



New Mexico Association for the
Education of Young Children

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The New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children (NMAEYC) is the strongest voice for Early Childhood Professionals in New Mexico. NMAEYC envisions a respected, educated professional workforce providing developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive, high-quality, early care and education.

NMAEYC promotes quality care and education for the wellbeing of all young children, birth to eight, through professional development and advocacy. NMAEYC believes every child in New Mexico deserves a great start and advocates for increased investments in early care and education so children thrive and find success in school and their lives.

2020 Legislative Priorities

- **Development of stable and long-term funding sources for the full continuum of early childhood services.**

NMAEYC supports a constitutional amendment to provide an additional 1 percent annual distribution from the Land Grant Permanent Fund and earmark it for early childhood education and care services in order to provide a sustainable and predictable revenue stream. (HJR 1 – Permanent Funds for Early Childhood, Representatives Moe Maestas and Javier Martinez)

NMAEYC supports efforts to create an Early Childhood Trust Fund, which would establish a permanent funding source over time for early childhood and care investments in our children. (SB 3 and HB 83 – Early Childhood Education & Care Fund, Senator John Arthur Smith and Representative Doreen Gallegos)

- **Increased investments in early childhood education and care services**

NMAEYC supports the Executive Budget Recommendation for investments in early childhood education and care services. The Executive Budget Recommendation increases early childhood education and care programs by \$74 million (recurring funding). This increased investment will help serve an additional 4,100 children in families needing childcare assistance, provide wage supplements for more than 3,000 childcare providers statewide, and expand pre-K and home visiting services for New Mexico families.

- **Investments in and support of professional development and continuous quality improvements for early childhood professionals and programs, birth to age eight, to recognize, honor, and sustain the current workforce in the field of early childhood.**

NMAEYC supports the creation of wage supplements for early childhood professionals to incentivize retention and professional development. The annual media wage for childcare teachers in New Mexico is \$19,740, 13 percent below the national average of \$22,290. Additionally, 26 percent of childcare workers in New Mexico used Medicaid in 2019. (HB 86 – Early Childhood Care and Workforce Support Program, Representatives Christine Trujillo and Patricia Roybal Caballero)

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