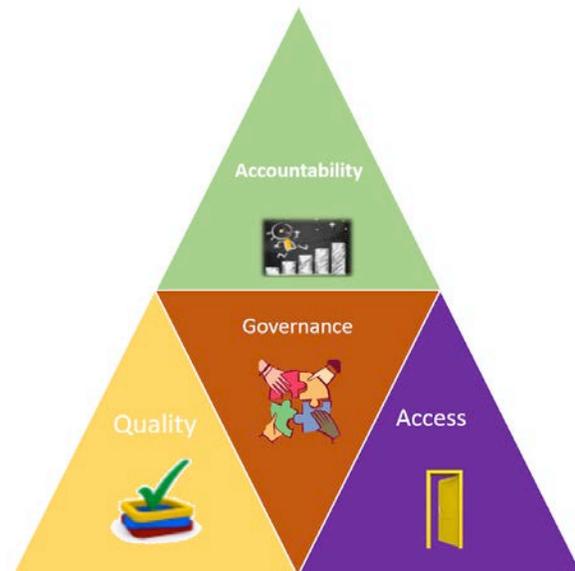# Sustainability Report - A Vision Forward for
Early Learning New Mexico

Sustaining the Early Childhood Initiatives
Implemented under New Mexico's Race To the Top
– Early Learning Challenge Grant

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New Mexico's RTT–ELC grant provided $37.5 million to support a systems-building effort designed to improve access to high-quality early care and learning programs. The following recommendations are derived from interviews, stakeholder input, and national best practices in early care and education, to sustain the accomplishments under the RTT_ELC and move the early learning work in New Mexico forward:

Recommendation 1: GOVERNANCE - Develop a governance structure through a formal agreement
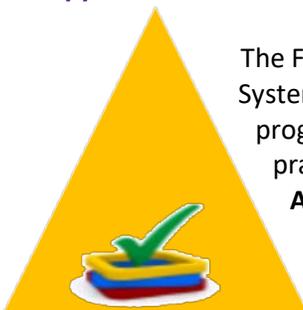
Developing a strong system for collaboration, planning and decision making across the state agencies implementing federal and state early learning programs to ensure program alignment and efficiencies in order to promote a continuum of services for New Mexico's young children and their families.

Accomplished: New Mexico implemented a shared leadership structure as part of the Race To the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant.

Next Steps:
➢ Develop a formal agreement between state agencies (DOH, CYFD and PED) for shared governance, decision making and planning.
➢ Establish formal relationship and accountability with the Governor's Early Learning Advisory Council.
➢ Coordinate communications (e-newsletter, website www.earlylearningnm.org , social media, etc.)

Recommendation 2: QUALITY – Continue to develop and promote the FOCUS Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System and expand and align professional development opportunities.

The FOCUS On Young Children's Learning – Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS) provides a framework for improving the quality of early learning programs in New Mexico through aligned standards that promote evidence based practices.

Accomplished: New Mexico developed FOCUS TQRIS with all early learning programs, including classroom and home-based programs

Next Steps:
➢ Continue to expand FOCUS to all early learning providers, including registered child care programs, Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program providers, and home visiting providers.

- Promote the FOCUS quality rating system to parents of young children, including informing them about the importance of high quality early learning experiences for their child.
- Expand professional development achievements, including the successful Pyramid Framework partnership that utilizes the evidence-based practices created by the Center on the Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (CSEFEL) to promote social emotional development across early learning programs in communities.
- Align and coordinate the delivery of professional development and technical assistance activities across early learning programs.

Recommendation 3: ACCESS – Access to quality early learning for young children and families across New Mexico

Building on the work of the Investment Zones to expand quality early learning programs to underserved communities, identifying resources in the community and / or recruiting resources to the community, in order to meet the needs of young children and families in those communities.

Accomplishments: Capacity building through support and training in 11 identified counties and 35 priority school districts under the RTT-ELC grant.
Next Steps:
- Expand the investment zone initiative to additional communities.
- Conduct a comprehensive community assessment that looks at the unmet early learning needs of all counties and communities.
- Utilize ECIDS data to enable parents to search by zip code or county for early learning providers in their community

Recommendation 4: ACCOUNTABILITY – Fully realizing the capacity of the Early Childhood Integrated Data System

Developing an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) that includes data from all programs New Mexico early learning programs that supports accountability and planning and demonstrates child outcomes over time.
Accomplishments: Data is being entered into ECIDS from the early childhood source data systems DOH, CYFD and PED, going back 6 years and children are assigned a unique ID. A Kindergarten Observation Tool (KOT) has been developed that is being used in classrooms across New Mexico.
Next Steps:
- Evaluate and clean-up data before developing data reports to be released to state agencies; Early Learning Council; Legislators, etc.
- Expand ECIDS to include Head Start / Early Head Start and if possible early childhood data from New Mexico 23 Indian tribes, which will enable a more complete data picture of the young children being served in New Mexico.
- Develop a data dashboard to visually display data and key performance measures.
- Establish ECIDS data governance committee to oversee the implementation of ECIDS, including processing requests for de-identified data reports from various constituent groups in accordance with established data governance policies and procedures.
- Utilize statewide KOT data as a measure of school readiness to analyze the impact of various early learning experiences.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NMPED
New Mexico Public Education Department

cyfd
Children Youth & Families Department

PULLTOGETHER.ORG