

CPC ANNUAL REPORT



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JULY 1, 2022 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2023



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Welcome to the Community Partnership for Children (CPC) 2023 Annual Report. I hope two words come to mind when you read this report: "Partnership" and "Community." CPC's efforts to build strong community partners are resulting in lasting change for Grant County's young children and their families. During the past year, CPC has coordinated and provided services and support that have impacted over 800 local families and their 1,000+ infants and young children. With strong leadership from our Board of Directors, a dedicated staff, and funding from the NM Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD), CPC has implemented three new programs, included in the 2023 Annual Report, that support high-quality early childhood programs. Additionally, CPC continues to support Grant County's licensed, early childhood center partners, through the Learning Network for Kids (LINKS), as they strive to expand enrollment and improve affordable, high-quality programs for infants and young children. I am proud to report that, through CPC's support, the following new county-wide programs are expanding to serve more families across Grant County.

- Family Leadership Team (FLT)
- Kids Space School-age Program
- Home-Grown Network for Childcare

On behalf of CPC, I thank the NM ECECD for their continued commitment to families and young children. We could not achieve our mission without their support, as well as that of our loyal donors, volunteers, parents, and community partners.

Kalah Carrasco

KALAH CARRASCO

Executive Director



CPC OVERVIEW

Since 2003, the non-profit organization Community Partnership for Children (CPC) has served rural Grant County, NM as a vital support for Early Childhood Education (ECE) providers serving children ages 0–5. In 2015, CPC developed shared services partnerships with local ECE providers, called The Learning Network for Kids (LINKS). In 2021, CPC expanded, after receiving the ECECD Coalition Grant, by increasing its strategic partnerships and forming an ECE Coalition to engage a broader base of community partners, including local and state government, school districts, early intervention services, home visiting programs, health services agencies, and local businesses and organizations. CPC also developed a Family Leadership Team (FLT) to engage family partners in strategic, coordinated improvement efforts that support families with children ages 0–5. CPC leverages multi-level partnerships by coordinating improvement efforts with 15 statewide ECE Coalitions, the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD), Western New Mexico University, the University of New Mexico, and Growing Up New Mexico. CPC's Coalition and family partners continue to be a driving force for growth and improvement across Grant County's early childhood education and care providers.

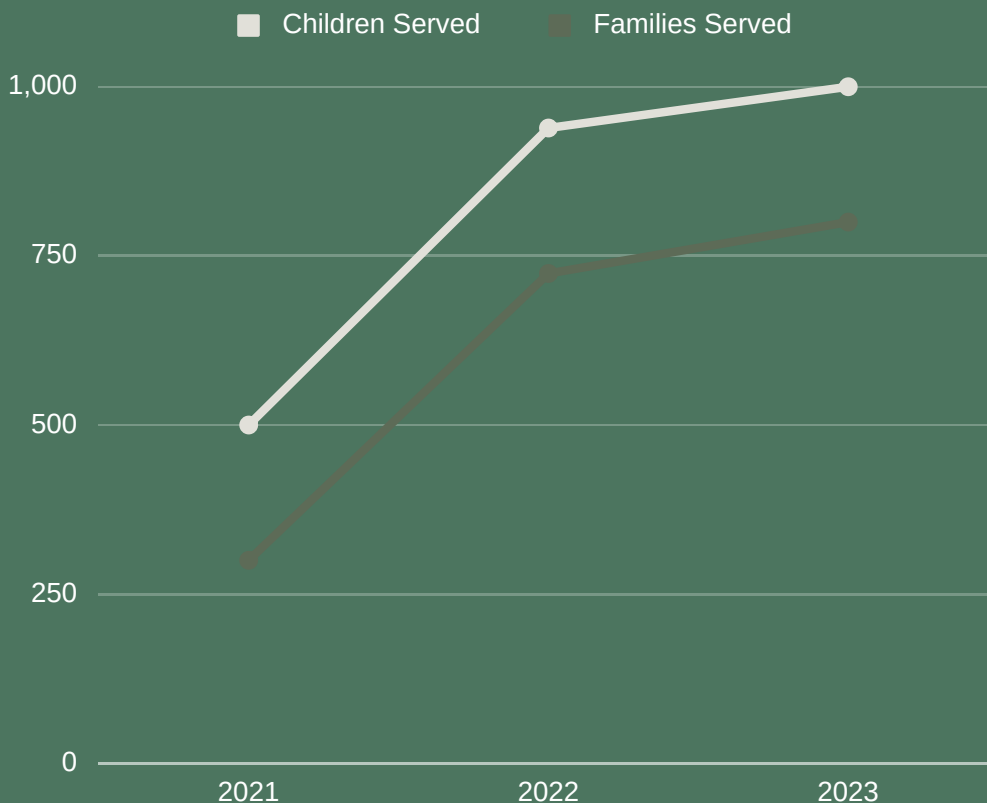


FIGURE 1.

The number of families and children indirectly impacted by our work has grown over the last three years.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY



CPC's Board of Directors (BOD) is composed of a variety of professionals with strong backgrounds in business, education, and childcare who play a vital role in developing and achieving CPC's Strategic Plan goals and objectives. The BOD meets monthly to review data, discuss program improvement efforts, analyze reports, and address funding needs. The BOD also meets twice a year, during a half-day retreat, to do a deep-dive into CPC's Strategic Plan, including a celebration of accomplishments, adding or revising goals and objectives, and identifying barriers to the implementation of associated activities and strategies.

The BOD is instrumental in supporting the fundraising efforts of CPC, sharing the annual CPC Impact Report, and giving voice to community needs through constant networking among local and state leaders and lawmakers.

Mission

“The Community Partnership for Children is a not-profit organization that promotes excellence in the care and development of young children.”

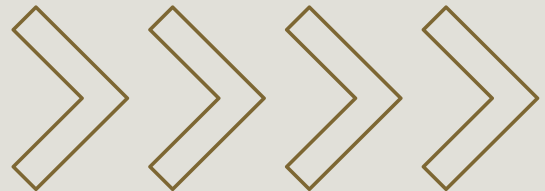
Vision

“We believe every child deserves early care and education at the highest standards. We educate and advocate for sustainable policies and practices that are beneficial to all those serving young children.”

CPC’s Strategic Plan goals integrate activities founded upon the following guiding principles of equity and inclusion:

Honor and value family voices and shared decision-making across all cultures.

- Respect and celebrate a variety of languages and cultures.
- Develop relationships through self-reflection and awareness.
- Focus on transforming and aligning systems to serve all families with children ages 0– 5.
- Value the knowledge, skills, and experiences of families across all

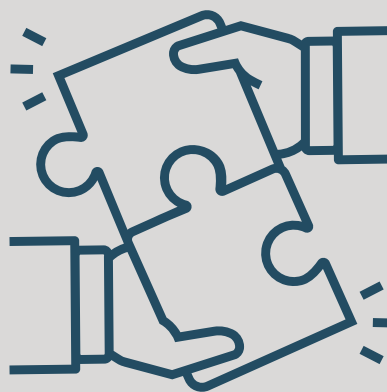




Our Partners

"CPC continues to strengthen the coalition and other partnerships at the state and local levels to effectively use available resources across a mixed delivery system, including the following two public school districts, one state university, 11 non-profits, private, and faith-based early childhood education and care education organizations, and other community partners:

- EL GRITO HEAD START AND EARLY LEARNING
- GUADALUPE MONTESSORI SCHOOL
- AMPLIFIED THERAPY (EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM)
- GILA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER/BEGINNING YEARS (HOME VISITING PROGRAM)
- WNMU CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
- COBRE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS
- SILVER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS
- LET THE CHILDREN COME AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
- KIDS SPACE SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAM
- ITSY BITSY
- HIS KIDZ
- LITTLE ONES
- GRANDMA LU'S
- KEIKI CARE
- LITTLE ANGELS
- SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY NETWORK/RURAL PARTNERS NETWORK
- CPC FAMILY LEADERSHIP TEAM (FLT)
- CPC/LEARNING NETWORK FOR KIDS (LINKS)
- GRANT COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL (GCCHC)
- GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BCC)
- TOWN OF SILVER CITY
- HIDALGO MEDICAL FAMILY SERVICES
- NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES EXCHANGE
- GRANT COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- GRANT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- SW NM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
- WNMU SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER
- GRANT COUNTY PROSPECTORS
- NM CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES DIVISION



COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

The Community Partnership for Children incorporates many different facets of communication with families and community members. CPC is involved in nearly all community events including Jump into Summer, Earth Day, Give Grandly, Cobre Consolidated Schools Summer Fest, and CPC's SpectaColor Fun Run. At these events, CPC provides families with information about current projects, upcoming events, or announcements from any and all of our partners including changes and updates taking place at the state level, all while facilitating a hands-on children's activities. CPC has provided presentations, for various organizations, to inform and educate the community about CPC and its work. Our website and social media are also sources of outreach to families including links to the ECECD child care finder, details of local program capacity, and much more.



Out reach

Community outreach activities will occur throughout each year and focus on providing information to families about available, community-based ECE programs. CPC staff also provide enrollment support and obtain feedback from families pertaining to their needs and barriers related to quality childcare.



Presentations

CPC engages in marketing activities to increase community awareness of the importance and indicators of high quality early childhood programs and services. Web-based and print materials and community-based strategies serve to inform families about early childhood enrollment options, family resources, and partnership opportunities. Print media are distributed to health care facilities and faith-based organizations across the county.



Social Media

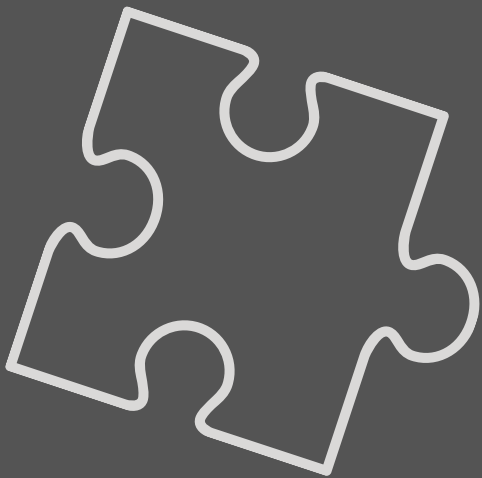
CPC provides information on early childhood education and childcare public service announcements via the local radio station and two local newspapers. Additionally, CPC has daily announcements on its Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CPCgrantcounty>, and regularly updates its website with current resources: www.grantcountycpc.com

The BIG picture

The Community Partnership for Children (CPC) staff, LINKS, Coalition partners, family leaders, and CPC Board members engage in weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual decision-making and planning to identify and meet the education and childcare needs of all families with children ages 0–5.

Every decision and proposed activity is determined in collaboration with partners and based on qualitative and quantitative data that drive the goals, objectives, and action plans reflected in CPC's Strategic Plan. Ongoing data collection occurs with a variety of stakeholders, including families, businesses, and other community members, with a focus on the needs and barriers facing families with infants and young children.

Data is analyzed and discussed among CPC staff and partners and are centered around specific ECE program data, project objectives, intended outcome data, and family needs identified by CPC's bi-lingual Community Needs Assessment (CNA), surveys, interviews, and focus groups. Data is also included from other community organizations such as, e.g., El Grito Head Start and Early Start Community Assessment and Grant County Community Health Council Community Assessment. CPC and its partners use current data to identify and target barriers that are common among community-based ECE organizations and providers, such as staff training and family engagement.



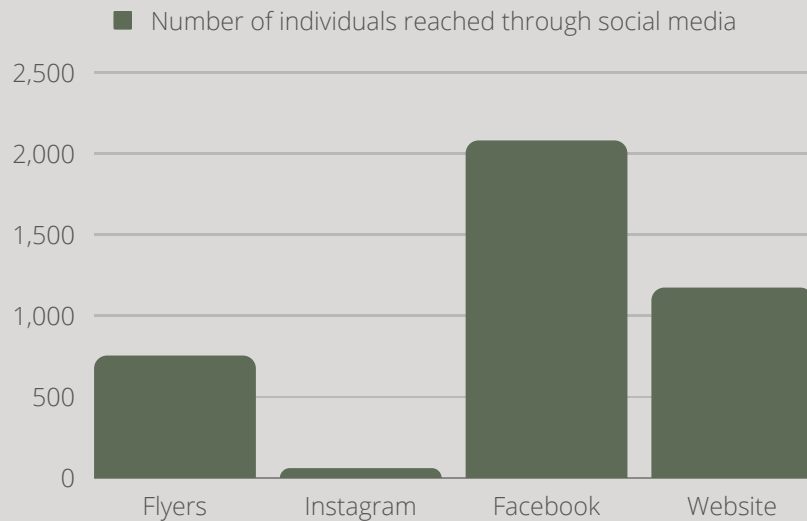
“Our goal is to make sure all those serving and raising children in the community guide the work of CPC and the Coalition. They are the experts.”

Kalah Carrasco



Programs and Services

During 2022-2023, CPC increased family awareness of early childhood programs and services across Grant County.



CPC collaborates with ECE Coalition partners to provide resources and services that support ECE providers and local families based on identified needs. Through data collected by CPC's 2022 Community Needs Assessment (CNA), five specific goals were identified to support quality early childhood education programs and services across Grant County:

1. **Increase family awareness of the importance and availability of early childhood programs.**
2. **Strengthen, empower, and expand the *Family Leadership Team*.**
3. **Provide quality before- and after-school care through the *Kids Space Program*.**
4. **Support and expand home-based childcare options through the *Home-Grown Network for Childcare (HGN)*.**
5. **Support center-based, licensed early childhood providers through the Learning Network for Kids (LINKS) program.**

CPC developed its 2023-2025 Strategic Plan to include goals, objectives, and action plans that align with the goals identified through the CNA process.



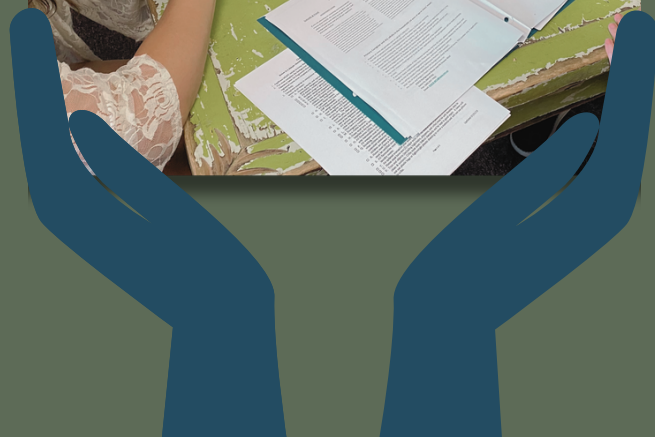
Supporting our Partners

CPC believes there are no barriers to the important advocacy work that needs to continue for families with infants and young children in Grant County—it is fundamental to all that CPC does to achieve its mission. All funding received by CPC is maximized and leveraged to strengthen partnerships at the state and local levels and across a mixed delivery system.

In addition to funding the CPC staff to support CPC supports successful ECE partnerships by providing meeting space, facilitation, accommodations, marketing, ECECD updates, and technical assistance.

CPC recognizes that effective partnerships require ongoing communication and collaboration. We actively participate in regular meetings with our partners to ensure that we are addressing the needs of the community and staying up-to-date on current trends in early childhood education. We also work to create opportunities for networking and professional development among our partners.

CPC is committed to fostering strong partnerships and advocating for policies and programs that support the healthy development and well-being of young children and families in Grant County. Through our collaborative efforts, we hope to make a lasting impact and create a brighter future for all members of our community.





TRAINING AND SUPPORT

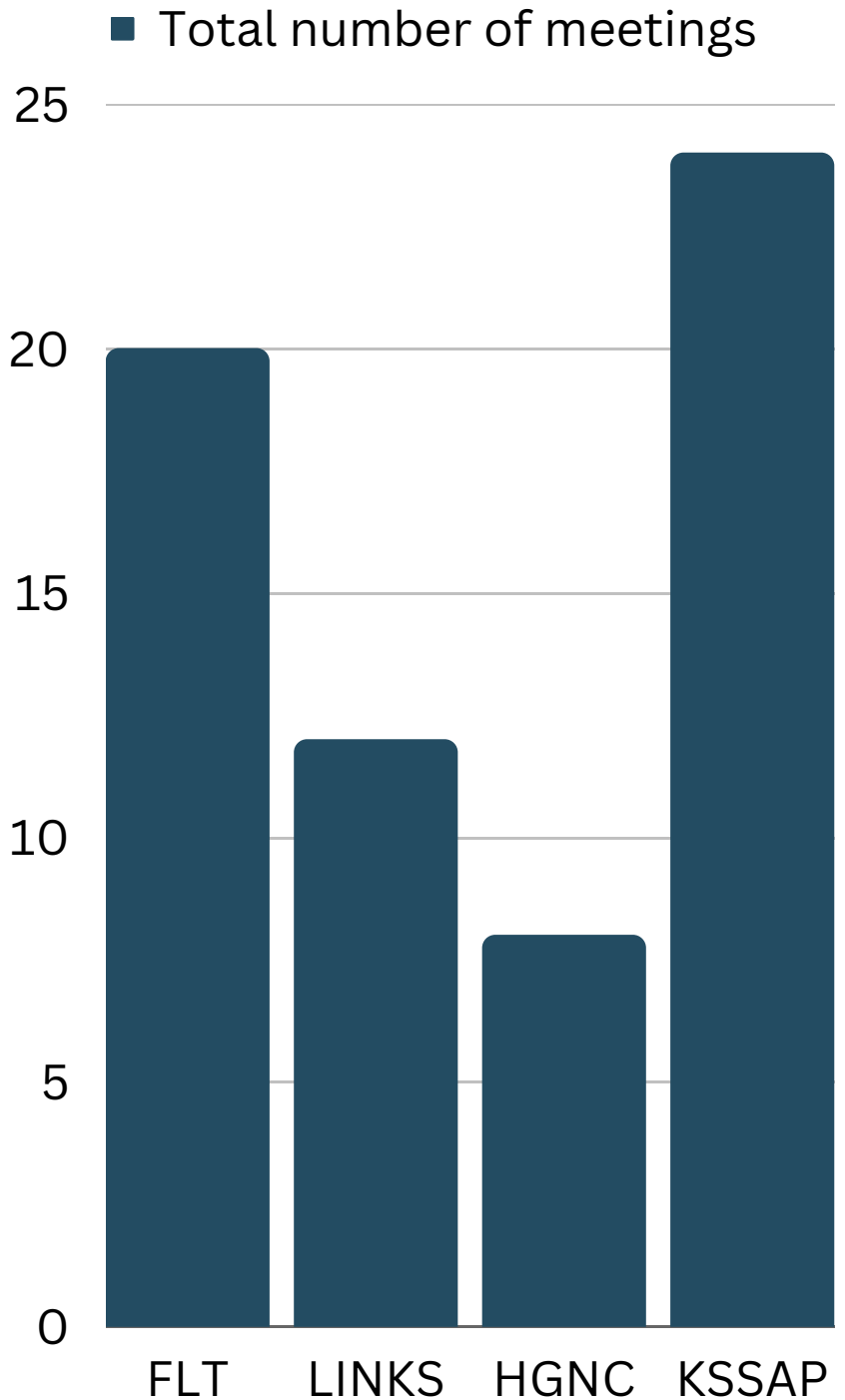
During 2022-2023, CPC's efforts have resulted in the following outcomes:

- 1000+ children were served in a quality childcare setting in Grant County.
- Over 800+ families were supported in obtaining affordable childcare and resources for nutrition, prenatal care, positive parenting, and healthy child growth and development

CPC facilitates monthly meetings (face-to-face and web-based) with all LINKS partners to assess and gather input regarding:

- a) successes, needs and challenges of providing quality early learning services (e.g., enrollment, family engagement, and staffing,
- b) challenges and strategies to share resources and funding to serve children and families,
- c) challenges and methods to support successful transitions between programs into kindergarten;
- d) challenges regarding state licensing and other regulations, and
- e) provider perspectives of their leadership in advocating for change in ECE at the state and local levels.

Number of meetings, trainings where support was provided



Local Demographics

Grant County comprises 3,968 square miles of mostly rural areas. The county's geographic location and demographics represent two of the unique challenges faced by families and ECE providers across Grant County's communities. Access to affordable and quality ECE is (or is perceived to be) beyond the reach of many families that live in the small towns and rural, frontier, and unincorporated communities that makeup Grant County. Demographic data indicate a 2021 county population of 27,669, including the following ethnicities:

- 50.3% Hispanic
- 46% White
- 2.2% American Indian
- .7% African American
- .8% other

A total of 5.4%, or 1,479 children ages birth through 4 are included in those populations.



Adding to the mix of the county's diverse cultures are historic, longstanding mining and ranching families living and raising children in rural and frontier communities. While all these populations bring historical and cultural traditions that enrich our communities, the lack of quality, accessible, and affordable ECE opportunities for families often result in children who are inadequately prepared for school and life, and families that are unable to work—a contributing factor to 37% of the county's children living in poverty, 32% of children living with food insecurity, and 20% of families with children who are unemployed.

CPC's work includes outreach to all communities across the county with efforts focused on supporting underserved families and children, for example, those living in poverty and small, rural mining districts.



Strength in Numbers:

Sustainability and CPC's Early Childhood Education Coalition

Coalition members collaborate and engage in community outreach, marketing, and fundraising efforts among local, state, and national organizations and private donors to leverage funds toward a shared and unified approach to improving the quality, affordability, and accessibility of the ECE programs for all families. Facilitating engagement with stakeholders is a key focus of CPC's collaborative partners. This is exemplified by the 2022 development, growth, and continued support of CPC's Family Leadership Team (FLT), a group of 10–12 parents representing diverse cultural backgrounds who are considered essential partners in ECE improvement processes. Each FLT member is empowered to serve as a voice for local families and is vital to CPC's decision-making process.



Through strong community partnerships, CPC continues to...

1

Provide structured opportunities for LINKS and Coalition partners to align multi-level systems and services around family-driven, shared goals, and community resources.

2

Facilitate engagement with stakeholders through community involvement and advocacy.

3

Identify and recruit new and diverse members to serve on the Family Leadership Team and the CPC Board of Directors.

Expanding Year round services



Objective 1: Collaborate and develop MOUs with the Grant County Kids Space pilot year-round program partners, Western New Mexico University (WMNU) Early Childhood Center of Excellence, the Town of Silver City, SW Council of Governments, the Silver Consolidated School District, and the Cobre School District to develop, expand, and support programs offering year-round, before- and after-school, and non-traditional hours of childcare.

The CPC Coalition collaborated with other community partners to identify needs, challenges, barriers, and successful models to access and provide local, high-quality year-round ECE services during non-traditional school and work hours. CPC has partnered with Silver Consolidated School District, Cobre School District, and the Western New Mexico University (WNMU) Early Childhood Center of Excellence, to coordinate and provide year-round and after-school services for young children through the development of after-school and summer programs. What started as a pilot program has now grown into a semi-self-sustaining Licensed Program.

This program will allow families who work or are seeking employment, during traditional and non-traditional work hours, to enroll their children in a quality ECE program that includes highly trained staff and developmentally appropriate practices.

CPC collaborated with and entered into a Professional Service Agreement with WMNU and the Town of Silver City to provide site-based technical assistance and resources that support program development program and staff development for the pilot program..

What Next?

CPC will continue to engage the partners to provide sustained program support and funding if needed, including the Town of Silver City, the Southwest Council of Governments (COG), and the Southwest Community Network. The CPC Coalition will continue to collaborate with partners to expand the after-school programs and begin serving the early ages 0-5, as part of the newly built Grant County Recreation Center to be completed in 2024.





SUPPORT HOME BASED CHILDCARE

Objective 2: CPC will provide support for 3 to 5 potential home-based childcare providers to understand and complete the requirements of the New Mexico licensed or registered childcare process to open and operate a childcare business.

The CPC Coalition has created a support system to expand home-based Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs across Grant County, providing more options for quality ECE services to families with children ages 0-5 in underserved areas, while also increasing economic opportunities for individuals who wish to provide childcare in their homes. CPC has partnered with Growing Up New Mexico to provide incentives along the way for potential home-based providers to become licensed or registered with the state. Outreach activities have been put in place to identify potential providers, including grandparents and stay-at-home mothers. Collaboration with the Small Business Development Center has been incorporated into the process to assist potential home-based ECE business owners in developing a business plan. CPC staff has provided site-based and online training and support to new providers to ensure they start and maintain state licensure to provide high-quality early childhood learning experiences.

The Coalition has been able to support one provider through the entire process and currently has five others at varying stages of the business development process. Through this initiative CPC has created a Home Grown Network for Childcare that will provide continued support to home-based providers, including ongoing support for state licensure requirements and subsidies, enrollment, program-related marketing, training, and program and child outcome data analysis for improvement efforts.





BUILD CAPACITY

Objective 3: During 2023–2025 CPC will build the capacity of the Learning Network for Kids (LINKS) and Home-Grown Network for Childcare (HGNC) partners to provide high quality, accessible, and affordable ECE programs for families of children ages birth to five in Grant County.

CPC will build capacity through collaborative activities that increase the knowledge, skills, and leadership capabilities of all local ECE program providers. Through networking, problem-solving, and sharing of resources, all local ECE providers will increase opportunities for families to access affordable, high-quality ECE programs. CPC has found that many families in Grant County were unaware of early childhood education (ECE) options and childcare assistance funds. CPC has continued to increase awareness and enrollment by providing information and resources to families in local communities, especially in rural areas. CPC will collaborate with its Family Leadership Team, NMECECD, and Growing Up New Mexico, and current networks (LINKS and HGNC) to support families seeking ECE services. CPC hopes to increase community understanding of the positive impact of ECE and achieve positive outcomes for targeted populations and the people and systems that support them across Grant County through various form of outreach.

BRINGING EVERYONE TOGETHER



CPC's Successful First Annual County-Wide Color Run Event

With a fantastic turnout of over 200 parents and children, CPC's first annual Color Run event was a big success! This outreach initiative provide an opportunity for over 20 programs in the community to provide resources and information to families on early childhood supports available in Grant County. This event also generated data from over 75 completed family surveys and resulted in a new Family Leadership Team member.". CPC's resource table was full of informative materials about the organization and its current projects. Signage throughout the event was used to showcase CPC's work.

Build Coalition Sustainability



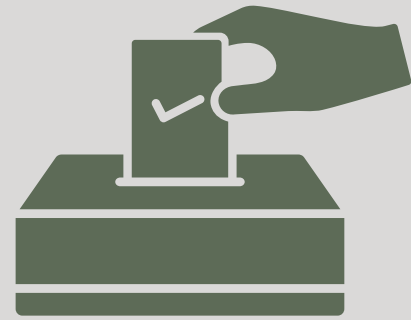
Objective 4: Develop and implement a 2023–2025 plan to sustain and institutionalize CPC’s Coalition work, vision, and mission.

	2023	2024
ECECD	150,000	?
United Way	5,000	5,000
Town of Silver City	17,000	17,000
HHS Grant		275,000

The funding CPC has secured from ECECD through 2024 will help to promote fair and impartial early childhood education throughout all Grant County communities. The coalition continues to identify additional funding sources that align with our strategic plan goals. Together with the United Way of Southwest NM Grant and current MOU through the Town of Silver City, CPC has been awarded a total of \$45,000.00. We have also applied for the Federal Health and Human Services Grant for targeted, early childhood support, and have requested \$825,000.00 over three years (\$275,000.00 per year), which is currently pending application approval.

This funding will enable the CPC Coalition to provide resources and support to families with young children, as well as to early childhood education providers and educators in the area. The Coalition will be able to expand its reach and provide assistance to more families and children in need. With the additional funding from the United Way of Southwest NM and the Town of Silver City, the Coalition will be able to enhance its programs and services, including training, educational resources, and childcare assistance. The funding from the Federal Health and Human Services will allow the Coalition to develop new programs and initiatives to address the needs of families and children in underserved areas. This is a significant step forward for early childhood education in Grant County, and we are thrilled to be able to make a positive impact on the lives of children and families in our community.

SUGGESTIONS AND ADDITIONS



01

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is key to improving access and quality of ECE services.

02

Rural Community Support

Families who live in poverty and rural areas still struggle with access (financial, transportation, awareness) to childcare, resulting in low employment rates.

03

Action and Commitment

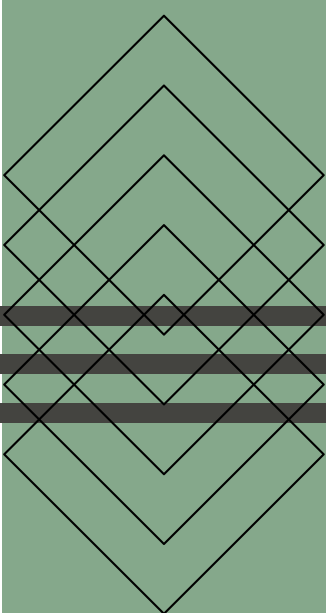
Funding needs to be consistent and adequate to support the work of coalitions. They need to have employment opportunities for qualified people to support ECE providers and that pay a living wage.

Parent Involvement



Research has shown that when parents are actively involved in their child's early childhood education, it can lead to better academic outcomes, improved social skills, and increased self-esteem for the child. Parent involvement can take many forms, including volunteering in the classroom, attending parent-teacher conferences, and participating in school events. It is important for educators to establish strong relationships with parents and to communicate regularly with them about their child's progress.

By working together, parents and educators can create a supportive and nurturing environment for young children that promotes their growth and development. Additionally, parent involvement can help to ensure that ECE services are accessible to all families, regardless of their socioeconomic status or cultural background. When parents are engaged in their child's education, it sends a message that education is valued and important, which can have a positive impact on the child's attitudes toward learning.



CPC has established various channels to help parents access quality childcare resources. To stay updated with the latest trends in childcare, CPC regularly modifies and updates its information. CPC faces challenges such as engagement, technical resources, and funding to continue supporting families.



Rural Community Support

The lack of access to childcare can be a major barrier for parents who want to work and provide for their families. Childcare can be expensive, and many families living in poverty simply cannot afford it. Additionally, transportation can be a challenge for families who live in rural areas, as there may not be reliable public transportation options or affordable private transportation. Finally, there may be a lack of awareness about available childcare options, especially among families who are new to the area or who are not proficient in English. All of these factors contribute to low employment rates among families living in poverty and rural areas, and addressing them will be an important step in promoting economic stability and mobility for these families.

“ It takes effective leadership to recognize the value of community involvement and to provide the necessary support and resources for it to happen.”

CPC has been able to foster a culture of community involvement by coaching and encouraging leaders to prioritize collaboration, in turn, the organization has created a positive impact both within and outside its walls. Ultimately, community involvement is a win-win situation for all parties involved, leading to stronger relationships, increased trust, and a more vibrant and prosperous community.

“ Collaborating with the community can bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and increased support for the organization's initiatives.”



Action and Commitment

Coalitions play a critical role in supporting early childhood education (ECE) providers and ensuring that young children have access to high-quality care and education. However, to effectively carry out this work, coalitions require consistent and adequate funding. This funding is essential for hiring qualified staff who can provide the necessary support to ECE providers. Additionally, it is crucial that these staff members are compensated with a living wage in order to retain them and ensure their continued commitment to this important work. Without sufficient funding and a stable workforce, coalitions may struggle to provide the level of support that ECE providers and young children need to thrive.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is important to acknowledge that none of our accomplishments would have been possible without the contributions and dedication of the CPC Board of Directors and Staff. Each individual brought unique talents, skills, and perspectives to the table, and together we were able to achieve great success. It is also important to express gratitude to the ECEC Department and UNM Team, our supporters and stakeholders who believed in our mission and provided resources and encouragement along the way. As we move forward, we must continue to work collaboratively and remain committed to our goals in order to build upon our past achievements and create a brighter future for all.

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts at CPC.

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