

# REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD

## Quarterly Reporting Form



**Name: Crystal Pena**

**Position: President**

**Organization: New Mexico Head Start Association**

**E-Address: [crystal.pena@helpnm.com](mailto:crystal.pena@helpnm.com)**

### Correspondence:

1.

**Content Topics:** NMHSA funding priorities with ECECD, Interim Head Start Collaboration Director, Land Grant Permanent Fund.

### Reporting Information:


NMHSA Funding Priorities 2023: Submitted letter Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky with NMHSA priorities for funding year 2023. Met in November to discuss letter and requested some information from head start grantees. Scheduled meeting February 2, 2023, to discuss funding.

- 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: Pending selection of new Director, the interim Director is Shana Runck. NMHSA representative will be part of the interviews for selection of Deputy Director for ECECD who the Head Start Collaboration Director will be.

Land Grant Permanent Fund: During November's election New Mexico passed with over 70% in support of Land Grant Permanent Fund distribution for Early Childhood Education Amendment. The ballot included proposed amendment to Article 12, Section 7 of the constitution of New Mexico to provide for additional annual distributions of the permanent school fund for enhanced instruction for students at risk of failure, extending the school year, teacher compensation and early childhood education. Requiring congressional approval for distributions for early childhood education.

**Report Attachments (if any):**

**Signature(s):** 

**Date:** 1/30/2023