
Project Summary / Abstract

Project Title: New Mexico Preschool Development Grant - Birth to Five (PDG B-5)

Applicant Name: New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

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New Mexico has conceptualized an ambitious vision where *each and every child, prenatal to age five, and their families in New Mexico will have equitable access to quality early learning opportunities to support their development, health and well-being ensuring they are ready to succeed in kindergarten and beyond*. Substantial progress has been made over the past few years, but too many of our children are still lagging behind in school readiness and wellbeing, particularly high-need under-served communities. Work remains to be done to ensure implementation of a comprehensive, aligned early learning system to support all young children with a special attention to vulnerable and under-served populations. The NM PDG B-5 project is built around three principle-focused goals:

1. **Collaboration and Coordination.** Early learning stakeholders partner at all levels to achieve a coordinated, aligned, efficient, & accountable statewide early learning system
2. **Equitable Access.** Parents have knowledge and access to community resources and comprehensive early learning services
3. **Quality.** Children are ready to succeed in kindergarten and beyond

These principles anchor the project to a theory of change and logic model that will guide a system improvement approach, where activities inform each other in a cohesive and aligned manner, including: (1) statewide birth - 5 needs assessment; (2) statewide strategic plan; (3) maximizing parent knowledge and choice; (4) sharing best practices with early learning providers; and (5) improving overall quality of early learning services. Specific activities include: enhancing an integrated data system to provide better information on families, programs, workforce, including gaps; supporting investment zones; parent leadership and family engagement training; statewide early learning campaign and expanding resource and referral; and training and coaching for providers with emphasis on culturally and linguistically responsive approaches.

New Mexico has assembled a talented and dedicated team for the project. However, we are aware that the success of the project will require engaging with a wide array of stakeholders at the community and statewide level to build a quality mixed delivery early learning system to meet the needs of young children and their families.