

# **Empowering Families Experiencing Homelessness Through a Holistic Delivery of Wrap-around Services**

Michelle Saenz- Adames, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, Jardin de los Niños

Jeff Hoehn, MPA, Executive Director, Cuidando Los Niños

## Jardin de los Niños

Our mission at Jardin de los Niños is to create new possibilities for homeless and near homeless children and their families through loving childcare, education, and the use of community resources.



**JARDIN DE  
LOS NIÑOS**

## Cuidando Los Niños

The mission of Cuidando Los Niños is to break the cycle of homelessness for children and families. We do this by providing the highest quality early childhood education, behavioral health services, supportive housing, workforce development and wrap around case management.



**Cuidando  
• Los Niños •**

# Roadmap to Wrap-around Services

- Early Childhood Education
- Health Screenings/Preventative care (Vision, Dental, Vaccinations, etc.)
- Home Visiting
- Food and Nutrition Services
- Housing Assistance Programs
- Income Assistance and Access to Benefits
- Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Mentoring Programs



# ACES and Children Experiencing Homelessness

- Children in these situations are five times more likely than other children to experience four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (“ACES”), putting them at greater risk of physical and behavioral health issues, not completing high school, unemployment, poverty, and criminal justice system involvement—all of which perpetuate cycles of homelessness.

*Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless, Inc. (2019, August). Housing and health care legislative health and human services committee.*

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20081419%20Item%209%20Housing%20and%20Health%20Care9.pdf>

# Supporting a Trauma-Informed Workforce

- Children who are experiencing homelessness have a greater likelihood of facing challenges such as food insecurity, low literacy, developmental delays, lack of access to vital services such as medical, dental and behavioral health/mental health services.
- When educators and staff who serve children have received Trauma-Informed training they are better equipped to deliver a responsive and holistic approach to serving the children within the classroom setting

Williams, M.E. *Integrating Early Childhood Mental Health and Trauma-Informed Care for Homeless Families with Young Children: Pragmatic Case Studies in Psychotherapy*, Volume 12, Module 2, Article 2, pp. 113-123.

# Behavioral Health for Families and Workforce

- Providing Behavioral and Mental Health Services on-site to support families and the workforce
  - Creating sustainability
  - Diversifying funding including medicaid
  - Providing Social Emotional Learning in the classroom setting
  - Supporting the workforce to receive trauma-informed trainings and best practices
  - Supporting the workforce to receive the Infant Mental Health Endorsement
  - Utilizing research based best practices to guide our service delivery model

# Collaboration and Wraparound Services

- Awareness and coordination of services with community partners creates a seamless model to access resources that elevate families
  - Warm handoffs are essential
- Wrap-around service creates a holistic approach to serving all families.
  - Individualizing the services to meet the needs of families
  - Offer programs to support parents in reaching their goals and stabilizing (mentoring program, food baskets, housing vouchers, homeless prevention support, basic needs support, etc.)

# Family Stories

- Brandon, Emily and Olivia:

[Cuidando Los Ninos 2021 – YouTube](#)

- Gaby's success story at Jardin de los Niños

<https://youtu.be/7Vfn2Q2bcGQ>



# A Note on Jardin de los Niños

- Jardin currently is at full capacity and continues to provide wrap-around services to the families who are on the waitlist.
- Jardin is currently launching the first phase of an expansion into the Hatch Community.
- Jardin has received \$1 million in Congressionally Directed Spending funding to support the Hatch expansion—Jardin is seeking additional Capital Outlay funds to support this expansion.

# A Note on Cuidando Los Niños

- Currently our program is at capacity. We are located at the John Marshall Center which is a City of Albuquerque owned facility and have been in partnership with the City since 1990. We are working with City of Albuquerque and State of New Mexico to secure additional Capital Outlay to expand our facility and serve more families.
- Just under \$2 million dollars in Capital Outlay has been designated for the project and we will be seeking an additional \$3 million in the upcoming legislative session.
- The expansion will include 3 additional classrooms, a cafeteria/community room and space for offices. This will double our capacity to serve 100 children and their families.

# Questions and Contact information

Michelle S. Adames, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, Jardin de los Niños:

Phone: 575.522.2111

Email: [michelle.adames@jardinlc.org](mailto:michelle.adames@jardinlc.org)

Jeff Hoehn, MPA, Executive Director, Cuidando Los Niños

Phone: 505-506-9327

Email: [jeffh@clnabq.org](mailto:jeffh@clnabq.org)