NM RECA School Reentry Childcare Support Project

Emily Hobbs

**Regional Childcare** 

Coordinator

## What is NM RECA?

- New Mexico Regional Education Cooperatives Association (NM RECA).
- Ten (RECs) located throughout New Mexico supporting school districts.
- RECs work with the New Mexico Public Education Department and other entities in creating opportunities to provide New Mexico children, families, schools, and communities with high-quality education and health services.

## NM School Reentry Project, Phase 1

- Summer 2020 September 2020
- Surveyed schools & childcare providers statewide to collect feedback on the challenges of remote learning & childcare in each community.
- Each community had different needs.
- Most communities had schools and providers who could benefit from collaborating and connecting
- We facilitated that connection.

### Successful Connections

Providers had needs around the increase or addition of school age kids at their site. They needed furniture for bigger kids, appropriate remote learning spaces, and training on remote learning platforms.

School districts often had desks and chairs to lend out, underutilized space on their campus, and training on their remote learning platforms.



Some areas had little or no childcare options. Coordinators reached out to major employers, churches, school districts and other community entities to help find solutions.

## Distributed Resources

<u>Temporary Friends, Family &</u> <u>Neighbors Program (FFN)</u>

<u>New Mexico Kids Resource &</u> <u>Referral</u>

**Childcare Options Flyer** 

Childcare Health & SafetyGrantSpanish App

# What's next?

Gather	Gather Information from schools, parents, and providers.
Connect	Connect community partners.
Assist	Assist communities to develop childcare solutions and transition to in-person learning.
Continue	Continue assisting parents who need options.
Continue	Continue to provide resources and information to community partners, schools, parents, and childcare providers.

What's the benefit for schools and students?

- Teachers and other district staff have unmet childcare needs.
  - Schools can provide childcare for their staff's kids without going through the full licensing process.
- Many providers have reached capacity under COVID-safe guidelines. However, if given the space, could set up temporary satilite sites to meet the childcare needs of the community and assist students in keeping up with their work.
  - Let your coordinator know if you have space which could be used as a satillite site.

## Economic & Systemic Impacts | 1. FOCUS

a tiered quality rating and improvement system (TQRIS) for providers

### **Benefits for child & family**

Essential Elements of Quality

- Full Participation of Each Child
- Health Promotion and Developmental Screenings
- Professional Qualifications
- Ratios and Group Size

#### **Benefits for providers**

Financial incentives & professional development

- Increase of the per child subsidy rate
- Designated consultant for adapting to all program needs
- Access to on-site or communitybased training, professional development, and technical assistance.
- Wage Supplement Program

# Economic & Systemic Impacts | 2. Scholarships

- Early Childhood Education is an industry currently receiving a huge investment through Scholarships at every level.
  Bachelors & Associates scholars receive full coverage for courses in an EC program, as well as funding for books.
- Visit <a href="https://ececdscholarship.org/scholarship-information/">https://ececdscholarship.org/scholarship-information/</a>
- Email info@ececdscholarship.org
- Call 505-224-ECEC (3232)



What's the point of all these focus groups, surveys, and conversations?



- The information we gather will go to the state of New Mexico PED & ECECD to inform their next steps around education and funding.
- **Stories Matter:** Health & Safety Grants for providers are a direct response to the needs we identified in phase one around the financial strain providers were experiencing.
- Potential support for parents, students, and educators can be influenced on what we learn over the next few months.
- Rural area needs are different from metro areas and we don't want them to be overlooked.

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