



2009-2012 NEW MEXICO EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE STATE SYSTEMS STRATEGIC PLAN Vision and Goals

Early Childhood System-Building Vision

New Mexico's Early Childhood Systems will be aligned to promote access of families to state-funded early childhood services through a comprehensive approach encompassing family-centered principles.

HEALTH: Children, their families, and pregnant women have access to continuous preventive, acute, and chronic health care, including physical, nutritional, behavioral, mental, and oral health.

DEVELOPMENT: Young children's developmental concerns are addressed prior to school entry.

EARLY LEARNING: Families have equitable access to high quality learning and care that promotes their child's optimal development, school readiness, and success in school and life.

INVESTMENT: The public and private sector invest in young children and their families to promote healthy development and school readiness to improve the quality of life for all New Mexicans.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: New Mexican citizens understand the importance of early childhood development and are actively engaged in supporting policies and programs that help children and families thrive.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT: Families nurture their child's optimal development, are strong advocates for their child's needs, and are engaged in designing the early childhood services that they use.

FAMILY FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES AND SERVICES: Families, including families of children with special health care needs, have equitable access to a continuum of comprehensive AND aligned early childhood services and systems in their community performed by providers knowledgeable and trained in early childhood and family support.

HEALTH GOALS:

1. Work with the *Office of the Governor's Council on Women's Health* to develop and implement a holistic reproductive health agenda that ensures that women have the ability to choose whether, when, where, and how to have a child, are supported through pregnancy, and are able to mother with dignity.
2. Develop a statewide system of voluntary home visiting for pregnant women and new families that supports the health, learning, and development of young children and their families.
3. Develop and implement strategies that promote childhood safety and reduce intentional and unintentional injury in early care and educational settings, communities, schools, homes, and other locations where children receive care.

DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

1. Provide universal developmental screening at recommended intervals during the first five years of a child's life.
2. Improve access and availability of early intervention services for children and their families.
3. Strengthen utilization and quality of *Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, & Treatment (EPSDT)* program in Medicaid.
4. Promote social and emotional development of young children and their families in health care settings (medical home), early care and educational settings, and all other early childhood development programs.

EARLY LEARNING GOALS:

1. Increase quality of early care and education programs for children birth through age eight.
2. Increase access to voluntary early care and education programs for children birth through age eight.
3. Increase access to voluntary *Pre-Kindergarten* in New Mexico communities.
4. Facilitate increased parental involvement in childhood learning and school success.

INVESTMENT GOALS:

1. Partner with business leaders, policy makers, and philanthropy at local, tribal, and state levels to develop and implement a long range early childhood investment and financing plan that is tied to stable funding, as well the reduction of poverty in New Mexico.
2. Partner with policy makers to analyze policy and budget decisions that impact the ability of families to promote their children’s well-being.
3. Partner with the *Children’s Cabinet* to monitor and improve the well being of young children and their families.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT GOALS:

1. Work with the *New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership* to develop and implement a strategic communication and public engagement plan to increase public awareness of the importance of early childhood development so as to heighten it as a priority within state and local community agendas.
2. Work with the *Office of Philanthropic Outreach* to actively develop relationships with foundations and other funding sources outside of state government to support public engagement efforts.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT GOALS:

1. Educate, involve, and empower family leaders in advocacy and policy development in partnership with state/local/tribal systems to assure early childhood development programs are responsive to family needs.
2. Provide families with the information, resources, skills, and knowledge they need to parent successfully and nurture their child’s optimal development.
3. Educate families and the public about optimal child development, health and safety, and social and emotional growth of young children.

FAMILY FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES AND SERVICES GOALS:

1. Develop structures and strategies to lead and coordinate key early childhood services at the state and community level.
2. Improve coordination and collaboration among the various parts of the early childhood system for children birth through age eight and their families.
3. Partner with business and civic leaders to develop family friendly business practices that increase economic productivity and support families to promote their children’s development.

Endorsed 2009

By the New Mexico Health and Human Services Cabinet Secretaries

