

New Mexico Indian
Education Newsletter

Spring Edition
June 1, 2022

Cradle-to-Career



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood

Education & Care Department



NEW MEXICO

Public Education Department



NEW MEXICO
HIGHER EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT

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Dear Honorable Tribal Leaders,

Spring is here and has provided our educational agencies an opportunity to visit with your communities and inform Tribal Leadership on the success of the 2022 legislative session. This year, educational funding specific to Native American students has provided a budget of approximately \$56 million for Indian education from cradle-to-career.

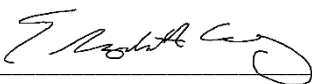
Under Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham administration, funding to support Native American students starting from birth has nearly tripled. The Indian Education Act fund has grown to \$15 million, early childhood received the first \$1.5 million to strengthen education and care and New Mexicans have access to tuition-free college through the Opportunity and Lottery Scholarships. Over the past few months, the Tribal Liaisons of ECECD, PED and HED have met with Tribal Leaders to personally relay the exciting news and provide clarity before FY23 begins.

The three education agencies remain committed to deepening relationships with Tribal Leadership and Tribal Education Departments (TEDs) and continue to collaborate with the Indian Affairs Department. As part of this commitment, we are sharing with you the spring edition of our Cradle-to-Career Newsletter. The newsletter will come out in four editions: Winter 2022, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, and Fall 2022.

This newsletter provides new leadership with an introduction to the respective education agencies as well as important agency updates. It will also highlight the collaboration among the three agencies and alignment between the state and Tribes on education efforts. In this edition we highlight legislative outcomes, programmatic overview and a farewell to Assistant Secretary Lashawna Tso.

While we have made significant progress, we know there is much more to be done. We stand ready to work in partnership, hand-in-hand, honoring the Government-to-Government relationship between the state and the 23 sovereign nations. In closing, we look forward to the new fiscal year and many opportunities to advance our children, build infrastructure and create a continuum of services starting at birth.

In Partnership



ECECD Cabinet Secretary, Elizabeth Groginsky



PED Cabinet Secretary, Kurt Steinhaus



HED Cabinet Secretary, Stephanie M. Rodriguez



IAD Cabinet Secretary, Lynn Trujillo

Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD)

Vision: All New Mexican families and young children are thriving.

Mission: Optimize the health, development, education, and well-being of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers through a family driven, equitable, community-based system of high quality prenatal and early childhood programs and services.



Agency Overview

The Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) has exciting news following the 55th Legislative Session. Under Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, New Mexico has for the first time, dedicated funding to strengthen and partner with the 23 Tribes, Pueblos and Nations' early childhood programs and services. An initial investment of \$1.5 million has been appropriated to increase access to early childhood programs. Funding will be allocated to each Tribe, Pueblo or Nation in consultation with Tribal Leaders to meet the vision of each community.

ECECD's Cabinet Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky and Assistant Secretary Jovanna Archuleta for Native American Early Education and Care have been visiting with Tribal Leaders

to provide an orientation to the new department and solicit guidance regarding sovereign nations' early childhood priorities in the upcoming fiscal year.

ECECD is also active in the planning efforts for the Government-to-Government Indian Education Summit where we will continue to look at how the state can support Native American education from cradle-to-career.

July 1st will mark the second year of ECECD as a cabinet-level department dedicated to improving outcomes for families and young children, prenatal to age five. Though our new department was officially established during the COVID pandemic, it did not define us. From day one, ECECD has been committed to the long-term goal of building a world-class system of support, education, and

care for children ages pre-natal to five. The agency administers programs and services that help families build resilience and thrive through adversity. We are here to lay a solid foundation for current and future generations of New Mexicans.

We are achieving this through stronger alignment across early childhood programs and services, cultivating community partnerships, and creating interlocking, mutually supportive referral systems to get children and families the help they need when they need it.

In that effort, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has announced family-focused initiatives including eliminating costs for child care for most New Mexico families, increasing capacity for child care services in areas lacking access, and supporting early childhood

professionals in achieving credentials and degrees. This dramatic expansion of cost-free services builds on the administration's prior work to provide affordable child care to more New Mexico families.

The centerpiece of this announcement is the expansion of free child care to qualifying families earning up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) – \$111,000 a year for a family of four. **Beginning May 1, 2022, all families enrolled in the state's Child Care Assistance Program will have their co-payments waived for one year, making child care free.**

Previously, only families at 200 percent FPL or below qualified for waived co-payments. ECECD estimates that at least 18,000 families statewide will now qualify for free child care.



ECECD's FY23 Budget

ECECD remains a committed partner in increasing quality and access of early childhood services to infants, toddlers and families in New Mexico. The graph in Figure 1 highlights ECECD's FY23 budget by each specific department or program. To highlight the Tribal Investment Strategy Fund, Figure 2 provides a breakdown of the \$1.5 million dollars appropriated for FY23 specific to the Tribes, Pueblos and Nations

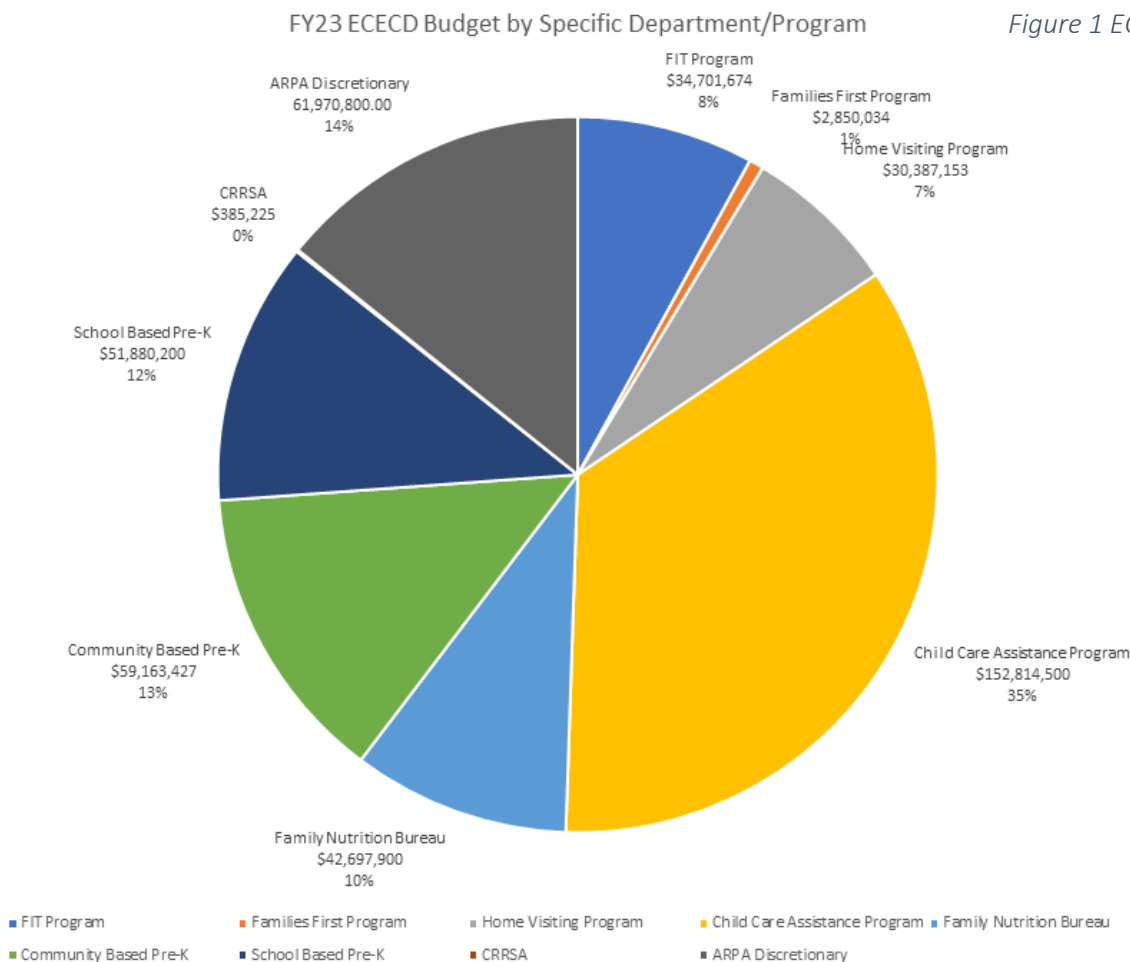


Figure 1 ECECD FY23 Budget

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| \$139,100 | Program Support | Build capacity, mentorship, and technical assistance through ongoing consultation with Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations and hire one FTE to provide technical assistance and coordination for Tribal governments in developing, securing, and managing early childhood grants. |
| \$500,000 | Family Support & Early Intervention | Grants directly to Tribal governments to increase access to Home Visiting, Early Intervention services, and Families FIRST. |
| \$300,000 | Early Care, Education and Nutrition | Grants directly to Tribal governments to provide, technical assistance, phased planning, curriculum, and identified needs. |
| \$600,000 | Policy Research & Quality Initiatives | Contractual services to support a range of infrastructure and workforce needs identified through Government-to-Government consultation. |

Figure 2 Tribal Investment Strategy Fund

Legislation

SENATE BILL 38

In 2022, ECECD introduced and passed an authorization bill that ensures the agency has full and clear authority to conduct essential functions and responsibilities as mandated by federal law and the state Early Childhood Education and Care Act of 2019, which created the agency. This legislation does the following:

- Transfers **background check authority** of child care workers from Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) to ECECD.
- Removes CYFD jurisdiction over **child care licensing**.
- Establishes ECECD as an independent **member in the New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative**.
- Establishes the ECECD Cabinet Secretary as a permanent **member in the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Council**.
- Transfer Duty to Convene Family Infant Toddler (FIT) **Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)** from the Department of Health (DOH) to ECECD.

Programming for ECECD

ECECD will continue to increase quality and access to early education and care programs in collaboration with the 23 Tribes, Pueblos and Nations, the following programs are overseen and funded by ECECD:

- Home Visiting (prenatal- age 5)
- Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program (ages 0-3)
- Families FIRST (prenatal- age 3)
- New Mexico PreK (ages 3-4)
- Child Care Services (ages 6 weeks - 13/18 years)
- Family Nutrition Bureau (ages 1-18 years)

To continue to enhance authentic collaboration, Tribal Liaisons have been appointed to represent each program and build upon the collaboration with the 23 Tribes, Pueblos and Nations.

Tribal Liaisons:

- Leah Davidson, FIT
- Natasha Gacinski, New Mexico PreK
- Kristi Romero, Families FIRST
- Loren Miller, Family Nutrition Bureau
- Kimberly Brown, Child Care Services
- LouAnn Sanchez, Home Visiting
- Casey Lafferty, FOCUS Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS)
- Mark Hume, Early Childhood Policy Analyst
- Olga Valenzuela-Zavala, Head Start
- Brendan Egan, General Counsel
- Drew Roybal-Chavez, Administrative Services



Public Education Department (PED)

The Indian Education Division

Vision: All American Indian students will become proficient in academic, cultural, and leadership standards to become productive and contributing members of their pueblo/tribe/nation and state.

Mission: To increase American Indian student academic and cultural achievement through culturally relevant pedagogy, native language, and collaborative partnerships.



Agency Overview

The purpose of the Public Education Department (PED) is to ensure all students in New Mexico receive the education they deserve and that students are prepared for college, careers, and lifelong learning. To do this, the department is focusing on supports, sustained learning and outreach to districts, charter schools, tribal education departments, parents, students and communities, while also focusing on leadership, productivity, building capacity, accountability, communication internally, and externally and fiscal responsibility.

Tribal Education Budget

1. \$14,988.6 million

Indian Education Act Grant

Description: This grant is focused on the elements in the framework for improving educational outcomes for Indian students detailed in Sections 22-23A-10, and 22-23A-11 NMSA 1978. According to Section 22-23A-11 NMSA 1978:

New Mexico Indigenous Language Revitalization Initiative

Description: This grant is used to develop the recommended programs that build Indigenous Language Revitalization Ecosystems. Several strategies have shown evidence that Indigenous Language Revitalization Ecosystems effectively grow the number of indigenous language speakers within a given community and support effective and successful immersion schools and programs.

Recruiting and Retaining High Quality Indigenous Teachers and Administrators

Description: This grant is issued for the purpose of increasing the number of tribal teachers, administrators, and principals as per the Indian Education Act 22-23A-5. This initiative aims to increase access to the teaching profession by providing a variety of incentives that will encourage prospective teachers and administrators to teach in a Native American serving school district or charter school whose enrollment of Native American students is 50% or more.

- \$1.25 million** will ensure pay parity for Native American Language and Culture Certificate Staff (520) who teach tribal languages and culture to Native American students. 520 certificate holders will be paid as a Level I teacher. This will provide school districts and charter schools much-needed resources to recruit and retain Native language teachers.
- \$2 million** for planning, design, and construction of tribal libraries through FY24.
- \$13.3 million** will fund tribal community-based extended learning programs.

Legislation

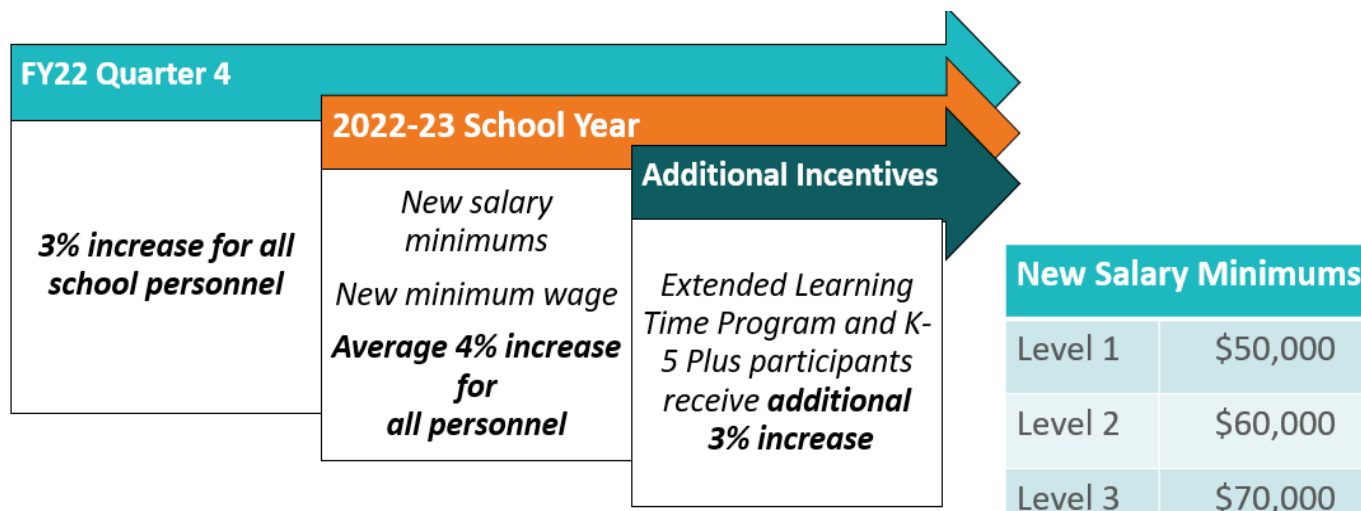
SENATE BILL 1 (Governors Bill) Increasing Salaries for Licensed Teachers-

The minimum salaries for teachers has increased. For a level one teacher the minimum salary is fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). The minimum salary for a level two teacher is sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000). The minimum salary for a level three-A teacher is seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000).

House Bill 2 General Appropriations Act, represents significant investments in public education for New Mexico. Public education funding includes \$3.87 billion for FY23, with the largest increases for salaries, incentives for extended learning, teacher preparation and professional development. Below you will find Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham’s priorities, which are major educational funding investments provided during the 2022 legislative session.

EDUCATOR WORKFORCE INVESTMENTS

- \$180.3 million:** Every educator will receive an average 7% pay raise
- \$76.7 million:** Teacher minimum salaries will increase to \$50,000, \$60,000, and \$70,000
- \$10 million:** No school employee will earn less than \$15 per hour



- **\$15.5 million:** Teacher preparation programs will offer more residencies to ensure educator diversity and fill high need teaching positions in the state. In addition, \$50 million is appropriated for endowed faculty positions in educator preparation programs at New Mexico colleges and universities.
- **\$500,000:** More scholarships to apply for National Board Certification

LITERACY

\$11.5 million: PED will expand its LETRS training to teachers in grades three through five. Teachers in kindergarten through second grade have already received the training, which provides a deeper understanding of the science of reading and evidence-based strategies to support all students, particularly those who experience reading challenges

EXTENDED LEARNING TIME

\$22 million: In order to give students more time to engage in quality time with teachers, K-12 Plus programs will now allow districts flexibility in creating their own programs

- **\$21 million:** Provides for planning grants that allow districts to work with communities to design K-12 Plus programs

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- **\$8 million:** The appropriation increased from \$5 million to \$8 million to continue expanding the proven community schools strategy across the state

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **\$10 million:** Expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) and fund additional work-based learning opportunities
- **\$15 million:** Provide at-risk students with academic interventions and social and emotional health services
- **\$10 million:** Informational Technology (IT) staffing to continue closing the digital divide

Programming for Indian Education Division

The Indian Education Division (IED) will continue to hold quarterly meetings with grantees, provide technical assistance and collaborate with the 23 Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations along with tribal education directors, superintendents, and Indian education directors in accordance with the Indian Education Act. The following programs are overseen and funded through IED:

- Blueprints and Governance Structures
- Indian Education Act Grants
- Native Language Educator Pathway
- Indigenous Education Initiative *(New)*
- Community Based Immersion School Grant *(New)*
- Native American Language Programs *(New)*
- Indigenous Language Fellow *(New)*
- Increased Access to High Quality Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment *(New)*
- Recruit and Retain High Quality Indigenous Teachers and Administrators *(New)*
- Tribal Libraries (capital) *(New)*

New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED)



Agency Overview

The New Mexico Higher Education Department's (NMHED) mission is to provide financial, academic, and policy oversight and support to New Mexico's public higher education institutions and our community partners for the purpose of promoting efficiency, accountability, and most importantly, student success.

The 2022 legislative session provided significant investments in higher education for students across New Mexico. **These investments include tuition-free college, dual credit supports, expanded teacher financial aid, and adult education programming.** The agency is excited to begin rolling out these programs in the new fiscal year.

The Indian Education Division has been meeting with Tribal Leadership and Tribal Education Departments to provide updates and information, answer questions on the Opportunity Scholarship.

As we move toward summer, the agency looks forward to continued collaboration and partnership in-person through events such as the State-Tribal Leaders Summit and the Education Government-to-Government session. As always, our doors are open and we look forward to continued work with your communities in the interim.

Programming

NMHED is home to nine public-facing divisions. Each of which play an integral role in agency operations and higher education

institution data collection, financial aid awards, and student support. The divisions are:

- **Academic Affairs & Policy** – Director Mark Chisholm
- **Adult Education** – Director Amber Gallup-Rodriguez
- **Capital Outlay & Projects** – Director Gerald Hoehne
- **Financial Aid** – Director Harrison Rommel
- **GEAR UP New Mexico** – Director Corrine Frankland
- **Indian Education** – Director Nathan Moquino
- **Information Technology** – Director Bogi Malecki
- **Planning & Research** – Director Dina Advani
- **Private Post-Secondary Schools** – Director Pascal Buser

Native American students are supported through each of these divisions through direct division services or the impact of student support policy. Direct services are provided through Financial Aid, GEAR UP New Mexico, Adult Education, Private Post-Secondary Schools and Indian Education divisions.

FY23 Funding and Programs Supporting Native American Students and Faculty

- \$250,000 for developing a Teacher Education Consortium to build a structure and system of colleges, universities and faculty members that offer necessary courses for students to meet the requirements of a bilingual teaching license. A consortium can help harness the support and expertise for the bilingual educator pipeline and teacher preparation.
- \$263,900 for the Tribal College Dual Credit Program

- Gov. Lujan Grisham’s Food, Farm, and Hunger initiative directs \$1 million toward hunger relief projects and services for students on college and university campuses.
- \$250,000 for the Native American Studies Program at the University of New Mexico (UNM)
- \$185,400 for the Southwest Indian Law Clinic at UNM
- \$250,000 for the American Indian Summer Bridge Program at UNM
- \$1.05 million for Tribal Education Initiatives at UNM
- \$5 million for endowed positions in the Native American Studies Program at UNM
- \$100,000 for Tribal Education Initiatives at UNM (Gallup)
- \$88,100 for the Native American Suicide Prevention program at UNM Health and Sciences Center (HSC)
- \$240,500 for the Center for Native American Health at UNM HSC
- \$200,000 for Tribal Education Initiatives at New Mexico State University (NMSU)
- \$100,000 for Tribal Education Initiatives at NMSU Grants
- \$255,700 for the Indian Resources Development Program at NMSU
- \$200,000 for Tribal Education Initiatives at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)
- \$209,900 for the Native American Social Work Institute at NMHU
- \$150,000 for the Native American Student Center at Northern New Mexico College (NNMC)
- \$100,000 for Tribal Education Initiatives at San Juan College
- \$2.1 million for waterline and roof improvements at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
- \$5 million to plan, design, construct, furnish and equip a student services facility at Diné College (Shiprock branch)

- \$120,000 for renovations on the Diné College Math and Science Building (Shiprock branch)
- \$4 million to plan, design, furnish and equip a trades building at Navajo Technical University
- \$150,000 for information technology upgrades at the UNM Indigenous Planning and Design Program

Total: \$21.26 million

Priorities and Initiatives

NMHED supports students across New Mexico through agency programming and legislation. Below are some new initiatives and priorities stemming from our agency divisions:

- *Tribal MOU Renewal/Renegotiation*
There are MOU's between Tribes and higher education institutions in New Mexico. The Indian Education Division's goal is to facilitate these negotiations and help both parties reach their goals.
- *Request for Applications (RFAs)*
The agency is in the process of reviewing applications from higher education institutions on how they propose to address mental health and behavioral health on their campuses. Additionally, the agency has awarded five institutions funding for their College Hunger projects.
- *Tuition-Free College*
The agency has launched a website to help students navigate tuition-free college. ReachHigherNM.com is a new, one-stop website where users can find out if they're eligible for the Opportunity and Lottery Scholarships, apply to their New Mexico college or university of choice, and learn more about the programs.
- *Adult Education and Family Literacy*
Programs offer adult education and adult literacy services throughout the state. These services include facilitating the development of academic skills and

assisting adults toward attaining a high school equivalency. Classes and tutoring are offered in person and online. To find a program near you, visit <https://ready.nm.gov/training-education/adult-education-and-high-school-equivalency-ged>

- *Teacher Loan Repayment Program*
\$5 million for the Teacher Loan Repayment program to provide student debt relief for more than 600 New Mexico Teachers working in high-need focus areas and schools. Preference is provided to rural educators, including those teaching in both public school districts and BIE schools.

Legislation

During the 55th Legislature, New Mexico made history by becoming the first state to offer a tuition-free college package. Thanks to the support of Tribal Leaders, Tribal Education Departments and education advocates, **the Opportunity Scholarship Act (SB140)**- a Governor's Bill and top priority is now a reality. Students will benefit as soon as this fall semester.

Thanks to a *\$75 million investment*, the Opportunity Scholarship will support part-time and full-time students that enter higher education later in life or soon after high school graduation. Offering support for part-time students is a key component to the flexibility and accessibility of the scholarship. Additionally, the Opportunity Scholarship supports students pursuing career training certificates, Associate Degrees and Bachelor's Degrees.

Opportunity Scholarship eligibility:

- Be a New Mexico resident
- Enroll at one of the 29 New Mexico Public or Tribal Higher Education Institution
- Maintain a 2.5 GPA

The Opportunity Scholarship will open new doors for students across New Mexico. NMHED is appreciative of the support from Tribal Communities to make tuition-free college a reality. The agency recognizes this is a transformational program and we look forward to the success of New Mexicans and economic prosperity outlook for our state.

Additionally, the **Legislative Lottery Scholarship** is another path to tuition-free college for recent high school graduates and honorably discharged veterans. We have ensured the sustainability of the program for the next four years with an *infusion of \$130 million*. For questions about state financial aid programs, please contact the Financial Aid Division Hotline at 1-800-279-9777 or fin.aid@state.nm.us.

Other outcomes include:

Supporting Student Success

- \$4.2 million to support the Dual Credit Program, which helps over 16,000 high school students each year to earn both high school and college credit without the burden of college tuition.
- \$6.7 million for adult education programs that provide basic skills instruction, High School Equivalency (HSE) preparation, career training, and other services to more than 5,000 New Mexicans in over 25 communities across the state in the Northern, Central, Eastern, and Southwestern workforce regions and those in New Mexico correctional facilities.
- \$750,000 for adult and family literacy programs across the state that provide literacy, numeracy, and digital literacy services to over 1,300 New Mexicans in more than 15 communities.
- \$4.25 million for the continued development of New Mexico's longitudinal data system, a partnership with the Early

Childhood Education and Care, Public Education, Higher Education, and Workforce Solutions Departments to provide information to support the success of New Mexicans from cradle to career.

- \$5 million for the Teacher Preparation Affordability Scholarship to support up to 1,400 student pursuing degrees leading to teacher licensure.
- \$1.6 million for the Health Professional Loan Repayment program to provide student debt relief for over 60 healthcare professionals working in high-need health fields and communities.



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Congratulations
2022
Graduates!

