

Early Childhood Strategic Plan for New Mexico's Young Children Birth to Five



December, 2005
DISCUSSION DRAFT

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Building the Case for Investment in Young Children

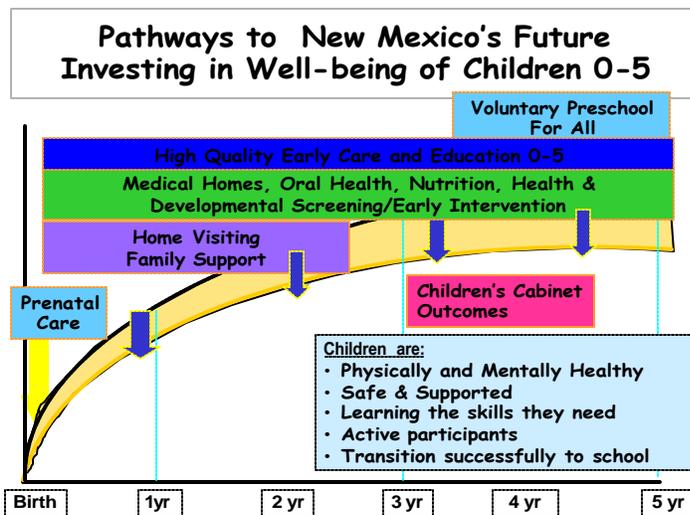
The most formative and crucial years in the development of a human being are from the womb to the kindergarten classroom. Development is enhanced through positive, nurturing and enriching experiences from caring and loving adults in safe and enriching environments. It is clear that young children thrive in healthy families and communities. Disparities in a young child's access to these positive and nurturing experiences by age six accounts for significant variance in educational achievement at age 18. Children who don't receive these positive early childhood experiences start school behind their peers and have trouble catching up.

We know what works to improve the wellbeing of young children and their families. There are specific early childhood development strategies that contribute significantly to the success of children in school and which reduce the achievement gap.

We can pay now to invest in our children or pay later in the form of special education, school failure, incarceration, welfare costs and lack of a well-educated work force. New Mexico has consistently ranked at the bottom of National Children's Report Cards as an unhealthy place in which to raise children. New Mexico has been ranked as one of the poorest states in the nation. Increasingly, links are being made between the unhealthy state of our children and the poverty of our economy.

There are few economic development strategies that yield higher returns on investment than early childhood development programs. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis researchers¹ have identified that investing in early childhood programs produces an annual rate of return of 16% of which 80% accrues to the general public. In contrast, subsidies to corporations, a common economic development strategy, yields negligible rates of return and almost no return to the general public. Investing in New Mexico's youngest children is one of the most powerful economic development tools that we have to improve New Mexico's economic future.

What will it take to improve the well-being of New Mexico's children birth to five



All families need community supports and services to raise healthy, productive children.

Critical ingredients for families to achieve success are listed in Figure 1. These critical interventions can be considered as New Mexico's investment portfolio for the future well-being of the state.

¹Rob Grunewald and Arthur J. Rolnick. (2003) *Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return*. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

WHAT DO FAMILIES NEED?

The needs of families change depending upon where they are in the life cycle. Families need a balanced service delivery system. Our current crisis oriented system of service fails to support families in meeting their basic needs.

In New Mexico, public expenditures on children birth to five were approximately \$282 million in FY 2004. While this investment of our tax dollars is important to promote the well-being and positive development of our children as they grow to be healthy adults, in New Mexico we continue to spend more money on fixing problems resulting from a failure to invest. A key principle is that it is more *caring* and also more *cost effective* to promote healthy child and youth development from the beginning of life than to spend money treating more expensive problems later on

The following table presents what it will take to invest in families that is based on a balanced portfolio of investment in prevention, early intervention and services to high risk families.

The Needs of Families with Children Birth to Five

	Physical & Mental Health	Education & Early Learning	Safety & Support
	ALL FAMILIES		
Primary Prevention	Women's Health Care	Parent Education	Home Visiting
	Family Planning	Parents as Teachers	Parent to Parent Support Groups
	Pregnancy Related Services	Child Development	Transportation
	Oral Health Care	Family Literacy	Employment
	Developmental Screening	High Quality Child Care	Promoting Social and Emotional Development
	Well-Child Care	High Quality Preschool	
	Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health		
	Infant Nutrition		
	Breastfeeding Promotion		
	Health Insurance		
	FAMILIES WITH RISK FACTORS		
Risk Reducing Interventions	Early Intervention	Teen Parenting Education	Case Management
	Mental Health Services	Head Start	Financial Assistance
	Special Health Care for teens, single mothers & mothers w/ risk factors	Child Care Centers for teen parents	Family Preservation
	Substance Abuse Services		Family Resource Centers
	Family Therapy		
	Nutritional Services		
	HIGH RISK FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS		
Intensive Intervention	Specialized Health Services	Special infant/toddler growth and development education.	Home Based Services
	In-Home Health Services Physical, Speech & Occupational Therapies	Inclusive Child Care	Case Management Respite
	Specialized Hospital Services for high risk pregnancies, medically fragile, developmentally disabled.		Homemaker Services
			Homes for Medically Fragile Children of Incarcerated Parents

VISION, MISSION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES & CHILD WELL-BEING OUTCOMES for New Mexico's Young Children Birth to Five

VISION:

Every Child and Youth deserves to have the opportunities, resources, and supports to reach their full potential. Raising our children and youth is a shared responsibility, in which families and communities work collaboratively with state and local agencies to make sure the well-being of New Mexico's children and youth are at the heart of all that we do. New Mexico's future depends on investing in our children and youth today.

MISSION:

The New Mexico Children's Cabinet oversees and coordinates cross-departmental efforts that include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting and establishing comprehensive policies that impact children and youth
- Assessing and maximizing resource allocation
- Removing administrative barriers to obtaining departmental services and assistance
- Tracking New Mexico indicators concerning child and youth well-being
- Encouraging partnerships that elevate the conversations, expertise, research, and action regarding New Mexico's Children and Youth

Source: New Mexico Children's Cabinet, 2004

GUIDING PRINCIPLES for families and children:

1. Available and Accessible: Services should be available and accessible; families get the help they need wherever they go, regardless of income.
2. Seamless: Families should experience the system as one system; there should be "no wrong door".
3. Culturally Competent: Services should be culturally sensitive to families.
4. Choice: Families should be able to make well-informed choices.
5. Family Focused: Services should be family focused rather than system focused.
6. Community-Based: Services should be well-integrated into communities and should be connected.
7. Inclusive: Families should feel their children are included.
8. Valuable: Families would see the system/services as valuable.
9. Respect: All families including those who are new to a community, are separate or reclusive, e.g., homeless, they should feel honored, respected, accepted and their preferences respected.
10. High Quality: Services should be consistently of high quality.
11. What is needed: Families should receive what they need in a way that makes them feel they got what they needed.
12. Systems Alignment: Every system would be moving in the same direction. Performance measurements would be the same across the service system.

Source: Children's Cabinet Work Group; May 28, 2004

INVESTMENT PRINCIPLES for transforming New Mexico's Early Childhood System:

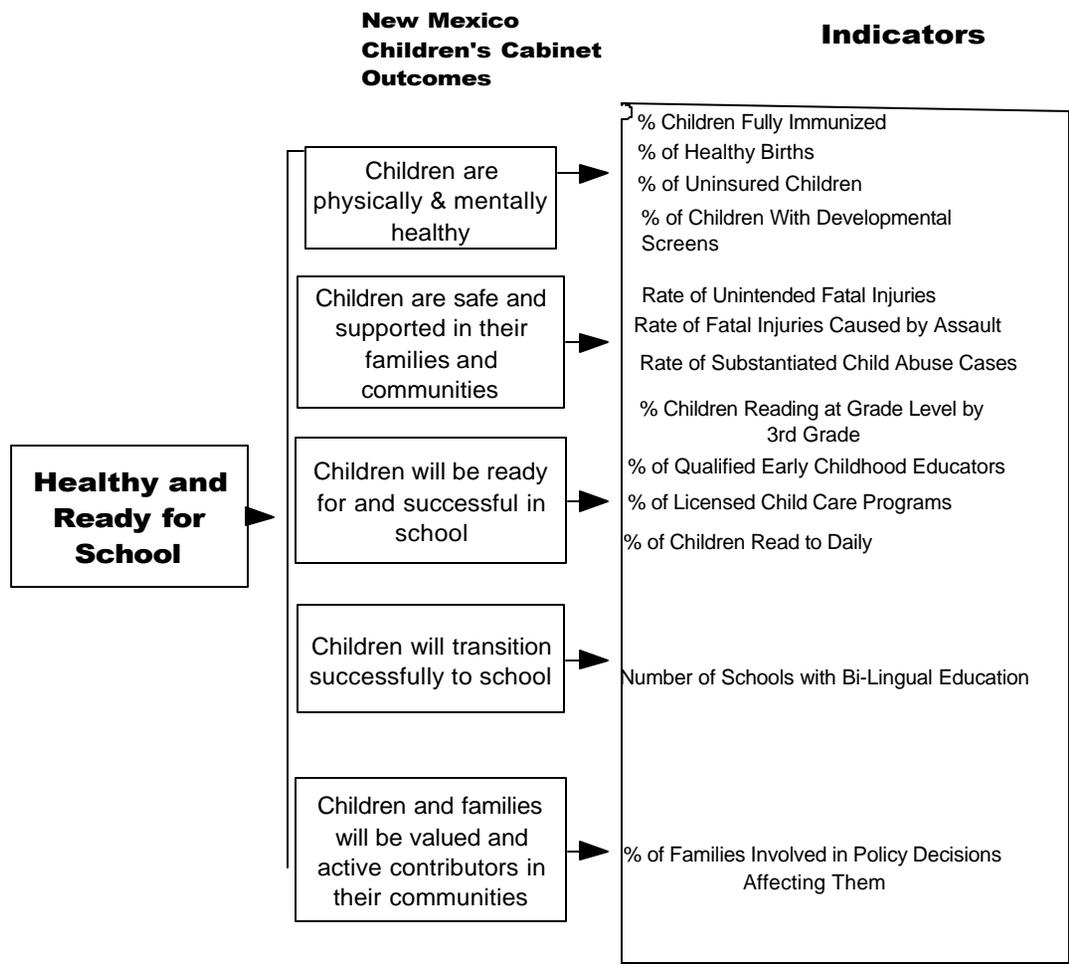
1. Children's Share of the Budget: Protect the Children's Share from funding cuts to their portion of State General Funds.
2. Invest in kids: Invest in young children to produce savings for New Mexicans in future years.
3. Invest in the well-being of families and communities.
4. No Wrong Door: Align and integrate the early childhood system so that children and families can easily access what they need.
5. Shift Funding: Shift funding from high cost services into programs that support the well-being of children and their families.
6. Early Childhood Financing Plan: Identify potential financing and investment strategies that assure a stable base level of funding.
7. Accountability: Create state accountability for improving early childhood outcomes utilizing the Children's Report Card to measure.
8. Return on Investment Analysis: Track return on investment performance by costing out bad results and return on investment analysis.

Source: Early Childhood Action Agenda, Early Childhood Action Network, June 2004

WELL-BEING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN BIRTH TO FIVE: (the reason for doing a strategic plan for New Mexico's young children)

- Outcome 1:** All children birth to five will be physically and mentally HEALTHY.
- Outcome 2:** All children birth to five will be SAFE and SUPPORTED.
- Outcome 3:** All children birth to five will LEARN the skills they need to support their individual goals.
- Outcome 4:** All children birth to five will be able to TRANSITION to school successfully.
- Outcome 5:** All children birth to five and their families are valued and their active participation promoted in their COMMUNITIES.

Source: New Mexico Children's Cabinet, 2004



INVESTMENT: Invest in young children to improve the quality of life for all New Mexicans and more effective use of public funds:

- Develop a long range investment and financing strategy
- Hold children harmless from budget cuts
- Strengthen accountability for early childhood well-being across state agencies providing early childhood services

HEALTH: Every child will have access to continuous, preventive, acute and chronic health care:

- Fully fund Medicaid
- Provide Continuous coverage for 12 months with no auto closure
- Ensure health insurance covers full range of preventive services for all children
- Ensure family involvement in Medicaid policy design and implementation

DEVELOPMENT: All developmental concerns in young children will be addressed prior to kindergarten:

- Improve quality of developmental services and supports provided through medical home, early learning and care settings, home visiting and WIC
- Strengthen utilization and quality of EPSDT program
- Strengthen screening for social-emotional development in medical home, early learning and care settings and WIC offices
- Home visiting for pregnant women and new families
- Develop an integrated parenting education and social marketing campaign to educate parents, public and policy makers about how to promote optimum early childhood development

EARLY LEARNING: High quality early learning and care programs will meet the needs of working families:

- Increase educational qualifications, training and reimbursement of early childhood educators
- Develop an early care and education system that integrates Pre-K and community based child care programs to meet the needs of children and working families.
- Strengthen child care assistance program

No WRONG DOOR: Ensure there is an integrated service system that families can easily use:

- Provide families accessible information about state early childhood services
- Develop web-based software interface to facilitate application for state EC services

PARENT PARTNERS: Parents and families are engaged as partners in developing policy and designing the services, supports and education they need to do the hard work of raising New Mexico's children:

- Develop a statewide formal network of family leaders to partner with policy makers and decision-makers to ensure a mechanism exists for families to have input into policies, program design and evaluation of early childhood services

New Mexico Early Childhood Strategic Plan OVERVIEW

Report Card on the Well-Being Status of New Mexico's Children Birth to Five

New Mexico's Intended Outcomes for Young Children

- ***All Children Birth to Five will be physically and mentally HEALTHY.***
- ***All Children Birth to Five will be SAFE and SUPPORTED.***
- ***All Children Birth to Five will LEARN the skills they need to succeed.***
- ***All Children Birth to Five will TRANSITION successfully to school.***
- ***All Children Birth to Five and their families will be valued and their active participation promoted in their COMMUNITIES.***



New Mexico Early Childhood Report Card:

A Progress Report on How are We Doing in Improving the Well-Being of Children Birth to Five?

Executive Summary

The Early Childhood Strategic Plan lays out a strategic direction for improving the well-being of New Mexico's young children, birth to five, by the year 2010. Initiated in 2004, the strategic plan identifies measures of well-being aligned with the five child well-being outcomes established by the New Mexico Children's Cabinet, that all children will be: healthy, safe and supported, and will learn, transition successfully, be valued by their communities. The plan includes recommended policy and investment strategies. To measure progress toward improvements for young children, the annual Early Childhood Report Card, reports out how we are doing and progress that has been made.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING:

If all children are physically and mentally healthy by 2010, children are wanted and pregnant women receive prenatal care; children are immunized, well nourished, and have access to health insurance, a comprehensive health, oral health and behavioral health services.

How Is New Mexico Doing in Health?

- Only 31% of births in New Mexico are to healthy mothers;
- The good news is that immunization rates have gone from 65% of all children being immunized to 71%;
- The number of uninsured children has decreased slightly, from 14% to 12% insured children.

SAFETY AND SUPPORT:

If all children are safe and supported by 2010, communities are free of violence, alcohol and substance abuse and 2nd hand smoke; children of incarcerated parents are being well cared for; communities are safe for young children and families to play and interact with other families; and, children are not having children.

How Is New Mexico Doing in Safety and Support?

New Mexico's record of assuring safety and support of its children is not very good.

- Twenty six percent (26%) of children live the poverty level compared to the national rate of 16%.
- In New Mexico, 5.2% of child fatalities are caused by assault. This is double national rate of 2.7% assault related fatal injuries in children.

EARLY LEARNING:

If all children are learning the skills they need to be successful in school, young children have access to quality early learning care provided by highly qualified and adequately compensated early childhood educators; no child reaches school with an undetected developmental condition; and, children enter school ready to learn.

How Is New Mexico Doing in Early Learning?

The investment New Mexico is making in the early learning system is beginning to show improvements in that 16% of all early childhood providers are now accredited (2005) compared to 14% in 2004; and, 96 early childhood teachers are enrolled in bachelor's degree program, up from 43 in 2004.

YOUNG CHILDREN WILL SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION TO SCHOOL:

If all children make the transition to school successful, children reach school with verbal skills, families are knowledgeable about child development, and early learning settings and Kindergarten are working together to assure smooth transition.

How Is New Mexico Doing in Assisting with Transition?

In 2004, 52% of children in 4th grade (an indicator of effective early childhood education) were reading at grade level.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ARE VALUED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES:

If all children and families are valued by their communities by 2010, families are involved in their child's education in schools and in the community; employers have family friendly policies that support working families; and, young children's families are earning real living wages.

How Is New Mexico Doing in Valuing Their Children and Families?

While there is little data available on this measure we do know that New Mexico scored a **C+** on parent partnerships in the new Making Schools Work Report Card released by Public Education Department.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE:

To effectively implement the strategic plan, investments strategies are needed.

How is New Mexico Doing in Enhancing its infrastructure?

An early childhood investment strategy is needed. Further system enhancements toward creating "No Wrong Door" to remove barriers to the service system.

Early Childhood Strategic Action Plan for New Mexico

Fiscal Years 2006-2012

The Six Early Childhood Overarching Strategies

1. **INVESTMENT:** Invest in young children to improve quality of life for all New Mexicans and more effective use of public funds.
2. **HEALTH:** Every child will have access to continuous preventive, acute and chronic **health** care.
3. **DEVELOPMENT:** All **developmental** concerns in young children will be addressed prior to kindergarten.
4. **EARLY LEARNING:** High quality **early learning** and care will meet the needs of working families.
5. **NO WRONG DOOR:** There will be **No Wrong Door** for families: An integrated state services system that families can easily use will be ensured.
6. **PARENTS AS PARTNERS:** Parents and **families** are **engaged as partners** in designing the services, supports and education they need to do the hard work of raising New Mexico's children.

**Early Childhood Strategic Action Plan
Fiscal Years 2006 – 2012**

Summary of the Strategies

- 1. INVESTMENT: Invest** in young children to improve quality of life for all New Mexicans and more effective use of public funds.
 - Develop long range investment and financing
 - Hold children harmless from budget cuts
 - Strengthen accountability for early childhood well-being across state agencies providing early childhood services

- 2. HEALTH:** Every child will have access to continuous preventive, acute and chronic **health** care
 - Fully Fund Medicaid
 - Provide continuous coverage for 12 months with no auto closure
 - Ensure health insurance covers full range of preventive services for all children
 - Ensure family involvement in Medicaid policy design and implementation

- 3. DEVELOPMENT:** All developmental concerns in young children will be addressed prior to Kindergarten
 - Improve quality of developmental services and supports provided through medical home, child care settings, home visiting programs & WIC
 - Strengthen utilization and quality of EPSDT program to address 5 Children's Cabinet Outcomes
 - Strengthen screening for socio-emotional development in medical home, child care setting and WIC offices
 - Home visiting for pregnant women and new families
 - Develop and integrated parenting education and social marketing campaign to educate parents, the public and policy makers about how to promote optimum early childhood development.

- 4. EARLY LEARNING:** High quality **early learning** and care will meet the needs of working families.
 - Strengthen child care assistance program
 - Increase educational qualifications and early childhood training for early childhood educators
 - Develop an early care and education system that integrates Pre-K and community based child care programs to meet the needs of children and working families.

- 5. NO WRONG DOOR:** Ensure there is an integrated service system that families can easily use
 - Provide families accessible information about state services
 - Develop web-based software interface to facilitate application for EC services

- 6. PARENTS AS PARTNERS:** Parents and **families** are **engaged as partners** in developing policy and designing the services, supports and education they need to do the hard work of raising New Mexico's children.
 - Develop a statewide formal network of family leaders to partner with policy leaders and decision-makers to ensure a mechanism exists for families to have input into policies, program design and evaluation of early childhood services.

Strategic Plan in Detail:

Recommendations and Actions	Change Needed	By When
<p>1. INVESTMENT: Invest in young children to improve the quality of life for all New Mexicans and more effective use of public funds.</p>		
<p>1.1 Develop a long range investment and financing strategy.</p>		
<p>1.1 a) Convene a group of public and private policy leaders and families to develop long range investment and financing strategies. A Governor Appointed Task Force to develop long range investment and financing strategies is recommended.</p>	Policy	FY 2007
<p>1.2. Hold all children, but especially young children, harmless when state budget cuts are being considered.</p>		
<p>1.2 a) Children's Cabinet to establish tools and a mechanism to review all policy and fiscal decisions that potentially could adversely impact current state early childhood system capacity.</p>	Policy	Annually
<p>1.3. Strengthen accountability for early childhood well-being across state agencies providing early childhood services</p>		
<p>1.3 a): Children's Cabinet Statute: Establish Children's Cabinet as official cross-agency entity to monitor and improve the well being of children.</p>	Policy	Done
<p>1.3 b): Children's Report Card: Institutionalize the process for tracking and analyzing the well-being of children and for developing strategies to improve well-being of children.</p>	Policy	Annually
<p>1.3 c): Children's Budget: Work with DFA and fiscal staff of each agency to refine templates developed for prototype early childhood budget during the SECCS planning process and to develop an efficient mechanism for tracking investment and to identify opportunities for braiding and maximizing funding.</p>	Policy	Annually
<p>1.4d): Strengthen cross-state agency work at the staff and front line worker level on comprehensive early childhood systems improvements.</p>	Policy	On-Going

Recommendations and Actions	Change Needed	By When
2. HEALTH: Every child will have access to continuous preventive, acute and chronic health care		
2.1 Fully fund Medicaid to ensure that all eligible children are fully insured.	Budget/Policy	FY 2007
2.2 Reinstate 12 month eligibility recertification for children with no auto closure	Budget/Policy	FY 2007
2.3: Ensure health insurance covers full range of preventive services for all children	Budget/Policy	FY 2007-2009
2.4: Ensure family involvement in Medicaid policy design and implementation	Policy	FY 2007

Recommendations and Actions	Change Needed	By When
3. DEVELOPMENT: All developmental concerns in young children will be addressed prior to Kindergarten		
3.1 Improve quality of developmental services and supports provided through medical home, child care settings, home visiting programs & WIC		
3.1 a): Review and recommend changes to content and periodicity schedule for developmental screenings for children birth to five based on 5 Children's Cabinet Outcomes, North Carolina Model & developmental trajectories of young children.	Policy	FY 2007
3.1 b) Examine incentives and disincentives within the service system to assure that children have access to appropriate developmental services.	Policy	FY 2007
3.1 c): Educate public and private child health providers about importance of developmental screening with validated tool.	Quality Improvement	FY 2006-2008
3.1 d): Educate early care and education professionals on developmental screening with validated tools.	Quality Improvement	FY 2006-2008
3.1 e): Develop recommendations for strengthening the early intervention system in New Mexico including linkages between Part C and WIC, medical homes and child care settings.	Policy	FY 2007
3.1 f): Increase parental expectations and understanding of need for medical and developmental screening.	Policy	FY 2006-2008
3.2: Strengthen utilization and quality of EPSDT program to address the five Children's Cabinet Outcomes		
3.2 a): Review current EPSDT requirements for comprehensive developmental assessment and screening compared to Bright Futures Health Supervision Guidelines.	Policy	FY 2006
3.2 b): Collaborate with professional organizations in developing recommendations for improving EPSDT child health supervision (unbundling the EPSDT Screen) guidelines to promote improved and comprehensive developmental assessment among public and private child health providers. Recommendations should include accountability for EPSDT screening to assure that guidelines are being met for Medicaid reimbursement.	Policy	FY 2006

Recommendations and Actions	Change Needed	By When
3.3: Strengthen screening for socio-emotional development in medical home, child care setting and WIC offices.		
3.3 a): Work with the Infant Mental Health Association to develop and prioritize implementation strategies in the New Mexico Infant Mental Health Strategic Plan.	Policy	FY 2006-2008
3.3 b): Assure availability of socio-emotional screening, consultation and treatment through the Single Behavioral Health Entity.	Policy	FY 2006-2008
3.4 Home Visiting for pregnant women and new families		
3.4 a): Develop a home visiting model for the State of New Mexico that spans the needs of young children and their families beginning at birth with a welcome baby visit providing more intensive interventions based upon the individualized needs of children. .	Budget/Policy	FY 2006 through 2012
3.4 b): Develop shared models and standards, tools, training and technical assistance home visiting resources for communities. Determine models that build on existing effective evidence-based programs and which best address 5 Children's Cabinet outcomes.	Practice	FY 2006
3.5: Develop integrated parenting education and social marketing campaign to educate parents, general public and policy makers about how to promote optimum early childhood development		
3.5 a): Review and catalogue all parenting education materials produced on a regular basis for families with children birth to 5.	Practice	FY 2006-2007
3.5 b): Convene parent focus groups to evaluate most effective and to determine the most effective mechanisms for distributing information to all parents of children birth to 5.	Practice	FY 2006-2007
3.5 c): Align on-going media and marketing happening in various state agencies to build public support for investing in young children.	Policy/Practice	FY 2006-2008

Recommendations and Actions	Change Needed	By When
4. EARLY LEARNING: High quality early learning and care will meet the needs of working families		
4.1: Strengthen child care assistance		
4.1 a): Increase eligibility of early care and education assistance to all children up to 200% of the federal poverty level.	Budget/Policy	FY 2007
4.1 b): Provide transition support to families off of 100% subsidized child care to support the ability of families to work.	Budget/Policy	FY 2007
4.1 c) Examine alternatives for including more children receiving child care subsidies including co-pays or other strategies.	Policy	FY 2007
4.1 d): Develop mechanisms for including children with special needs in child care settings. Such mechanisms should include addressing the training of child care providers and rate adjustments.	Policy/Budget	FY 2007
4.2: Increase educational qualifications and early childhood training for early childhood educators		
4.2 a): Support early childhood educators in attaining Associates of Art degrees in early childhood through TEACH scholarships.	Budget/Policy	FY 2006-2012
4.2 b): Support TTAP's to promote basic competency in child care programs; meeting licensing standards and support child care centers to achieve Start/AIM High Accreditation.	Policy	FY 2006
4.2 c): Fully fund AIM High.	Budget	FY 2006-2012
4.2 d): Wages: Establish a phase-in process to increase wages to child care providers who have achieved increased level of education.	Budget/Policy	FY 2006
4.3: Develop an early care and education system that integrates Pre-K and community based child care programs to meet the needs of children and working families.		
4.3 a): Expand pre-kindergarten services to additional sites throughout the state in ways that support quality improvements in all early childhood programs and provide adequate funds for programs required by Pre-K	Budget	FY 2006
4.3 b): Increase reimbursement rate for Pre-K programs.	Policy/Practice	FY 2006
4.3 c): Standards adopted for Pre-K need to be required for all early care and learning Birth to 8. The Children's Cabinet should review and adopt Early Learning Standards and Outcomes in the Early Learning Plan approved by the Child Development Board in August 2004.	Policy	FY 2006- 2008
4.3 d): Pre-Kindergarten instruction should be provided to young children in their native language to insure school success.	Practice	FY 2006

Recommendations and Actions	Change Needed	By When
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5. NO WRONG DOOR: Ensure there is an integrated service system that families can easily use

5.1: Develop a NO WRONG DOOR plan to remove barriers and to ensure a state early childhood system that families can easily access & use

<p>5.1 a): Convene a cross-agency group inclusive of front line workers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the information families get about other state agency programs. • Improve ease of application to state programs. • Evaluate web-based application interface program such as "UTAH CLICKS" for adoption in New Mexico. • Begin work on simplifying the application process for state programs. 	Practice	FY 2006
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Recommendations and Actions	Change Needed	By When
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6. PARENTS AS PARTNERS: Parents and families are engaged as partners in developing policy and designing the services, supports and education they need to do the hard work of raising New Mexico's children.

6.1: Develop a statewide formal network of family leaders to partner with policy leaders and decision-makers to ensure a mechanism exists for families to have input into policies, program design and evaluation of early childhood services.

<p>6.1 a): Conduct a Shared Leadership Conference to forge consensus between families and state policy makers, mid level managers, and a variety of other partners to develop specific recommendations to operationalize the principles of Family Support within the No Wrong Door state initiative and in workplaces in New Mexico.</p>	Practice	FY 2006
<p>6.1 b): Using the consensus document from the Shared Leadership Conference, implement the New Mexico Family Alliance to promote peer to peer family support and education as well as established mechanisms for input into state programs and policies.</p>	Policy	FY 2006

The Planning Process

The Public and Private Partners

The Planning Process

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Early Childhood Action Network:

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Diana Gonzales, CYFD

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David Martinez, DFA

Susan Nalder, DOH

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Linda McNall, CFYD

Joyce Naseyowma-Chalan, DOH

Mark Oldknow, CYFD

Judith Paiz, CYFD

***Victoria Parrill, DOH**

Jane Peacock, DOH

***Dianne Rivera, CYFD**

Kirk Rowe, CYFD

Dan Sandoval, CYFD

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Consultants:

Kathy Armijo Etre

Mark Friedman

Frances Varela

*** Indicates ECAN Steering
Committee Members**

How this Plan Was Developed:	
September, 2003:	New Mexico Department of Health received an 8 year grant from federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau to develop a New Mexico comprehensive early childhood strategic plan. Decision is made to use this grant to assist Lt. Governor with the early childhood component of Children's Cabinet work.
January, 2004:	Lt Governor Diane Denish appointed a group of 50 early childhood experts stakeholders and business leaders to develop comprehensive recommendations on how to address 5 Children's Cabinet outcomes for young children. First meeting held in Santa Fe to orient new members.
May 3, 2004:	Lt. Governor kicked off Early Childhood Action Planning Process in Albuquerque New Mexico. Mark Friedman facilitated a results-based accountability action planning session with 5 participants. Initial Early Childhood Action Plan Developed.
May 28, 2004:	Secretary Bolson convened a cross agency group of agency leaders on behalf of New Mexico Children's Cabinet to map state early childhood services and to map funding using Children's Cabinet Outcomes. Principles developed for family friendly services.
June, 2004:	Lt. Governor appoints the Early Childhood Steering Committee. The group names itself the Early Childhood Action Network. Lt. Governor charges group to develop a short term policy agenda for FY 2006 and to develop a long range comprehensive early childhood plan. ECAN continues to meet to refine EC plan initially developed in May.
June 9, 2004:	Large Results-Based Accountability training held for over 50 people at Futures for Children led by Mark Friedman to assist participants in early childhood planning process to understand the RBA methodology and use it.
June- October, 2004	Cross -Agency group consisting of representatives from Department of Health, CYFD, HSD, PED, Corrections develop indicators and collect data on funding for early childhood programs as follow-up to May 28 Early Childhood Mapping Meeting. This forms basis of first New Mexico Children's Cabinet Report card.
June - August, 2004	Early Childhood Action Network convenes multiple meetings and prepare "Pathways to New Mexico's Future: An Early Childhood Investment Agenda" to Lt. Governor on August 3, 2004. Pathways presented to 5 Cabinet Secretaries.
August-December, 2004	Work on Early Childhood Report Card and Early Childhood Children's budget continues
December, 2004	Large policy gathering ECAN to discuss FY 2006 legislative policy agenda. Presentations by Children's Cabinet Director and legislators on critical issue facing young children.
May 10, 2005	Developmental Screening Symposium held to flesh out recommendations presented in Pathways document related to strengthening New Mexico's developmental services system for young children birth to 5.

What is the Early Childhood Action Network?

A public/private broad-based policy advisory committee of diverse stakeholders established at the invitation of the Lt Governor. It's members includes families, early childhood experts from health, early learning education, child development, business, media and key state agency staff. The Network is charged with developing a state early childhood strategic plan as required by Federal State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant (Maternal Child Health Bureau, HRSA, DHHS). This group has been developing a New Mexico Early Childhood Agenda since the Spring of 2004.

*For documents produced during this strategic plan development process
Consult:*

www.earlychildhoodnm.com