

The Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) added several additional measures in FY23 for the early education prekindergarten program. Several measures are annually reported at the close of FY23. The global pandemic has led to reported decreases in math and reading proficiency among young children on a national scale. As a result, there is a heightened significance in expanding early education programs to address these setbacks. Research conducted by the LFC indicates enrollment in prekindergarten is linked to a 10 percent increase in college enrollment rates. Furthermore, an extensive body of national research and consistent evaluations by the LFC have demonstrated that prekindergarten programs consistently enhance math and reading proficiency for economically disadvantaged 4-year-olds. These programs also contribute to the reduction of special education placements and grade retention rates, while mitigating the adverse impacts of student mobility—such as changing schools during the academic year.

Family Support and Intervention

The program primarily consists of three components: the Family, Infant, Toddler (FIT) developmental disabilities intervention program, the Families First case management program, and the Home Visiting parental education and support program. This program has achieved its performance targets, particularly in terms of families making progress in cultivating positive parent-child interactions and ensuring children receive regular well-child visits. These metrics serve as indicators of the Home Visiting program's success in assisting new families in achieving health and developmental milestones for their young children. However, recent LFC research indicates only 7 percent of families complete the program, meaning families are not receiving the full benefit of the services.

Furthermore, the program has reported an enrollment of only 440 families in the Medicaid-Funded Home Visiting program. While this falls short of the performance target of 1,500, it does represent an increase from the previous fiscal year. Notably, Medicaid-Funded Home Visiting brings in federal revenues that contribute to expanding state services. Should the state intend to further develop home visiting services, it is advisable to prioritize federal Medicaid funds as a source of revenue.

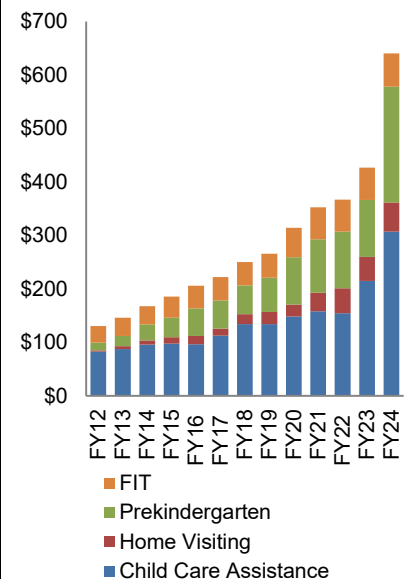
Budget: \$68,850.3 **FTE:** 41

	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Target	FY23 Actual	Rating
Number of families enrolled in Medicaid home visiting	135	299	1,500	440	R
Average annual number of home visits per family	27	NA	12	19	G
Percent of children enrolled in home visiting for longer than six months who receive regular well-child exams as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics	NA	86%	80%	88%	G
Percent of parents participating in Home Visiting for at least eight months who demonstrate progress in practicing positive parent-child interactions	74%	73%	75%	79%	G

ACTION PLAN

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

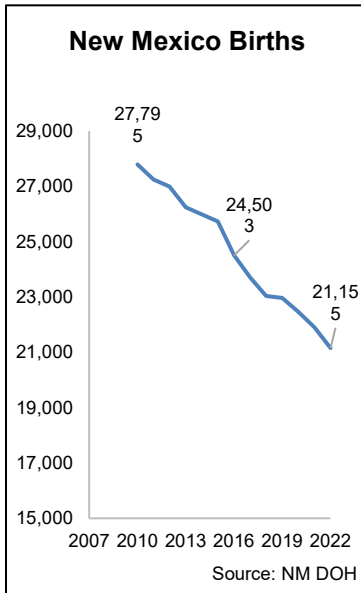
Recurring Early Childhood Funding History*
(in millions)



*Note: Federal Head Start program and State K-12 Plus and Early Literacy programs not included

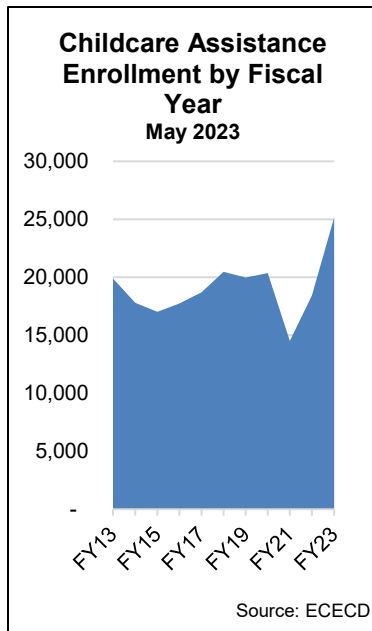
Source: ECECD/LFC Files

Early Childhood Education and Care



Budget: \$68,850.3 **FTE:** 41

	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Target	FY23 Actual	Rating
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%	90%	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%	Not Reported	R
Percent of women who are pregnant when they enroll in Home Visiting who access postpartum care	NA	80%	90%	75%	Y
Percent of women who are pregnant when they enroll in Families First who access postpartum care	NA	80%	90%	96%	G
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%	93%	Y
Program Rating	R	Y			Y



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 of the federal poverty level (FPL) and all copayments would be waived. As of May 2023, and average monthly enrollment in FY23 was 25,163 and with an average monthly cost of \$746, or \$8,953 annually.

Budget: \$271,105.6 **FTE:** 146

	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Target	FY23 Actual	Rating
Percent of infants and toddlers participating in the Childcare Assistance Program enrolled in childcare programs with four- or five-stars	NA	60%	40%	58%	G
Average monthly co-pay as a percentage of monthly income	NA	NA	10%	0%	G
Program Rating	R	Y			G

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. Going in to FY24, the Legislature funded a historic expansion and ECECD contracted for 13,344 prekindergarten and 4,188 early prekindergarten slots. The program did not meet targeted performance for FY22. The program met targeted performance at the close of FY23 performance.

Budget: \$111,043.6 **FTE:** 11

	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Target	FY23 Actual	Rating
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%	93%	G
Percent 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%	63%	G
Percent 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%	60%	G
Program Rating	Y	R			G

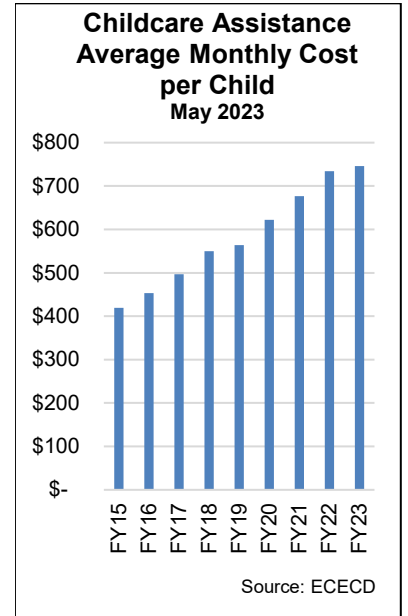
Policy, Research and Quality

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 was unable to provide early childhood workforce information.

Budget: \$21,101.2 **FTE:** 29.5

	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Target	FY23 Actual	Rating
Percent of early childhood professionals, including tribal educators, with degrees or credentials in early childhood fields	NA	NA	45%	Not Reported	R
Percent of licensed childcare providers participating in Focus tiered quality rating and improvement system	NA	51%	60%	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%	60%	G
Program Rating		Y			Y

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



Estimated ROI from Potential Home Visiting Programs in New Mexico

Program Name	Benefit to Cost Ratio (rounded to nearest dollar)	Effect Size (ES) Cost Matrix
Nurse Family Partnership	\$5-\$10	Large ES/ High Cost
Triple P*	\$9-\$14	Small ES/ Low Cost
Other Home Visiting for At-Risk Families^	\$2-\$4	Medium ES/ High Cost
Parents as Teachers	\$1-\$2	Medium ES/ Moderate Cost
Healthy Families America	\$1	Medium ES/ High Cost
Family Connects	\$1	Small ES/ Low Cost
Early Head Start	\$0	Minimal ES/ High Cost

Note: Cost of Family Connects based on Durham Connects 2014 adjusted for inflation. Some programs may have other benefits, but these currently are not monetized. Outcomes from WSIPP, other than First Born, are from a 2019 Kilburn and Cannon article. Some ROI analysis (NFP, PAT, EHS) has a range based on previous LFC reports with variance due to model changes. ^Other home visiting programs for at risk families may provide a proxy for First Born home visiting, which was not included due to limited research allowing for monetization.

Source: LFC Analysis Using Pew Results First Analysis with New Mexico Data Where Possible