

Welcome and Introductions

Barbara Tedrow, ELAC Chair



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Establish Quorum

Barbara Tedrow, ELAC Chair



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Approval of Minutes

Barbara Tedrow, ELAC Chair



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Legislative Session Updates

*Claire Dudley Chavez, Division Director
Policy, Research and Quality Initiatives*



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Native American Early Education and Care

Assistant Secretary Jovanna Archuleta



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Native American Early Education and Care

- ECECD Sowing Seeds – Growing Curricular Capacity in ECECD
- American Indian Language Policy Research and Teacher Training Center
- SIPI Pueblo Cohort
- Bi-Weekly Communications
- Tribal Remedy Framework
- Government –to-Government Consultation



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ECECD Sowing Seeds

- **Workshop 1:** *Managing Expectations: What You Need to See the Project Through*
- **Workshop 2:** *Knowing the Organizational Chart: Staff the Leadership*
- **Workshop 3:** *Norming the Vision: Establish Goals and Values*
- **Workshop 4:** *Developing Standards and Rubrics: How to Assess Your Curriculum*
- **Workshop 5:** *Having High Standards: Building your Development Team*
- **Workshop 6:** *Growing Your Own: Training Up Your Own Developers*
- **Workshop 7:** *Reviewing Your Product: Piloting and Vetting Cycles*
- **Workshop 8:** *Maintaining a Healthy Curriculum Project: Overview of the Framework*

Federal Coronavirus Relief Supplemental Support Act (CRSSA) Funds

Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky



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CARES Funding and Expenditures

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, March 2020



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Overview of CARES Funding for ECECD

- NM received funding on March 27, 2020
- Total CARES Funding for NM: \$29,442,748
- Seven funding priorities intended to support families and children, early childhood professionals, and child care businesses, as well as promote health and safety practices



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CARES Expenditures

Priority	Percent of Funding	Amount of Funding	Timing of Distribution	Individual/Program Benefits
Child Care for First Responders	8%	\$2,300,000.00	March-June	1,100 Children Served
Differential Pay (\$250)	29%	\$8,467,741.00	March and April	17,441 Children Served
Incentive Pay for EC Educators	25%	\$7,450,961.98*	April, May, June	3,000 EC Professionals/month
Child Care Recovery and Stabilization Grants	18%	\$5,467,515.50	September	489 child care child businesses
Customer Service Call Center	5%	\$1,600,000.00	FY21	Process child care assistance applications
Health and Safety Mini Grant; Testing Support	9%	\$2,625,239.99*	FY21	Technical assistance, resources and support, and mini grants
Health and Safety Supplies	1%	\$171,350.00	Ongoing	2,200 Child care facilities

*includes encumbered amount

- ECECD has an uncommitted balance of \$1,359,939.53 (5% of total)



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CRSSA Funds

Coronavirus Response and Relief
Supplemental Appropriations Act,
December 2020



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Background

- Signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020
- Legislation funds federal government agencies and programs through September 2023
- Appropriates emergency relief funds for state and local governments and individuals, and extends key relief provisions previously enacted
- Includes \$10 billion in child care relief funds
 - ◆ New Mexico has received \$82,158,393 million in emergency relief funding for child care
 - ◆ NM Plan must be approved by the Governor's Office and shared with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care



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CRSSA Funds: Key Provisions

- Funds are intended to supplement, not supplant, state general revenue funds for child care assistance for low-income families
- A portion of funds shall be used to assist non-subsidy child care providers for purposes of cleaning and sanitation, and other activities necessary to maintain or resume program operation
- States shall widely publicize the availability of funding, including center-based and family child care providers, and provide technical assistance to help providers apply
- States are encouraged to place conditions on funds to ensure child care providers continue to pay staff wages



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CRSSA Funds: Key Provisions

- Funds may be used to support the stability of the child care sector and help providers with increased operating costs due to COVID-19, including:
 - ◆ Provide copay and tuition relief,
 - ◆ Continue payments and assistance to child care providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures and to ensure they are able to remain open or reopen,
 - ◆ Provide technical assistance to child care providers in implementing health and safety guidance,
 - ◆ Provide child care assistance to essential workers without regard to income



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New Mexico CRSSA Plan

- Submitted to Governor's Office for review February 16

ECECD Strategic Priorities	Amount of Funding	Percent of Funding
Advance a Diverse, Well-compensated and Credentialed Workforce	\$16,220,000	20%
Increase Access and Quality	\$32,200,000	39%
Achieve Equity	\$25,200,000	31%
Enhance Authentic Collaboration	\$5,400,000	7%
Infrastructure Support for all Priorities	\$3,138,393	4%
TOTAL	\$82,158,393	100%

Development of FY 2022 – 2024 Child Care and Development Fund State (CCDF) Plan

Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky

Deputy Secretary Dr. Jennifer Sallee



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CCDF Outline

- Early Childhood Landscape
- Overview of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan
- Next Steps



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New Mexico's Early Childhood Landscape



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Early Childhood Professionals

Program Type	Approximate Numbers
Child Care	8,958
NM PreK (public and private)	1,420
Home Visitors	270
Head Start and Early Head Start	2,210
Early Intervention Professionals	808
Consultants and Coaches	99
Total Early Childhood Professionals	13,765

This data is captured from internal and external data sources



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Families and Children

Total Families in New Mexico	162,623
Families Living at or Below 200 Percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	53,665 (33%)

	Children Birth to Age 5	Living at or Below 100 Percent of FPL
Hispanic:	72,793	31.3%
Native American:	13,048	40.3%
Black/African-American:	1,063	37.1%
Asian:	1,310	Not available
Caucasian:	28,640	17.2%
Two or More Races:	9,211	32.3%
Other:	6,575	27.4%
TOTAL:	116,978	28.9%



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Sources: US Census ACS, 1 year data from 2017-2019, Tables B01001 (B-I) and B17001 (B)
 Sources: US Census ACS, 1 year data from 2019, Tables S1702; an PRB analysis of ACS data

Annual Births in New Mexico

Race and Ethnicity		Percent
Hispanic:	12,914	56.2%
Native American:	2,766	12.0%
Black/African-American:	477	2.0%
Asian:	525	2.3%
Caucasian:	6,232	27.1%
Other:	52	0.2%
TOTAL	22,966	

Medicaid-Funded Births per Year:

72%*

Source: NM-IBIS -Query Result -New Mexico Birth Data -Count(state.nm.us)

*2015 Data



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Child Care Assistance Program

- Mission: To ensure equal access to high-quality, healthy, safe, and supportive child care environments
- Child care is not an entitlement program and is funded through a combination of federal block grants (Child care and Development Fund, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and state appropriations (general fund)
- The Child Care Assistance Program:
 - ◆ Subsidizes the cost of child care for families at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (currently \$52,400 for a family of four).
 - ◆ Serves children between the ages of 6 weeks and 13 years, or up to 18 years if special supervision is required.



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Child Care Licensing

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Licensed Child Care Centers	754	740	741	727
Licensed Homes	239	236	238	227
Total Licensed Capacity (infants, toddlers, preschool & school age)	58,516	58,462	59,433	58,790
Average Caseload for Licensing Staff	58	57	61	53

- Data is reflecting point in time (June) for each state fiscal year
- Average caseload for licensing staff is reflects the number of providers per full-time employee
- There were 1,499 Registered Homes in FY20 with a capacity of 9,875 children.

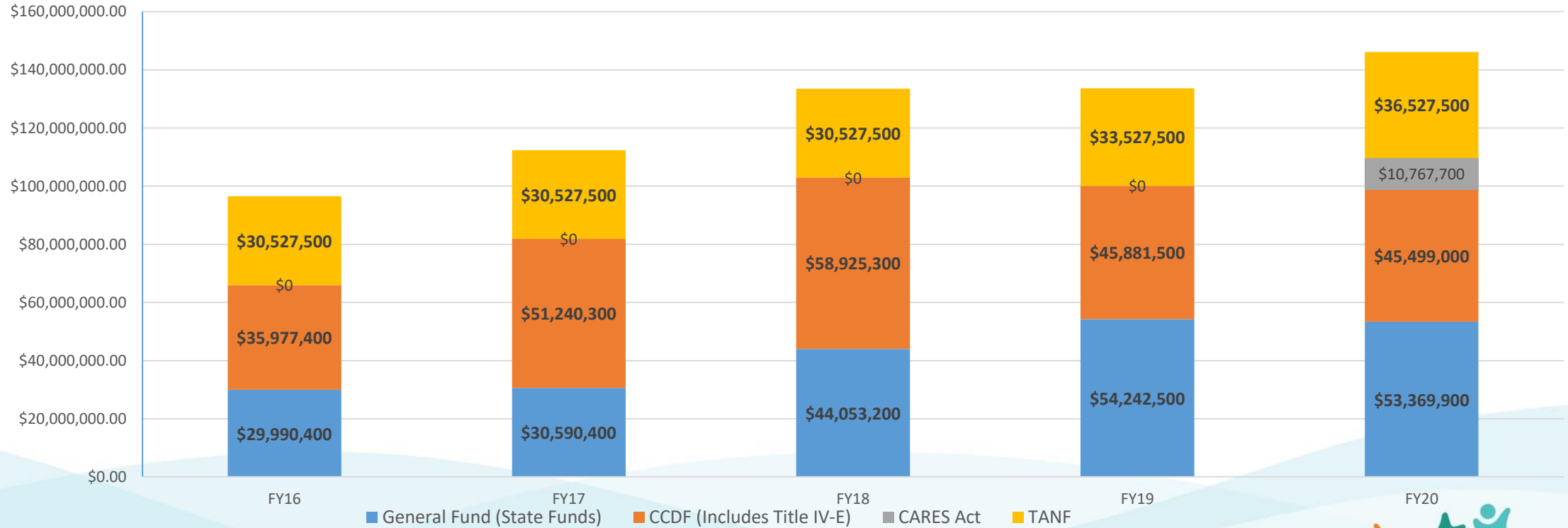
Child Care Assistance Subsidy Counts

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Licensed Child Care Centers	17,420	17,352	16,747	17,410
Licensed Homes	1,467	1,435	1,674	1,949
Total Subsidy Counts for Licensed Programs	18,887	18,787	18,421	19,359

- Data is reflecting point in time (June) for each state fiscal year
- There were 1,716 subsidy children served in Registered Homes in FY20

Child Care Assistance Payments

ECECD Child Care Assistance Expenditures FY16 through FY20



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Overview of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022-2024



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CCDF Overview

- The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
 - ◆ The primary federal funding source for child care subsidies to help eligible low-income working families access child care.
 - ◆ Designed to improve the quality of child care for all children.
- The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 (CCDBG Act) requires each state to submit a detailed state plan that explains how the state will use its CCDF dollars to meet the federal requirements.

Source: OCC Fact Sheet, Office of Child Care, October 2019 (acf.hhs.gov/occ/fact-sheet)

CCDF State Plan

- The Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) serves as the lead agency for the Child Care and Development Block Grant.
- The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Child Care (OCC) monitors compliance with the CCDBG Act, the CCDF final rule, and the state's approved CCDF State Plan. Monitoring includes:
 - Reviewing state's policies
 - Observing states on the ground implementation practices
 - Providing training and technical assistance to support states in meeting CCDF requirements



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New Mexico's CCDF State Plan

- NM is in the third and final year of the current CCDF State Plan
 - ◆ Current Plan Timeline: October 2018 through September 30, 2021 (FFY 2019-2021)
- The next CCDF State Plan will cover FFY 2022-2024
 - ◆ October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2024
- ECECD may submit a request to amend the State Plan, within the three-year cycle, to reflect any changes that affect CCDF administration and policies, such as policy changes to program eligibility or payment rates.



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CCDF State Plan Sections (FFY2022-24)

Define CCDF leadership and coordination with relevant systems

- Stakeholders participation in the development of the plan
- Authority to make policy decisions and programmatic changes and implementation

Promote family engagement through outreach and consumer education

- How child care related information is communicated to parents
- How providers and agencies in NM support parents

Provide stable child care financial assistance to families

- Eligibility policies for subsidized child care
- Continuity of care for vulnerable populations



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CCDF State Plan Sections (FFY2022-24)

Ensure equal access to high-quality child care for low-income children

- Ensure that low-income and vulnerable children have access to high-quality care

Promote standards and monitoring processes to ensure the health and safety of child care settings

- Ensure the health and safety of children in licensed child development facilities

Recruit and retain a qualified and effective child care workforce

- Develop a competent, skilled and stable child care workforce



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CCDF State Plan Sections (FY2022-24)

Support continuous quality improvement

- Improve the quality of child care services
- Increase parental options for accessing high-quality child care

Ensure grantee accountability

- Accountability measures to ensure program integrity
- Identify fraud or other program violations



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Next Steps



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State Plan Timeline and Milestones

Month	Milestones
January - March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct stakeholder engagement strategies• Engage the ELAC• Conduct cost model/alternative methodology
April – May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notice of public hearing and draft plan released for public comment• Hold a public hearing and community engagement sessions• Update NM’s CCDF State Plan
June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final reviews and approvals of State Plan• Submit final CCDF State Plan to Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post final CCDF State Plan on ECECD website (30 days after submission)• Post Alternative Cost Methodology (30 days after it is completed)



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Stakeholder Groups

- **Providers:** Provider Groups and Associations, Military Child Care, Licensing, Head Start, Early Head Start, NM PreK, Out of School Time Programs
- **Advisory Groups:** Early Childhood Higher Education Task Force, Parent Associations, Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)
- **Partner Agencies:** Part C, 619, Public Health, TANF, Medicaid, Behavioral Health, Home Visiting, Child Welfare, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Homeless, Youth Services
- **Local Governments:** Emergency Management Agencies
- **Tribal Partners**



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Virtual Stakeholder Meetings

- Public Hearing: May 27, 2021
 - ◆ Notice of public hearing – May 7, 2021
 - ◆ Translation/interpretation services available at all meetings
- Advisory Groups
 - ◆ Early Learning Advisory Council, March 11, 9 a.m. |
 - ◆ Early Childhood Higher Education Task Force, March 12, 10 a.m.
 - ◆ Interagency Coordinating Council, April 15, 9 a.m.
- Tribal Meeting
 - ◆ March 23, 11 a.m.
- Regional and Statewide Meetings
 - ◆ Nine sessions



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Regional and Statewide Meeting Schedule

- Spanish Sessions
 - ◆ Tuesday, April 6, Noon–1:30 p.m.
 - ◆ Wednesday, April 7, 5:30–7 p.m.
 - ◆ Saturday, April 10, 10–11:30 a.m.
- Northern
 - ◆ Tuesday, April 13, 3–4:30 p.m.
- Central
 - ◆ Tuesday, April 13, 5:30–7 p.m.
 - ◆ Saturday, April 17, 10–11:30 a.m.
- Southwest
 - ◆ Wednesday, April 14, Noon–1:30 p.m.
 - ◆ Thursday, April 15, 5:30–7 p.m.
- Southeast
 - ◆ Thursday, April 8, 5:30–7 p.m.
- Translation/interpretation services available at all meetings



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Discussion Questions

- Are there additional stakeholders and groups that should be included in NM's CCDF outreach and engagement?
- Do you have suggestions on how we can improve inter and intra agency communication support and improve access and quality of children to all families?
- What are your top two priorities for providing high-quality child care to children and families?



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Child Care Cost Model

Jeanna Capito Principal, Prenatal to 5 Fiscal Strategies; Hub Lead, National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers

Simon Workman, Principal, Prenatal-5 Fiscal Strategies



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New Mexico Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan

*Alejandra Rebolledo Rea, Division Director,
Early Care, Education and Nutrition*

Kim Brown, Bureau Chief, Child Care Services Bureau



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NM is required to establish and update a Statewide Child Care Disaster and Preparedness Plan

- Developed in 2016, updated in 2019
- Framework for preparedness and recovery activities for child care providers, in the event of a significant emergency or disaster in the State of New Mexico.
- This is to develop a coordinated effort during disaster recovery and provides guidance to licensed and registered child care providers and what they can expect from the Department
- By coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies, the plan assists New Mexico in minimizing the impact of disasters and emergencies on children, families, and Providers.
- The plan is being reviewed with input from the New Mexico Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department, Response & Recovery Bureau, stakeholders and community partners to ensure relevance, applicability and compliance with Federal and State requirements.



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Five key areas of the Emergency Preparedness Plan

- Planning for Continuation of Services to CCDF Families
- Coordinating with Emergency Management Agencies and Key Partners
- Regulatory Requirements and Technical Assistance for Child Care Providers
- Provision of Temporary Child Care Services after a Disaster
- Rebuilding Child Care after a Disaster



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Next Steps

- Revisions are being made to reflect that ECECD is now the responsible agency, and to include updates that were made as a result of ECECD's experience in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Next meeting to finalize revisions will take place on March 16, 2021 with the following partners:
 - ◆ Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management;
 - ◆ New Mexico Human Services Department;
 - ◆ New Mexico Public Education Department (PED);
 - ◆ ECECD Child Care Licensing;
 - ◆ ECECD Child Care Assistance;
 - ◆ ECECD Assistant Secretary for Native American Early Childhood Education and Care;
 - ◆ New Mexico Department of Health;
 - ◆ New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department;
 - ◆ New Mexico Resource and Referral; and,
 - ◆ New Mexico Early Learning Advisory Council
- The Final NM Emergency Preparedness Plan will be posted and submitted with our CCDF Plan



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Family Support and Early Intervention Division Update

Mayra Gutierrez, Division Director

Family Support and Early Intervention Division



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Division Update

- Home Visiting
 - ◆ ECHV Medicaid Expansion Workgroup
 - ◆ Re-release of Grant Applications
 - ◆ Cost Study
- FIT
 - ◆ Annual Performance Report for FFY 2019
 - ◆ Hosting Family Engagement Sessions – Planning for Spring Break
 - ◆ In-Person Guidance
- Families FIRST
 - ◆ Telehealth Case Management Services
 - ◆ Nurses Administering Vaccines and COVID-19 Testing



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Regional Education Cooperative/ Public Schools/ Child Care Partnership Update

*Andrea Fletcher, South West Regional Education
Cooperative*



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Childcare Re-entry Project

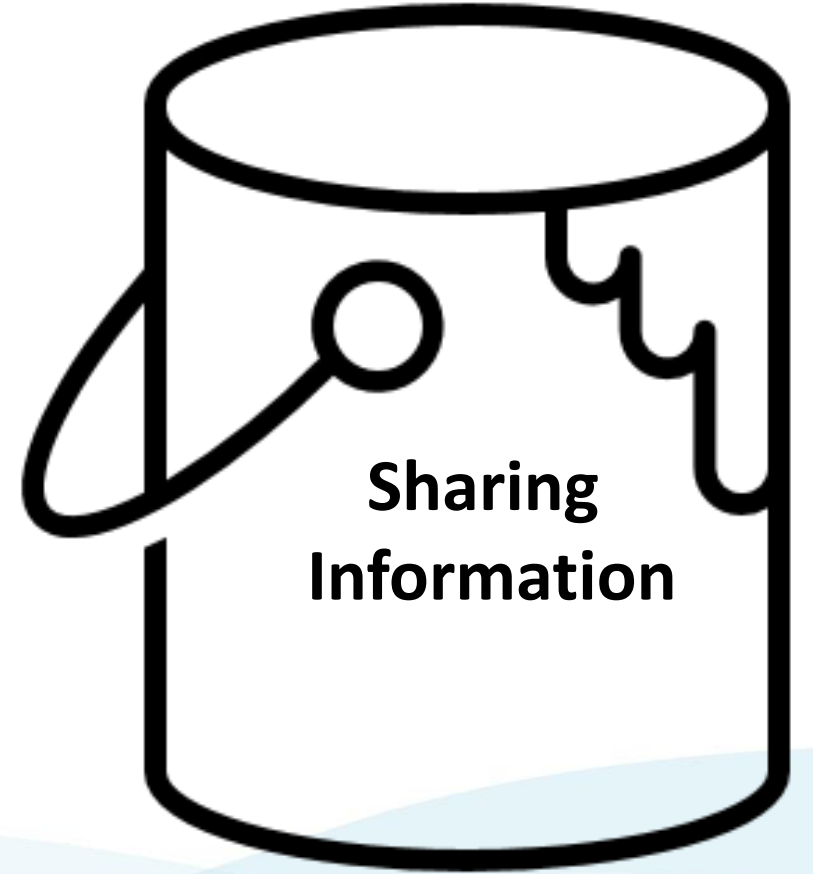
A collaboration between:

- + NM Early Childhood and Care Department
- + NM Public Education Department
- + Southwest Regional Education Cooperative
- + NM Regional Education Cooperative Association



ELAC Meeting, March 11, 2021

Project “Buckets”



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Information Gathering

Ask focus group questions and document stories:

- ◆ Providers- 99
- ◆ Parents- 103
- ◆ Schools- 100
- ◆ OST Providers-10

Methods:

- ◆ Focus groups
- ◆ Individual phone calls

Status: Complete



Concerns from Providers

- Inconsistency of special education services
- Logistics of school schedules and platforms
- Lack of communication from schools
- Mental health issues
- Feeling undervalued
- Financial difficulty
- Lack of substitutes



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Concerns from Parents

- Hybrid learning means increased child care needs and parents can't afford it and don't qualify for assistance
- Mental health of students-lack of connection
- Lack of hands-on learning
- Technology issues



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Concerns from Schools

- Mental health issues
- Lack of engagement
- Absenteeism
- Technology issues
- Burden on older siblings
- Care for staff children in hybrid



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Best Practices

- Teachers reaching out to students and parents
- Collaboration between public schools and child care (transportation, lunch, schedules, training)
- Predictable schedules
- Differentials



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Opportunities

- Broadband funding
- Collaboration/ training on special ed support, social/ emotional
- Better tell the story of child care in New Mexico
- Create collaboration structures between schools and providers to share training opportunities, best practices, transition information, etc.



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Ideas to Explore

- Expanding eligibility for assistance during hybrid
- Ways to ensure transition between early education and kindergarten are seamless
- Substitute clearinghouse with portable background checks



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Next Steps

- Award mini grants
- Share child care information through digital flyers, social media, newspapers, radio, websites (Applying for assistance, finding child care, FFN, and health and safety)
- Creating partnerships with districts, providers, OST providers to explore challenges and brainstorm solutions
- Identify centers and districts that want to partner
- Facilitate collaborative community conversations with districts, providers, OST providers, city govt., ECECD to problem solve



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Thank you!
Please reach out
with questions
or suggestions!

afletcher@swrecnm.org



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Future Meeting Date



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Adjourn

Thank you all for joining us today!



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