

EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS AND COST ANALYSIS



The Reality

The poverty rate for children in New Mexico is the worst in the nation. The impact of poverty is significant.

High-quality early education and care opportunities can alleviate some of the negative impacts of poverty and ensure that all children receive a great start and enter school prepared for success.

Investments in high-quality early care and education yield a positive return on investment

The Analysis

On an annual basis, the New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership (NMECDP) develops a comprehensive needs and cost analysis. The recommendations outline an aggressive State General Fund appropriation increase in the areas of **home visiting, child care assistance, NM PreK and workforce development.**

This year's analysis is based on the fundamental question:

If New Mexico were to dramatically increase access to high-quality home visiting and child care and provide all three- and four-year-olds with access to full-day New Mexico PreK, how much would it cost and what would be the impact to children and families?

Early Childhood Principles:

- ✓ All children, regardless of socio-economic status or parental employment, can benefit from high-quality early education and care and should have access to it.
- ✓ Parents should have a range of early education and care options from which to choose.
- ✓ Participation should be entirely voluntary.

Essential Conditions for Further Investment:

- Ensure ongoing General Fund commitment
- Focus on quality
- Ensure accountability for outcomes
- Address unmet need
- Strengthen professional development
- Address the full continuum of supports for children 0-5

Home Visiting

In FY15, the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) received **\$10.6M** in state and federal funds to support home visiting. **2,224** families participated in home visiting.

The Home Visiting Accountability Act specifies program goals and outcomes and requires annual reporting.

2015 Early Childhood Comprehensive Needs and Cost Analysis		
	Additional Children*	Additional Funding*
SERVICES		
Home Visiting	7,335	\$28.6 million
Child Care	-	\$14.1 million
Pre-K	29,193	\$183.6 million
Total Services	36,528	\$226.3 million
CAPACITY		
INCENTIVES\$		\$4.6 million
T.E.A.C.H.®		\$4.9 million
Physical Capacity		\$75.3 million
Total Capacity		\$84.8 million
Total Recurring Capacity		\$9.5 million
Total Annual Expenditure		\$311.1 million
Total Recurring Annual Expenditure		\$235.8 million
*Figures may not sum due to rounding		

Families who participate in home visiting benefit from an array of services aimed at improving healthy births, parental nurturing, children’s physical and mental health, school readiness and family support.

The 2015 analysis recommends that an additional **7,335** standards-based home visiting slots be funded at a cost of **\$28.6M**.

Child Care Assistance

Currently, the State of New Mexico subsidizes child care for approximately **10,317** children, ages birth through five and **6,402** children, ages six through twelve, through the state Child Care Assistance Program (CCA).

State funding accounts for \$30M (31%) of the program’s \$96.6M 2016 appropriation, the remainder of which derives from a variety of federal sources including the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) block grants.

Children in households with incomes below 150% (an annual income of \$30,135 for a family of three) whose parents are working, seeking work, attending school or transitioning off TANF, are eligible to enroll in CCA.

New Mexico PreK

In 2016, an estimated **12,938** three- and four-year-olds will attend NM PreK in either half or full-day programs. Current state General Fund NM PreK appropriation is **\$51M**.

NM PreK produces positive impacts in language, literacy, and mathematics. More than 78 percent of children who completed NM PreK in the 2013-2014 school year scored at the level of “Accomplishing” or “Exceeds” on the PreK Observational Assessment.

The 2015 analysis recommends providing NM PreK to an additional **29,193** three and four-year olds at a cost of **\$183.6M** annually.

To learn more about the analysis, please contact NMECDP:

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