

REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD

Quarterly Reporting Form



Name: Crystal Pena

Position: President

Organization: New Mexico Head Start Association

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Content Topics: NMHSA funding priorities with ECECD

Reporting Information:

Head Start Collaboration Director:

- 1) First and most important is to increase salaries for early childhood educators including home visitors, and support staff. We propose that the funding be granted directly to providers as stated in the Governor's press release rather than the current system of individuals applying for differential pay. The provider would be responsible for producing payroll records and be available for required audits. Our recommendation is for a minimum of \$3.00 per hour.
- 2) Pay parity for community-based programs with staff who possess comparable credentials.
- 3) Specifically, allocated funds for capital improvement projects be available for capital improvement projects including the building of state-of-the-art early childhood centers specifically for children from birth to 5 yrs. old. The facilities would remain the property of the State of New Mexico but be utilized to increase access to quality development centers. As partners, to create a stable economic environment.
- 4) Capital improvement funds should also be allocated not only for indoor but also for fun stimulating engaging, interactive play spaces for young children.
- 5) Increase Medicaid reimbursement for home visitation programs. Also, consider the combination of grant funding and Medicaid reimbursement to fund expensive medical model home visitation programs.
- 6) Availability for supplemental funding to programs to provide extended hours beyond normal program hours to better meet the needs of working families.
- 7) Availability of supplemental funding for Head Start programs to provide year-round services.

Head Start Collaboration Director: Olga Valenzuela-Zavala has stepped down as her current position Head Start Collaboration Director due to personal reasons. New Mexico in search of new

Director.

New Mexico Grown Grant: Nutrition Bureau offering grant available to all head start grantees, farm to preschool program. The grant requires purchase of food items purchased from local farm grower on approved list. Funding available to purchase gardening material.

Fellowship Parent Program: New Mexico looking to host our own state fellowship parent involvement conference. In partnership with PED, Head Start, and early childhood providers.

NMHSA State Priorities: October 6, 2022, will have NMHSA meeting, goal is to work on head start priorities in the state that can be presented to Secretary Groginsky prior to opening legislative session.

Staffing Shortages: Grow your own, encourage parents to apply, working with local school districts with work study programs, high school students volunteering in classroom

Report Attachments (if any):

Signature(s): Crystal Pena

Date: 9/27/2022

