



New Mexico Association for the
Education of Young Children

An affiliate of **naeyc**

For Immediate Release

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The NMAEYC Calls on NM State Leaders to Provide Permanent Funds for Early Childhood Care

Quality childcare is vital to economic strength and stability

Albuquerque, NM. Childcare providers are vital to our State's economies. It's common sense that industry, business, and government employees with young children need access to quality childcare in order to obtain and retain their jobs. Given our State economy, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and New Mexico's legislators must provide financial support through but not limited to HJR 1 to ensure that a robust early childhood system exists and is available to parents as they return to work and struggle through the current financial times. Thus, the NMAEYC has announced our legislative priorities for the 2023 Legislative Session.

We urge consideration of the following recommendations for New Mexico's economic reform:

- First, with the passing of the Early Childhood Constitutional Amendment, *Permanent Funds for Early Childhood*, HJR 1, it is essential to create and implement a plan that provides reliable and sustainable funding for this crucial sector of our state.
- Second, ensure State funding that will allow the early learning and care system to pay staff with benefits, cover fixed costs, and service expansion.
- Third, continue to support centers that remained open during the COVID 19 pandemic with continued financial support for revenue loss and essential COVID supplies and protective equipment.
- Fourth, support efforts in capacity building for New Mexico's child care centers and work towards increasing quality childcare in all areas of the state by getting children off long wait lists.

NMAEYC Executive Director Alicia Borrego elaborated on the organizations legislative priorities, "New Mexico's economic development strategies starts with the essential early childhood workforce. Our long-term economy is dependent on an early childhood system that works for every family. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and New Mexico's legislators must provide permanent financial support to ensure the existence of a robust early childhood system that is available to parents as they return to work."

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The New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children promotes quality care and education for the well-being of ALL young children, birth to eight, through professional development and advocacy. We work to develop and nurture a more respected, educated, and professional workforce that provides developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive, high quality, early care, education and services for the children of New Mexico.