

ACTION PLAN

Submitted by agency?	Yes
Timeline assigned?	No
Responsibility assigned?	No

Early Childhood Education and Care

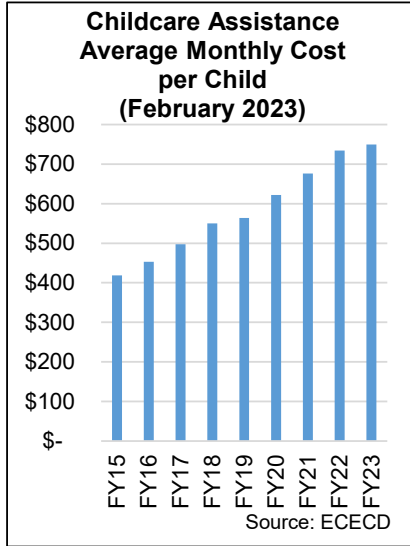
The Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) added several additional measures in FY23 for the early education prekindergarten program. However, these measures are annually measured and will not be reported until the close of FY23. National reported declines in math and reading proficiency for young children, due to the global pandemic, have elevated the importance for expanding early education programs to remedy the losses. LFC staff found participation in prekindergarten corresponds with a 10 percent increase in college entrance. Additionally, a large body of national research and LFC evaluations have consistently found prekindergarten programs increase math and reading proficiency for low-income 4-year-olds, lower special education and retention rates, and lessen the negative effects of mobility, or a child changing schools throughout the school year.

ECECD reported the Centennial Home Visiting Program has funded 933 slots in 15 counties, in partnership with nine home visiting providers. The department stated concerns that referrals are lower than expected resulting in only 380 families being enrolled. To improve referrals ECECD is working to develop relationships with birthing hospitals and advertise the program widely in the medical, maternal health field.

Family Support and Intervention

The program—composed primarily of the Family, Infant, Toddler (FIT) developmental disabilities intervention program, Families First case management program, and Home Visiting parental education and supports program—reported meeting performance targets for families demonstrating progress in positive parent-child interactions and children receiving regular well-child visits. These measures monitor Home Visiting progress in supporting new families to attain health and developmental goals for young children. The program also reported only 380 families enrolled in Medicaid-funded home visiting, well below the performance target of 1,500. Medicaid-funded Home Visiting allows the state to receive federal revenues to grow state services. Additionally, ECECD is developing a Medicaid billing system to streamline the billing process and eliminate the duplication of data entry for providers.

	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Target	FY23 Q1	FY23 Q2	FY23 Q3	Rating
Budget: \$68,850.3 FTE: 41							
Number of families enrolled in Centennial home visiting	135	299	1,500	382	380		R
Average annual number of home visits per family	27	NA	12	Reported Annually			
Percent of children enrolled in home visiting for longer than six months that receive regular well child exams as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics	NA	86%	80%	87%	87%		G
Percent of parents participating in home-visiting program for at least eight months who demonstrate progress in practicing positive parent-child interactions	74%	73%	75%	77%	76%		G
Percent of women enrolled in families first and home visiting who are eligible for Medicaid who access prenatal care in the first trimester	NA	93%	75%	92%	92%		G
Percent of children participating in the family infant toddler program for at least six months who demonstrate substantial increase in their development as measure by the early childhood outcomes tool	NA	76%	75%	78%	78%		G



Percent of women who are pregnant when they enroll in home visiting who access postpartum care

NA	80%	90%	71%	71%	Y
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Percent of women who are pregnant when they enroll in Families First who access postpartum care

NA	80%	90%	95%	97%	G
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Percent of eligible infants and toddlers with individual family service plan for whom an initial evaluation and initial assessment and an initial individual family service plan meeting were conducted within the forty-five-day timeline

NA	NA	100%	92%	88%	Y
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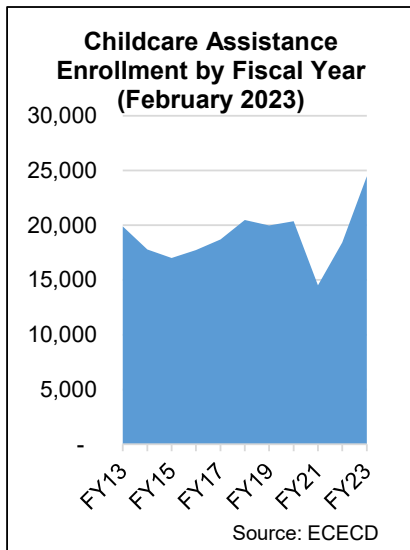
Program Rating

R	Y	Y
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*Measure is classified as explanatory and does not have a target.

Early Education, Care, and Nutrition

The Early Education, Care, and Nutrition Program, primarily composed of Childcare Assistance and the Family Nutrition Bureau, met all performance targets. Prior to the pandemic, Childcare Assistance average monthly enrollment had been relatively flat, ranging between 18 thousand and 20 thousand children a month. However in fall 2020, enrollment declined significantly to 15 thousand. In FY21, average monthly enrollment was 14.5 thousand. The average monthly cost per child, however, increased to \$676, or \$8,117 annually. At the close of FY22, monthly enrollment has continued to increase from nearly 22 thousand, and the average monthly cost continued to grow to \$734, or \$8,810 annually. In April 2022, ECECD announced Childcare Assistance income eligibility would increase to 400 percent federal poverty level (FPL) and all co-payments would be waived. As of February 2023, average monthly enrollment in FY23 was 24,480 and with an average monthly cost of \$749, or \$8,991 annually.



	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Target	FY23 Q1	FY23 Q2	FY23 Q3	Rating
Budget: \$271,105.6 FTE: 146							

Percent of infants and toddlers participating in the childcare assistance program enrolled in childcare programs with four- or five-stars

NA	60%	40%	58%	57%	G
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Average monthly copay as a percentage of monthly income

NA	NA	10%	0%	0%	G
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Program Rating

R	Y	G
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*Measure is classified as explanatory and does not have a target.

Prekindergarten

During the pandemic, all public school and most private school prekindergarten programs were forced to close in-person programs and conduct programs virtually. In spring 2021, virtual class sessions lasted on average approximately 30 minutes to 45 minutes, depending on children's ability to remain attentive and parents' abilities to assist and support their children in remote learning. The pandemic also resulted in the programs being unable to assess children and provide the data. In FY21, ECECD contracted for 13,608 prekindergarten and early prekindergarten slots. The program did not meet targeted performance for FY22. FY23 performance will be reported at the close of the fiscal year.

PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD

Early Childhood Education and Care Department

Second Quarter, Fiscal Year 2023

	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Target	FY23 Q1	FY23 Q2	FY23 Q3	Rating
Budget: \$111,043.6 FTE: 11							
Percent of children who were enrolled for at least six months in the state-funded prekindergarten program who score at first step for K or higher on the fall observation kindergarten observation tool	No Report	54%	75%				Reported Annually
Percent of children participating in the state-funded New Mexico prekindergarten program (public and private) for at least six months showing measurable progress on the school readiness spring preschool assessment tool	No Report	92%	90%				Reported Annually
Percentage of children who participated in a New Mexico Pre-K program, for at least nine months, that are proficient in math in Kindergarten	NA	NA	37%				Reported Annually
Percentage of children who participated in a New Mexico Pre-K program, for at least nine months, that are proficient in literacy in Kindergarten	NA	NA	32%				Reported Annually
Measure							

Program Rating R Y

*Measure is classified as explanatory and does not have a target.

Policy, Research, and Quality

The Policy, Research and Quality Program's primary purpose is to manage initiatives to improve the quality of early childhood education and care programs and professional development support for providers. The program also provides data assessment and support in addition to policy development for the department. The program leads the state's childcare tiered quality rating and improvement system, Focus. The department reported meeting both targeted performance measures for Focus but did not report on the professional development performance measure.

	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Target	FY23 Q1	FY23 Q2	FY23 Q3	Rating
Budget: \$21,101.2 FTE: 29.5							
Percent of early childhood professionals, including tribal educators, with degrees or credentials in early childhood fields	NA	NA	45%	Not Reported	Not Reported		R
Percent of licensed childcare providers participating in FOCUS tiered quality rating and improvement system	NA	51%	60%	63%	64%		G
Percent of licensed childcare providers participating in Focus tiered quality rating and improvement system at the four- and five-star level	NA	60%	50%	61%	60%		G
Program Rating		Y					Y

*Measure is classified as explanatory and does not have a target.