

Supporting Early Childhood Development

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State of New Mexico's Children

- Annie E. Casey Foundation 2012 Kids Count ranks New Mexico 49th for child well-being in the areas of education, health, family and community, and economic well being using 16 indicators.
- Approximately 177 thousand children are less than 6 years of age.
- National Center for Children in Poverty reports 25 percent of young children in New Mexico experience 3 or more risk factors impacting health and social development; 29 percent of young children are in homes earning less than 100 percent of FPL; 31 percent of children were living with families where no parent had full-time year round employment in 2009 .
- Department of Health reported child deaths (ages 1-4) occurred 43.6 times per 100,000 in 2011 (trend increasing since 2009)
- New Mexico ranks 47th among states for child homelessness

State of New Mexico's Children

- According to DOH, Child Victimization occurred 10.7 times per 1,000 in 2010 (trend increasing since 2009)
- In 2011, only 63.5 percent of pregnant women received prenatal care in the first trimester
- Eleven counties in New Mexico experienced low-birth weight rates of 10 percent or higher
 - Top three counties: Harding (26.7 percent), Catron (13.8 percent), and Guadalupe (12.7 percent)
- In 2010, Medicaid covered 19,863 births, or roughly 71 percent of the 27,795 births in New Mexico
- Human Services Department reported that in FY12, only 66 percent of infants in Medicaid had six or more well-child visits with a primary care physician during the first fifteen months
- Additional risk indicators include teen pregnancy, parents with less than a high school education, lack of immunizations, neonatal withdrawal, preterm births

Legislative Commitment

- Cost-benefit research demonstrates investments in high-quality early childhood programs, such as Home Visiting and Prekindergarten, produce future savings on special education; remedial education; teenage pregnancy; juvenile rehabilitation; and welfare assistance. High quality early childhood programs also reduce the probability of adverse childhood events which lead to cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development problems.
- Early Childhood Care and Education Act (SB120) passed during 2011 Legislative session.
- The Legislature has quadrupled funding for Pre-K since FY06, and over the past decade, the Legislature has consistently increased general fund appropriations to the childcare assistance program; growing the general fund appropriation by over 325 percent.
- The CYFD FY13 budget includes additional funding from the general fund for young children:
 - \$3 million more for childcare assistance
 - \$900 thousand more for home visiting services
 - \$4.7 million more for Pre-K programs (CYFD and PED), 33 percent increase from FY12
- Push for high-quality early childhood programs
 - Evidenced-based and promising early childhood programs to yield higher returns on investment
 - Quality improvements in childcare programs
 - The FY13 budget for the T.E.A.C.H scholarship program increased \$150 thousand
 - New TORIS which will provide the ability to measure child early learning outcomes

2012 Legislative Finance Committee

Program Evaluations

- Early Literacy Report (released July 2012)
 - Early education improves performance, but lack of coordinated resources and inconsistent quality limits success
 - Investments in PreK have resulted in measureable, significant effects on third-grade reading proficiency rates.
 - However, few at-risk students have access to a full continuum of early childhood education programs, despite the need for extra learning time.
 - New Mexico; however, lacks a common assessment of kindergarten readiness, making it difficult to compare programs and clearly communicate expectations to parents prior to kindergarten.
- Improving Outcomes for Pregnant Women and Infant through Medicaid Report (September 27, 2012)

FY14 CYFD Budget Request Highlights

- Request increases the general fund base appropriation by \$12.6 million, or 6.1 percent.
- The general fund increase includes:
 - \$5 million for childcare assistance
 - \$2.6 million budget expansion for re-opening the 24-bed facility formerly known as Camp Sierra Blanca in Ft. Stanton
 - The expansion request includes 50 new FTE and covers the operating costs associated with three-fourths of the fiscal year.
 - \$2.16 million for the health insurance premium increase and the pension swap
 - \$1 million to replace fund balances in Juvenile Justice Program
 - \$800 thousand for the oversight of registered childcare homes
- The request does not include additional funding for Pre-Kindergarten or Home Visiting programs.
- The request also adds \$2 million in TANF nonrecurring funds for the childcare assistance program.