secretary

December 5, 2022



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood

Education & Care Department

Land Acknowledgment



Agenda

- Agency Overview
- Five-Year Strategic Plan
- Highlights and New Initiatives
- FY24 Budget Proposal
- Four Year Finance Plan
- Question and Answer





Agency Overview

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.

Agency Overview: Who We Served in Fiscal Year 2022*

CHILD CARE

- **18,428** children on average received child care assistance per month

FAMILIES FIRST

- **3,987** families served

FAMILY INFANT TODDLER

- **13,827** children served

FAMILY NUTRITION

- **31,663** Child and Adult Care Food Program meal recipients per month
- **388,827** Summer Food Service Program meals served

HOME VISITING

- **6,747** children
- **6,363** families

NEW MEXICO PREK

- **1,924** 3-year-olds
- **11,203** 4-year-olds
- **1,048** mixed age (3 and 4)

*HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

- **2362 Funded** Early Head Start slots (prenatal to 3)
- **6445 Funded** Head Start slots (3-5)

Five-Year Strategic Plan

Florece

Spanish for **flourish**

Synonyms: grow · thrive · prosper · do well · develop

1. (of a person, animal, or other living organism) grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way, especially as the result of a particularly favorable environment.



ECECD 2022-27 Strategic Plan
nmeccd.org/reportsandplans



Five Year Strategic Plan Goals

Goal 1: School Readiness

ECECD will create and implement equitable, culturally responsive policies, programs, and services that will ensure all children have the skills and knowledge needed to enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

GOAL 2: Family and Community Engagement

ECECD commits to effective, transparent, and trust-based engagement with New Mexico's diverse families and communities to increase family leadership and voice in decision making and program and service design.

Goal 3: Government-To-Government

ECECD will expand and deepen government-to-government relationships and agreements with all Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations with a focus on consultation, culture, language, data sharing, and facility improvements to improve outcomes for Native American families and young children.

Five Year Strategic Plan Goals *continued*

Goal 4: Early Childhood Ecosystem Alignment

ECECD will foster coordination and collaboration within and among the early childhood, health, and child welfare sectors to create a holistic, family centered, culturally responsive, and integrated early childhood ecosystem that supports families, reduces child abuse and neglect, and improves school readiness.

GOAL 5: Organizational Excellence

ECECD will have efficient and effective fiscal, human resource, and constituent service systems and information technology infrastructure to meet critical job functions and duties of the department and ensure high quality customer service for all New Mexicans.

Goal 6: Actionable Data

ECECD will collect and share relevant, reliable, and actionable data to inform policy decisions, empower partners to improve, and enhance community understanding of the importance of the prenatal to age five period of development.

Five Year Strategic Plan Impact

By 2027, ECECD aims to impact families, children, communities, and early childhood professionals through our ambitious goals

- **20,000** more families receive affordable high-quality early care and education, bringing the total number of children served to 47,000
- **5,000** additional children enrolled in high-quality NM PreK, bringing the total to 20,000 children
- **5,000** additional families engage in evidence-based home visiting, bringing the total to more than 12,000 families served
- **2,000** additional infants and toddlers will have access to high-quality, inclusive child care, bringing the total to 5,500
- **33** counties in New Mexico supported by an active and engaged local early childhood coalition
- **23** Tribes, Pueblos and Nations have improved early childhood facilities supported by a dedicated funding source and technical assistance
- **500** indigenous early childhood educators are supported in achieving higher credentials
- **80** percent of families and babies with Plans of Care will be supported
- **5** regional equity councils are established

As we move forward over the next five years, these four pillars will guide and help focus the work of the Department



Pillar 1: **Equity Focused**

Develop and implement internal and external policies, procedures, and programs that reflect the diverse needs of staff, facilities, and the families and young children we serve.



Pillar 2: **Partner Engagement**

Engage partners, families, and the communities we serve throughout the policymaking and implementation process in meaningful ways that allow for authentic and actionable feedback.



Pillar 3: **Early Childhood Program Supports**

Improve the quality of early childhood programs through the development and implementation of capacity building programs that support continuous improvement.



Pillar 4: **Systems of Accountability**

Meaningful and transparent data is shared with stakeholders regularly, through the development and improvement of data collection and reporting mechanisms.

Highlights and New Initiatives



Early Childhood Workforce

- **Competitive Pay for Professionals Grant**
Increases wages for child care workers by \$3/hr
- **Higher Education Endowments Grant**
Awarded \$7 million to NM universities and colleges to support and recruit Indigenous/bilingual early childhood professionals
- **Developing Futures**
Public education campaign that promotes early childhood professions and supports available to people entering the field
- **One-time incentive payment**
Distributed \$1,500 distributed to 8,137 early childhood professionals





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Family Supports

- **Expanded Child Care Assistance Eligibility** increased income eligibility to 400 percent Federal Poverty Level and waived copayments, making child care free for most New Mexico families.
- **New Mexico Child Care Finder** – Last month, ECECD released a groundbreaking child care search tool to help families find programs that meet their needs.

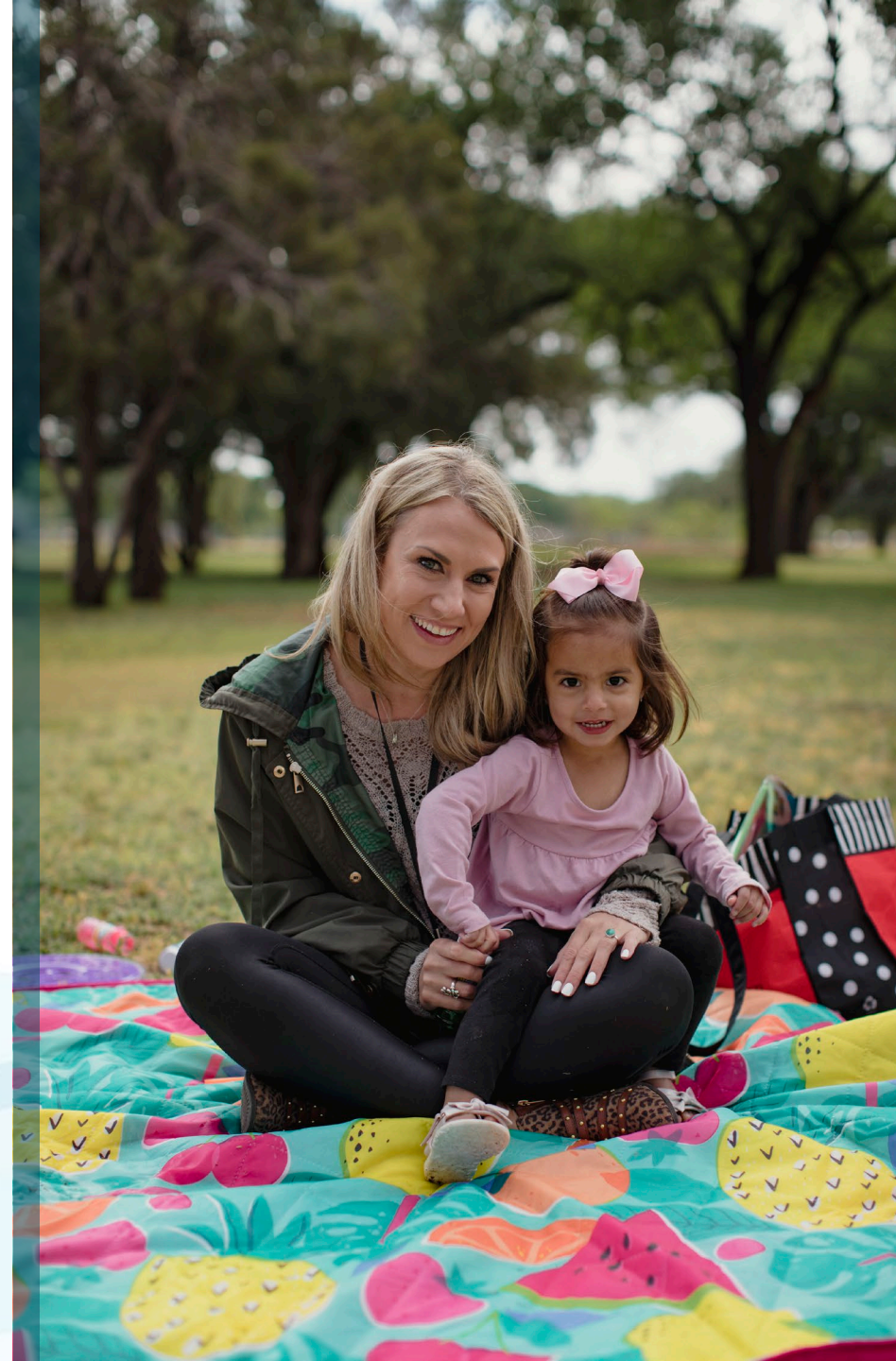
Find Quality Child Care in New Mexico

Search for care:
childcare.ececd.nm.gov



Access and Local System Building

- **\$10 million for Child Care Supply Building Grants**
Projected to create 1,000+ new child care capacity where it is needed most.
- **\$157 million in stabilizations grants** distributed to 1,000+ child care providers across New Mexico
- **Local Early Childhood Coalition Building Grants**
Investing in 15 early childhood coalitions representing 12 counties to improve state/local coordination, local capacity, and family engagement



ECECD FY24 Budget Request



October 12, 2022
Early Childhood Coalition
Conference

ECECD FY24 Budget Priorities

- **Expand** access to quality services and supports
- **Increase** transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness
- **Enhance** public and private partnerships
- **Strengthen** local-to-state communications and decision-making



FY24 Budget Builds on ECECD's Five-Year Strategic Plan Goals



FY24 Appropriation Request: Sources

Revenue	FY23 Operating Budget	FY24 Total Request	% Increase Over FY23
General Fund	\$195,612.4	\$202,919.4	4%
Other Transfers (TANF)	\$54,127.5	\$54,127.5	0%
Other Transfers (Early Childhood Trust Fund)	\$30,000.0	\$46,000.0	53%
Other Transfers (Medicaid)	\$500.0	\$500.0	0%
Federal Revenue	\$141,832.3	\$146,890.6	4%
Other Revenue	\$3,258.5	\$3,258.5	0%
Total	\$425,330.7	\$453,696.0	7%

(dollars in thousands)

FY24 Appropriation Request: Uses

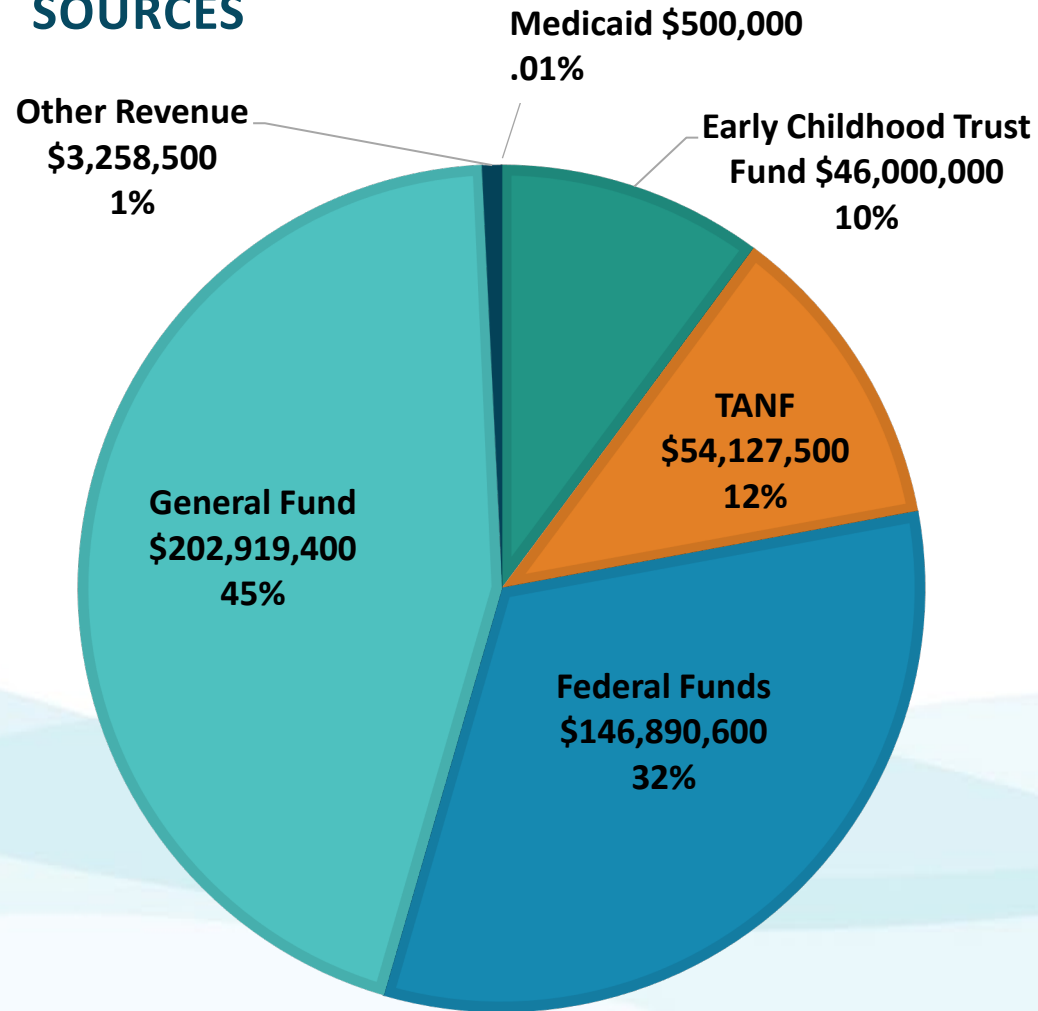
Expenditures	FY23 Operating Budget	FY24 Total Request	% Increase Over FY23 Operating Budget
200 - Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$22,672.6	\$26,759.8	18%
300 - Contractual Services	\$98,718.2	\$112,109.2	14%
400 – Other (Grants and Care and Support)	\$245,058.6	\$255,545.7	4%
500 - Other Financing Uses	\$58,881.3	\$59,281.3	1%
Total	\$425,330.7	\$453,696.0	7%
FTE	303.5	327.5	8%

(dollars in thousands)

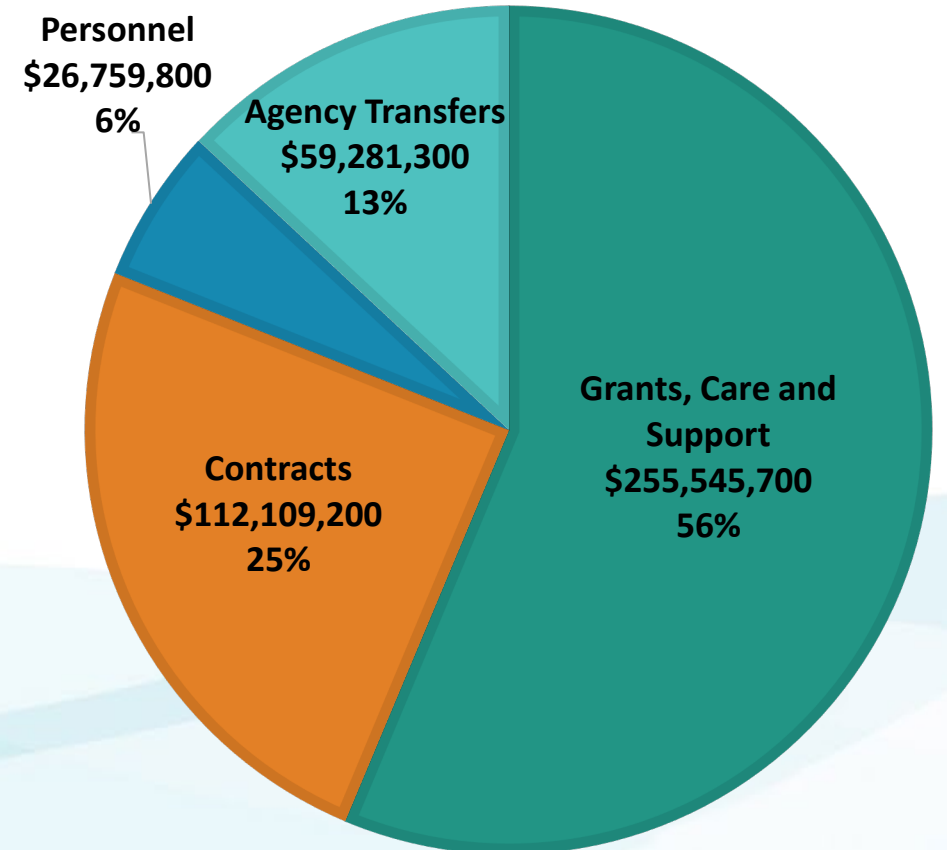
FY24 ECECD Sources and Uses Summary

Revenue Totals: **\$453,696,000**

SOURCES



USES



FY24 General Fund Increase by Program Area

Program Support \$1,053.1	Family Support and Early Intervention \$446.3	Early Childhood Education and Care \$4,507.2	Policy, Research, and Quality Initiatives \$1,210.3	New Mexico PreK \$90.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$595.4 for 7 FTEs to reduce agency risk and enhance operational efficiencies • \$457.7 to convert four TERMS (ARPA) to PERMs ensuring continuity of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$246.3 for three FTEs in support of additional duties, workloads and deliverables • \$200.0 for Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers (age 18-36 months) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,000.0 for call center • \$1,133.6 for increased pay for child care assistance and oversight staff • \$182.6 for two Financial Coordinator FTEs to track, report and monitor fiscal demands • \$161.0 for automated Food and Nutrition compliance • \$30.0 for contractual services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000.0 for professional development information system (PDIS) • \$80.0 for one FTE to support policy development • \$130.3 for reclassification of data analysts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$90.1 for Improvements to monitoring, invoice, and payment system
\$7,307.0 (<i>dollars in thousands</i>)				

FY24 Early Childhood Trust Fund Increase by Program Area

Program Support \$6,286.9	Family Support and Early Intervention \$8,713.1	Policy, Research, and Quality Initiatives \$1,000.0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,000.0 to support and expand by five the number of funded local early childhood system building coalitions • \$1,000.0 for advertising and media production to educate families on programs and services • \$800.0 for infrastructure hosting, maintenance, and support • \$750.0 Tribal Early Childhood Investment • \$400.0 for Family Success Lab • \$336.9 for three FTEs for Office of The Secretary and Program Support – a JEDI Coordinator, Deputy CIO, and Financial Coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8,000.0 for Home visiting services • \$713.1 for eight FTEs: three nurses, one medical assistant, and four inclusion specialists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000.0 for Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
\$16,000.0 (<i>dollars in thousands</i>)		

FY24 ECECD General Fund Special Appropriation Request

Program Support \$6,880.0	Family Support and Early Intervention \$1,850.0	Early Care, Education, and Nutrition \$125,000.0	New Mexico PreK \$20,113.9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,000.0 for grants to develop Family Resource Centers in communities • \$2,000.0 for coordinated intake and referral system for home visiting and Family Infant Toddler services • \$1,480.0 implement phase 2 Enterprise Content Management Solution (ECMS) • \$400.0 for Safe Sleep Education to address infant mortality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$800.0 rate increase for FIT providers to meet current cost of providing services • \$500.0 Autism Evaluation • \$550.0 Autism Screening Training for early intervention providers and health case workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$125,000.0 - continue expanded child care eligibility and increase child care assistance rate to include a \$15 wage floor, and modified parent copayment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20,000.0 to address inflationary costs since 2017; increase hours/days; and expand to 1,000 more children • \$113.9 one FTE Community PreK Specialist
\$153,843.9 Total (<i>dollars in thousands</i>)			

ECECD Four-Year Finance Plan

**Published
November 2021**



Four-Year Finance Plan: Background

- Required statutorily by SB22, the 2019 bill that created ECECD
- Developed in partnership with national experts at Prenatal to Five (PN-5) Fiscal Strategies
- Creates a funding framework to create a world class PN-5 system of programs and services for families and young children



Four-Year Finance Plan: Key Findings

- Funding for PN-5 early childhood services is too often linked to available funding, not actual cost of services, resulting in low wages and compensation
- Quality supports are not resourced at the level truly needed for the type of trauma-responsive, relationship-based work these services present
- Partners at all levels can support investments in the PN-5 system, including local communities, sovereign nations, the federal government, business, and philanthropy





Four-Year Finance Plan: Near Term Outcomes

- Build a high quality, accessible and affordable child care system that meets the needs of families
- Support our FIT provider network by paying what it costs to provide high-quality services to infants and toddlers with development delays and disabilities
- Expand evidence-based home visiting models to address the diverse and unique needs of families
- Expand high quality New Mexico PreK to more children
- Foster and enhance public/private partnerships that strengthen communities and improve outcomes for families and young children

Four-Year Finance Plan: Long Term Outcomes

- Improved access to high-quality programs and services, with more choices, for all families
- Increased number of well-compensated and credentialed early childhood professionals
- Enhanced educational and health outcomes
- Widespread economic and societal benefits



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

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Investing for tomorrow, **delivering today**