



**New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department Notice of Funding Opportunity: New Mexico PreK**  
**Fiscal Year: 2026**  
**Funding Availability: \$2.5 Million for State Fiscal Year 2026**

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

**This Notice of Funding Opportunity is an extension of a previous grant application closing on February 14, 2025. Eligible school-based, community-based, tribal, and head start programs, located within any of the school districts set forth below, who applied for the initial grant application do not need to re-apply but can make any edits to their requested program option or program type up until the closing deadline of Friday, April 18 2025, by 3 p.m. (MDT). All other providers are not eligible for this extended funding opportunity.**

**All applicants located within the geographic area of the school districts listed below will adhere to the timeline in this Notice of Funding Opportunity.**

Eligible applicants for this FY26 NM PreK Grant include the following providers located within the school districts set forth below:

- A Local Education Agency (LEAs) or state charter school.
- Child Care (center and home-based) programs currently licensed by ECECD pursuant to 8.9.4 NMAC.
- A Tribal early childhood education program.
- A Head Start program (Region 11 (Tribal) and Region 6).
- A school operated by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

FY26 NM PreK eligible applicants must be seeking funding to create a new PreK program, renew an existing PreK contract or grant award, or to expand the number of children served in an existing NM PreK program. Applicants must be located within the geographic area of the following school districts to be eligible for this extended Notice of Funding Opportunity:

<b>Carlsbad Municipal Schools</b>	<b>Cobre Consolidated Schools</b>	<b>Cuba Independent Schools</b>
<b>Deming Public Schools</b>	<b>Dexter Consolidated Schools</b>	<b>Dulce Independent Schools</b>
<b>Ft. Sumner Municipal Schools</b>	<b>Hondo Valley Public Schools</b>	<b>Jemez Valley Public Schools</b>
<b>Los Lunas Public Schools</b>	<b>Magdalena Municipal Schools</b>	<b>Mora Independent Schools</b>
<b>Moriarity-Edgewood School District</b>	<b>Mountainair School District</b>	<b>Peñasco Independent School District</b>
<b>Questa Independent School District</b>	<b>Roswell Independent School District</b>	<b>Ruidoso Municipal School District</b>
<b>Santa Fe Public Schools</b>	<b>Tucumcari Public Schools</b>	<b>West Las Vegas Schools</b>
<b>Zuni Public Schools</b>		

The New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) administers the New Mexico Prekindergarten (NM PreK) program, a high-quality program that is available to all families residing in New Mexico with eligible 3- and 4-year-old children, regardless of income. The NM PreK program provides voluntary, quality PreK to support children’s development and school readiness. PreK program funding is awarded to eligible providers, including tribal, licensed child care centers, licensed child care homes, Head Start, school districts, and/or charter schools through this competitive grant opportunity. ECECD monitors the eligible providers granted awards for compliance with the NM PreK Standards.

Pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 9-29-8(B), ECECD is mandated to “coordinate and align an early childhood education and care system to: (1) include child care, pre-kindergarten, early pre-kindergarten, home visitation, Early Head Start, Head Start, early childhood special education and early intervention and family support; and (2) provide New Mexico families with consistent access to appropriate care and education services.” The NM PreK program is a key part of the state’s early childhood education and care system, providing a high-quality, voluntary PreK experiences to preschool-aged children regardless of income. **ECECD is seeking applications from certain eligible providers (set forth above) to renew, expand, or create new PreK slots and classrooms statewide, especially in designated areas of the state where there is a lack of high-quality PreK for children and families.**

ECECD awards PreK Grants for up to four years contingent upon available funding and the grantees continued compliance with the NM PreK standards. If an eligible applicant applies for and is awarded an expansion grant, its existing award will be amended, and the expansion will have the same terms as the eligible applicant's existing award.

All eligible applicants, those listed above, must complete the online application accessible via the New Mexico PreK Application portal accessed via the NM PreK grant website at <https://www.nmececd.org/prekgrant/>.

All applications are due by **Friday, April 18, 2025, by 3 p.m. (MDT)**. Only completed applications submitted by the deadline with all requested attachments will be considered by ECECD for funding in FY26. The online application for this second, limited round is available via the ECECD website at <https://www.nmececd.org/prekgrant/>. The application is accessible in English and in Spanish. **Applications will only be accepted online.**

Please email questions about this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or application to [ECECD-PreKGrant@ececd.nm.gov](mailto:ECECD-PreKGrant@ececd.nm.gov).

### **LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, REVIEWED OR CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING**

ECECD will prioritize funding NM PreK applications based on the following categories and saturation. "Saturation" refers to the ratio of Head Start and New Mexico PreK slots available within the geographic boundaries of the designated school districts set forth above compared to the number of 3- and 4-year-old children residing in that school district. For example, a school district geographic boundary with 100 eligible children residing in the school district geographic boundary and 80 funded PreK slots for 4-year olds (NM PreK and Head Start combined) would have an 80 percent saturation rate for 4-year olds. Saturation rates are calculated for both 3- and 4-year olds.

ECECD will consider all applications from the school districts set forth above, including community-based providers located within those school districts, for funding and awards will be made based on the following criteria and contingent upon available funding. ECECD may adjust the number of slots awarded based on funding availability, saturation, mixed delivery, diversity, geographic needs, existing NM PreK providers in good standing and other considerations.:

- Applications will be categorized by school district area from the highest scoring application to the lowest scoring application. Applications for each district will be considered by score. Additionally, the following considerations may inform awards regardless of score:
  - Program type
  - Saturation rates by age group
  - Location of program
  - Mixed delivery system
  - Status of Existing NM PreK Provider (Corrective Action Plan/Conditions of Operation)
  - Geographic proximity to an existing NM PreK program
- The highest scoring applications within each eligible school district's geographic boundary will be selected for funding until saturation capacity has been met based on descending order of application scores or funding is exhausted
- Eligible NM School district areas with saturation rates of 75% or less for 4-year-old children
- Eligible NM School district areas with saturation rates of 50% or less for 3-year-old children
- Eligible NM School district areas with saturation rates between 100% and 76% for 4-year-old children
- Eligible NM School district areas with saturation rates between 80% and 51% for 3-year-old children
- All other applications from eligible providers

ECECD will make every effort to adhere to the timeline outlined in Section IV of this Notice of Funding Opportunity. These dates are subject to change at the discretion of ECECD. Scheduled dates may be extended but ECECD will not shorten any timelines.

## **Section I - ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible applicants for the FY26 NM PreK Grant include the following located within the school districts set forth above and immediately below:

- A Local Education Agency (LEAs) or state charter school.
- Child Care (center and home-based) programs currently licensed by ECECD pursuant to 8.9.4 NMAC.
- A Tribal early childhood education program.
- A Head Start program (Region 11 (Tribal) and Region 6).
- A school operated by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

FY26 NM PreK eligible applicants must be seeking funding to create a new PreK program, renew an existing PreK contract or grant award, or to expand the number of children served in an existing NM PreK program. In addition, applicants must be located within the geographic area of the following school districts:

<b>Carlsbad Municipal Schools</b>	<b>Cobre Consolidated Schools</b>	<b>Cuba Independent Schools</b>
<b>Deming Public Schools</b>	<b>Dexter Consolidated Schools</b>	<b>Dulce Independent Schools</b>
<b>Ft. Sumner Municipal Schools</b>	<b>Hondo Valley Public Schools</b>	<b>Jemez Valley Public Schools</b>
<b>Los Lunas Public Schools</b>	<b>Magdalena Municipal Schools</b>	<b>Mora Independent Schools</b>
<b>Moriarity-Edgewood School District</b>	<b>Mountainair School District</b>	<b>Peñasco Independent School District</b>
<b>Questa Independent School District</b>	<b>Roswell Independent School District</b>	<b>Ruidoso Municipal School District</b>
<b>Santa Fe Public Schools</b>	<b>Tucumcari Public Schools</b>	<b>West Las Vegas Schools</b>
<b>Zuni Public Schools</b>		

All eligible applicants must be in good standing with its respective regulatory authority, which is ECECD, the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED), or the applicable federal agency for tribes and Head Start. Programs must disclose as part of the application if they are currently on a Condition of Operation (COO) or Corrective Action Plan (CAP).

**SECTION II - NEW MEXICO PREK PROGRAM OPTIONS AND PER-CHILD REIMBURSEMENT RATES**

Each NM PreK program must choose from the options below and choose which type of program will be implemented per classroom or home-based program. Each applicant must select their program options in the online application and demonstrate how they will meet the requirements of each program option. Each applicant must also ensure that it plans to pay educators implementing the NM PreK program per the salary parity requirements as part of its application (see the definitions section below for more information). All program options, aside from the Head Start-specific options, are available to all Community and School-Based PreK applicants.

<b>NM PreK Full Day Program Option</b>			
	<b>4 Year Olds</b>	<b>3 Year Olds</b>	<b>Mixed Age (no less than 50% 3 year-olds)</b>
<b>Services</b>	Must be provided Monday through Friday (request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application)	Must be provided Monday through Friday (request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application)	Must be provided Monday through Friday (request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application)
<b>Age Eligibility</b>	Children must turn 4 years old before September 1, 2025, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.	Children must turn 3 years old before September 1, 2025, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.	Children must turn 3 or 4 years old before September 1, 2025, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.
<b>Instructional Hours Required</b>	Provide 1080 Instructional hours and 90 hours of family engagement for a total of 1170 PreK hours.	Provide 1080 Instructional hours and 90 hours of family engagement for a total of 1170 PreK hours.	Provide 1080 Instructional hours and 90 hours of family engagement for a total of 1170 PreK hours.
<b>Service Hours per day</b>	Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 7 hours per day.	Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 7 hours per day.	Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 7 hours per day.
<b>Maximum Group Size</b>	20 Children	16 Children	16 Children
<b>Ratios</b>	1:10 adult to child ratio	1:8 adult to child ratio	1:8 adult to child ratio
<b>Reimbursement Rate Per PreK Slot</b>	<b>\$10,610 per slot per fiscal year</b>	<b>\$12,670 reimbursement per slot per fiscal year</b>	<b>\$12,670 reimbursement per slot per fiscal year</b>

<b>NM PreK Full Day Plus Program Option</b>			
	<b>4 Year Olds</b>	<b>3 Year Olds</b>	<b>Mixed Age (no less than 50% 3 year-olds)</b>
<b>Services</b>	Must be provided Monday through Friday (request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application)	Must be provided Monday through Friday (request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application)	Must be provided Monday through Friday (request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application)
<b>Age Eligibility</b>	Children must turn 4 years old before September 1, 2025, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.	Children must turn 3 years old before September 1, 2025, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.	Children must turn 3 or 4 years old before September 1, 2025, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.

<b>Instructional Hours Required</b>	Provide 1380 hours of instruction and 90 hours of family engagement and family education – 1470 hours total	Provide 1380 hours of instruction and 90 hours of family engagement and family education – 1470 hours total	Provide 1380 hours of instruction and 90 hours of family engagement and family education – 1470 hours total
<b>Service Hours per day</b>	Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 8 hours per day.	Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 8 hours per day.	Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 8 hours per day.
<b>Maximum Group Size</b>	20 Children	16 Children	16 Children
<b>Ratios</b>	1:10 adult to child ratio	1:8 adult to child ratio	1:8 adult to child ratio
<b>Reimbursement Rate Per PreK Slot</b>	<b>\$14,730 reimbursement per slot per fiscal year</b>	<b>\$16,225 reimbursement per slot per fiscal year</b>	<b>\$16,225 reimbursement per slot per fiscal year</b>

<b>NM PreK Half Day Program Option</b>			
	<b>4 Year Olds</b>	<b>3 Year Olds</b>	<b>Mixed Age (no less than 50% 3 year-olds)</b>
<b>Services</b>	Must be provided Monday through Friday (request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application)	Must be provided Monday through Friday (request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application)	Must be provided Monday through Friday (request for exceptions must be clearly explained in the application)
<b>Age Eligibility</b>	Children must turn 4 years old before September 1, 2025, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.	Children must turn 3 years old before September 1, 2025, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.	Children must turn 3 or 4 years old before September 1, 2025, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.
<b>Instructional Hours Required</b>	Provide 540 hours of instruction and 45 hours of family engagement and family education – 585 hours total	Provide 540 hours of instruction and 45 hours of family engagement and family education – 585 hours total	Provide 540 hours of instruction and 45 hours of family engagement and family education – 585 hours total
<b>Service Hours per day</b>	Minimum 3 hours per day, maximum 4 hours per day.	Minimum 3 hours per day, maximum 4 hours per day.	Minimum 3 hours per day, maximum 4 hours per day.
<b>Maximum Group Size</b>	20 Children	16 Children	16 Children
<b>Ratios</b>	1:10 adult to child ratio	1:8 adult to child ratio	1:8 adult to child ratio
<b>Reimbursement Rate Per PreK Slot</b>	<b>\$5,305 reimbursement per slot per fiscal year</b>	<b>\$6,335 reimbursement per slot per fiscal year</b>	<b>\$6,335 reimbursement per slot per fiscal year</b>

**Head Start Recipients ONLY:**

In addition to program options above, the following options are only available to existing Region 11 (Tribal) and Region 6 Head Start Recipients.

<b>Dual Enrollment Full Day Option</b>		<b>Dual Enrollment Full Day Plus Option</b>	
<b>Services</b>	This option is for Head Start programs to extend to or maintain <b>1080 instructional hours</b> annually and for children to be dually enrolled in both Head Start and NM PreK.	<b>Services</b>	This option is for Head Start programs to extend to or maintain <b>1380 instructional hours</b> annually and for children to be dually enrolled in both Head Start and NM PreK.
<b>Age Eligibility</b>	Children must turn 3 or 4 years old before September 1, 2025, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.	<b>Age Eligibility</b>	Children must turn 3 or 4 years old before September 1, 2025, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.
<b>Instructional Hours Required</b>	Provide 1080 Instructional hours and 90 hours of family engagement for a total of 1170 PreK hours.	<b>Instructional Hours Required</b>	Provide 1380 hours of instruction and 90 hours of family engagement and family education – 1470 hours total
<b>Service Hours per day</b>	Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 7 hours per day.	<b>Service Hours per day</b>	Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 8 hours per day.
<b>Maximum Group Size</b>	16 Children	<b>Maximum Group Size</b>	16 Children
<b>Ratios</b>	1:8 adult to child ratio	<b>Ratios</b>	1:8 adult to child ratio
<b>Reimbursement Rate Per PreK Slot</b>	For each child dually enrolled, the program will be paid the difference between the Head Start per child rate and the NM PreK per child rate ( <b>\$12,670</b> ) per fiscal year.	<b>Reimbursement Rate Per PreK Slot</b>	For each child dually enrolled, the program will be paid the difference between the Head Start per child rate and the NM PreK per child rate ( <b>\$16,225</b> ) per fiscal year.

<b>Blended Enrollment Full Day Option</b>		<b>Blended Enrollment Full Day Plus Option</b>	
<b>Services</b>	This option is for Head Start programs to serve non-Head Start NM PreK-only children who are being served within the same classroom with Head Start or dually enrolled children for 1080 instructional hours annually.	<b>Services</b>	This option is for Head Start programs to serve non-Head Start NM PreK-only children who are being served within the same classroom with Head Start or dually enrolled children for 1380 instructional hours annually.
<b>Age Eligibility</b>	Children must turn 3 or 4 years old before September 1, 2025, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.	<b>Age Eligibility</b>	Children must turn 3 or 4 years old before September 1, 2025, and not be age-eligible for kindergarten.

<b>Instructional Hours Required</b>	Provide 1080 Instructional hours and 90 hours of family engagement for a total of 1170 PreK hours.	<b>Instructional Hours Required</b>	Provide 1080 Instructional hours and 90 hours of family engagement for a total of 1170 PreK hours.
<b>Service Hours per day</b>	Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 7 hours per day.	<b>Service Hours per day</b>	Minimum 6.5 hours per day, maximum 7 hours per day.
<b>Maximum Group Size</b>	16 Children	<b>Maximum Group Size</b>	16 Children
<b>Ratios</b>	1:8 adult to child ratio	<b>Ratios</b>	1:8 adult to child ratio
<b>Reimbursement Rate Per PreK Slot</b>	Each NM PreK-only slot will receive the full 3-year-old/Mixed-Age Extended rate (\$12,670) per fiscal year.	<b>Reimbursement Rate Per PreK Slot</b>	Each NM PreK-only slot will receive the full 3-year-old/Mixed-Age rate (\$16,225) per fiscal year.

### SECTION III – FUNDING

FUNDING IS SUBJECT TO CURRENT AND FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE FOR THE PERIOD OF THE GRANT AWARD. NO GUARANTEE IS MADE OR IMPLIED BY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO OR ECECD AS TO THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED TO THIS GRANT OF AWARD. THIS GRANT PROCESS WILL RESULT IN MULTIPLE AWARDS. THE FUNDING AVAILABLE THROUGH THE GRANT IS FOR STATE-FUNDED PREK AND EARLY PREK SERVICES.

ECECD will reimburse for NM PreK services in accordance with the per-child reimbursement rates set forth above. Rates are non-negotiable. ECECD will calculate the total compensation available during the grant period by the number of children served per eligible applicant type and then multiplied by the appropriate rate. Depending on the size of the award, programs may be subject to an annual audit requirement. Depending upon available funding, ECECD may adjust the per child rate in future years and any such changes will be implemented through an award letter amendment as needed. ECECD will set aside a limited amount of funding for:

- **Transportation – \$1,000.00 per child, per fiscal year.** ECECD may award this funding if the program has the capacity to transport children enrolled in NM PreK to and from the program.
- **Start-Up and Safety – Up to \$25,000 per classroom for supplies and equipment, and an additional \$5,000 per classroom for curriculum materials to equip a new PreK classroom.**

### SECTION IV – APPLICATION TIMELINE AND INSTRUCTIONS

The following timeline may be amended by ECECD as needed:

Action	Responsible Party	Due Date
Notice of Funding Opportunity sent to eligible programs Grant Application Period Opens	ECEC	Friday, April 4, 2025
<b>Deadline to Submit FY26 Grant Application</b>	<b>Eligible Applicants</b>	<b>Friday, April 18 2025, by 3 p.m. (MDT)</b>
Grant Award Denial Letters Issued	ECECD	No later than Friday, April 25, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.
Deadline to submit protest of denial	Eligible Applicant	Friday, May 2, 2025, by 5 p.m.
ECECD denial protest response deadline	ECECD	Friday, May 9, 2025, by 11:59 p.m.
Grant Awards Issued	ECECD	Friday, May 16, 2025, by 11:59 p.m.

#### Written Questions

Questions must be submitted via email to ECECD at [ECECD-PreKGrant@ececd.nm.gov](mailto:ECECD-PreKGrant@ececd.nm.gov).

#### Resources

Grant resources, including pre-recorded office hour sessions and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, are available on the NM PreK grant webpage at [www.nmececd.org/prekgrant](http://www.nmececd.org/prekgrant).

#### Application Submission and Due Date

All applications must be submitted no later than Friday, April 18, 2025, by 3 p.m. (MDT). Each applicant will receive a notification of receipt. LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, REVIEWED OR CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE FY26 PREK APPLICATION PORTAL AVAILABLE AT:  
<https://nmececd-ecen.submittable.com/submit>

**Eligible applicants MUST submit an application under the following circumstances:**

- New Program
- Renewal Request
- Expansion Request

**Eligible applicants should NOT submit an application under the following circumstances:**

- Current programs requesting conversion (changes of program option or program type)

ECECD will not consider conversions of program option or program type for FY26 whether by application or letter. (For example, conversion from full day plus to full day or from 4 year old to mixed age).

Applications must be submitted **no later than Friday, April 18, 2025, by 3 p.m. (MDT)** . Each applicant will receive a notification of receipt. In addition, applicants will receive a summary of their funding request, which is NOT an actual award notice, within 48 hours of submission.

**LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING.**

## **SECTION V – SCORING METHODOLOGY**

Each eligible proposal will be reviewed by at least three reviewers. Each reviewer will score the proposal according to the indicated point criteria in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. Scores from each reviewer will be averaged to compute the final score. If there is a difference of more than 15 points between the reviewers' scores, the two closest scores will be averaged to compute the final score. Awards will be made starting with the highest scoring proposal in rank order for each school district areas. In the event of tie scores, proposals with the highest combined score on Section 3 A. Define the Need for High Quality NM PreK Services. If a tie remains, the proposal with the highest combined score on Section 3 D. Collaborative Efforts to Ensure the Full Participation of Each Child will be ranked higher.

## **SECTION VI – GRANT AWARD PROTEST PROCEDURE**

Applicants who receive a notice of non-award may protest the ECECD award decision subject to the following:

1. The protest must be in writing and must contain specific factual and/or legal allegations setting forth the basis on which the protesting party challenges the non-award by ECECD.
2. The protest must be submitted in writing via email to [ECECD-PreKGrant@ececd.nm.gov](mailto:ECECD-PreKGrant@ececd.nm.gov) on or before Friday, May 2, 2025, by 5 p.m.
3. ECECD will convene a review team that will include at least one staff member from ECECD's Office of General Counsel, NM PreK Program and the Deputy Secretary. The review team will review and consider the merits of the protest and will decide whether the protest is approved or denied.
4. NM PreK Program Office will provide the applicant with written notification via email of the review team's decision within seven (7) calendar days of the receipt of the protest. ECECD may summarily deny a protest that fails to contain specific factual or legal allegations, or where the protest only raises issues of law that have already been decided by the courts.

## **SECTION VII – DEFINITIONS**

**Annual Audit:** An annual audit as required by the State of New Mexico law conducted by an independent auditor.

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-11/part-200/subpart-F> and

<https://nmonesource.com/nmos/nmsa/en/item/4423/index.do#!b/57-22-6>

**Child Care Desert:** A Census Tract with one or less child care slots per every three children age 0-12

**Community-Based Applicants:** A licensed child care center, licensed family child care facility, or Head Start program applying for a NM PreK grant.

**Existing Program:** A program/provider that currently has a NM PreK grant or agreement with ECECD.

**Family Income Eligibility:** There is no income requirement for NM PreK families.

**Invoicing:** Programs must invoice ECECD monthly to be reimbursed for NM PreK services. Invoicing is based on the number of children served during the month.

**Micro School District:** A school district with fewer than 200 students enrolled.

**Mixed PreK Classroom/Program:** A classroom or program that serves children who have attained their third or fourth birthday prior to September 1 of the applicable school year.



**New Mexico PreK Program Standards:** The program standards that all NM PreK programs must follow. The text of the standards is available here) [FY25 New Mexico PreK Program Standards.pdf](#)

**New Program:** An eligible applicant that has never received NM PreK funding and wishes to convert a NM PreK classroom currently in operation or open a new NM PreK classroom.

**NM Child Care Licensing Regulations:** The New Mexico child care licensing regulations can be found at <https://www.srca.nm.gov/parts/title08/08.009.0004.html>

**Pay Parity:** At minimum, all teachers with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education must be paid at least \$50,000 a year and. Educational assistants must be paid a minimum of \$15/hour.

**PreK Classroom/Program:** A classroom or program that serves children who have attained their fourth birthday prior to September 1 of the applicable school year.

**Renewal Request:** A renewal request is a request submitted by an existing PreK provider that has a contract for NM PreK services that will expire June 30, 2025. A renewal request is considered a new application and must be fully completed.

**Rural District:** A district with at least 40% of its population in a rural area as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

**School Based Applicants:** School-Based eligible applicants may apply for all program options. To support an equitable mixed-delivery PreK system that supports parent choice, both Community and School-Based programs are eligible to apply to serve 3- and 4-year-old children beginning in FY24.

**School District Area:** The geographic boundaries of a school district that an applicant falls within.

**Tribal Programs:** Tribal early childhood programs operated by a Tribal government located in New Mexico.

**SECTION VIII – PRIORITY DISTRICTS**

Funding priority criteria will be determined as listed below. **If a School District Area is not listed, it does not meet ECECD’s funding priority criteria.**

**Priority 1: Eligible applicants proposing to serve four-year-olds residing in the geographic boundaries of the following NM School District Areas: Carlsbad Municipal Schools, Dexter Consolidated Schools, Dulce Independent School District, Hondo Valley Public Schools, Jemez Valley Public Schools, Magdalena Municipal Schools, Moriarity-Edgewood School District, Peñasco Independent School District, Questa Independent School District, Tucumcari Public Schools, Tularosa Municipal Schools, West Las Vegas Schools, Zuni Public Schools.**

**Priority 2: Eligible applicants proposing to serve three-year-olds residing in the geographic boundaries of the following NM School District Areas: Carlsbad Municipal Schools, Cobre Consolidated Schools, Cuba Independent Schools, Dexter Consolidated Schools, Dulce Independent School District, Ft. Sumner Municipal Schools, Hondo Valley Public Schools, Jemez Valley Public Schools, Los Lunas Public Schools, Magdalena Municipal Schools, Mora Independent Schools, Moriarity-Edgewood School District, Mountainair School District, Peñasco Independent School District, Questa Independent School District, Roswell Independent School District, Santa Fe, Public Schools, Tucumcari Public Schools, Tularosa Municipal Schools, West Las Vegas Schools, Zuni Public Schools.**

**Priority 3: Eligible applicants proposing to serve four-year-olds residing in the geographic boundaries of the following NM School District Areas: Cobre Consolidated Schools, Deming Public Schools, Fort Sumner Municipal Schools, Los Lunas Public Schools, Mountainair School District, Roswell Independent School District, Santa Fe Public Schools.**

**Priority 4: Eligible applicants that are proposing to serve three-year-olds residing in the geographic boundaries of the following NM School District Areas: Deming Public Schools, Ruidoso Municipal School District.**

**SECTION VIII –SATURATION**

School Districts/Charters	County	FY25 - Saturation	
		4Y Saturation	3Y Saturation
Carlsbad Municipal Schools	Eddy	46%	0%
Cobre Consolidated Schools	Grant	98%	10%
Cuba Independent Schools	Sandoval	112%	37%
Deming Public Schools	Luna	94%	51%
Dexter Consolidated Schools	Chaves	57%	12%

Dulce Independent School District	Rio Arriba	24%	0%
Ft. Sumner Municipal Schools	De Baca	94%	50%
Hondo Valley Public Schools	Lincoln	50%	33%
Jemez Valley Public Schools	Sandoval	65%	0%
Los Lunas Public Schools, including charter school (School of Dreams - 20)	Valencia	99%	41%
Magdalena Municipal Schools	Socorro	56%	38%
Mora Independent Schools	Mora	144%	49%
Moriarty-Edgewood School District (inc. Est. Valley Classical Charter)	Torrance	74%	31%
Mountainair School District	Torrance	77%	0%
Peñasco Independent School District	Taos	60%	40%
Questa Independent School District	Taos	41%	0%
Roswell Independent School District	Chaves	90%	49%
Ruidoso Municipal School District	Lincoln	118%	77%
Santa Fe Public Schools, including charter school (Turquoise Trail)	Santa Fe	93%	35%
Tucumcari Public Schools	Quay	72%	29%
Tularosa Municipal Schools	Otero	27%	18%
West Las Vegas Schools	San Miguel	67%	20%
Zuni Public Schools	McKinley	25%	0%