



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 25, 2021**

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## **ECECD to Announce Major Child Care Assistance Expansions on Department's One Year Anniversary**

SANTA FE – On Thursday, July 1, the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) will announce a significant increase in its child care assistance rates. New Mexico is the first state in the nation to receive approval from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care to use a cost estimation model to inform its child care assistance rate setting. The District of Columbia has also received this approval.

Additionally, ECECD will announce how it intends to use a portion of its federal relief funding to expand eligibility to child care assistance. Taken together, these changes will help increase access and quality in the state's child care industry and help remove barriers that could prevent New Mexicans from reentering the workforce as the pandemic subsides and the economy reopens.

These announcements will coincide with the first anniversary of ECECD's official launch on July 1, 2020, which the department will celebrate with a "birthday party" featuring state leaders instrumental to the department's creation.

### **WHAT:**

Press Conference announcing child care assistance rates and child care assistance eligibility expansion, followed by a celebration of ECECD's first year anniversary.

Due to venue capacity limitations and security requirements, this will be an invite only event not open to the public. A livestream of the press conference and following anniversary celebration will be available on the ECECD Facebook page (@NewMexicoECECD).

### **WHEN:**

Thursday, July 1

- Press conference begins at 9:30 a.m.
- First Anniversary Celebration follows at 10:30 a.m.

**WHO:**

**[NOTE: For reasons of event security, the following lineup is for press planning purposes only – not for prior publication]**

**Press Conference:**

- Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
- Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky, ECECD
- Other speakers TBA

**Anniversary Celebration:**

- Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky, ECECD
- Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
- Lt. Governor Howie Morales
- Senator Michael Padilla
- Katherine Freeman, Executive Director for Growing Up New Mexico
- Assistant Secretary for Native American Early Childhood Education and Care Jovanna Archuleta, ECECD

**WHERE:**

PERA Building, Apodaca Auditorium (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
1120 Paseo de Peralta  
Santa Fe, 87506

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*The New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) launched in 2020, one of only four cabinet level agencies nationwide that consolidated all early childhood agencies under one roof. ECECD's mission is to optimize the health, development, education, and well being of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers through a family-driven, equitable, community-based system of programs and services. Learn more about how ECECD supports children, families, and the early childhood professionals that serve our communities at [nmececd.org](http://nmececd.org). On Facebook and Twitter as [@NewMexicoECECD](https://twitter.com/NewMexicoECECD).*

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