Early Childhood Education in New Mexico

State and federal funding enables more than 32,947 children and families in New Mexico to access high-quality, public and private, early childhood programs.1

Federal and State Early Childhood Education Funding in New Mexico

New Mexico Quick Facts

- 4,525 Children Enrolled in Head Start2
- 13.12% Eligible Children Served by Head Start2
- 2,223 Children Enrolled in Early Head Start2
- 6.30% Eligible Children Served by Early Head Start2
- 7,194 Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds2
- 27.3% Eligible Children Under Six Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds2
- 10,388 Children Enrolled in State Funded Pre-K8
- 510 Families Served by MIECHV9
- 4,632 Children Served by IDEA Part C10
- 3,475 Children Served by IDEA Part B, Sec. 61911
- 36.55% Three- and Four-year old Children who Attend Public ECE12

Early Childhood Education Economic Impact

In addition to the benefits to young children, access to affordable, high-quality child care can increase parental labor force participation and family economic stability. Child care problems, however, adversely affect both state and national economies. As a direct result of child care issues, the national economy loses upward of $57 billion annually in the form of lost earnings, productivity, and revenue.14

In New Mexico

8.1% of parents make career sacrifices due to child care issues.15

Labor force participation of mothers with children under the age of 5 decreased from 65.6% in 2019 to 61.0% in 2021.16

Nationwide17

The percent of families that reported difficulty finding space in a home- or center-based program increased dramatically from 22% in December 2021 to 58% in January 2022.

71% of parents report that difficulty finding child care has impacted their ability to work.
New Mexico Early Learning and Care Snapshot

High Price of Care
Too often, the care that is available costs more than families can afford.

Annual Price of Infant Care in New Mexico

Center-Based $9,587 per year
Married Parents 12.2% Single Parent 39.5%

Home-Based $8,330 per year
Married Parents 10.6% Single Parent 34.3%

Low Compensation for Early Educators

Despite the critical nature of their work, early educators are among the most underpaid workers in the nation.

$10.00 Child Care Workers Hourly Rate

$20,800 Child Care Worker Est. Annual Salary

$15,080 Federal Minimum Wage

Nationally, child care workers make less than 98% of all occupations.

The Temporary Impact of ARPA Funding

In New Mexico, 10,307 child care spots were saved by ARPA funds.

Of providers who received stabilization grants:

92% said funding helped them stay open.

46% used funds to pay debts taken on in the course of the pandemic, including

75% used funds for compensation but still struggle to provide competitive wages and benefits.

63% of those in family child care homes.

1This figure includes beneficiaries of Head Start, Early Head Start, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV), state-funded Pre-K, and the individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Parts B, F, and C, in some cases, children and families are served by more than one program.