

NM Home Visiting Bits and Bites

June 2023



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

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Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

by Laura Shattuck, IMH-E

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) reports that census data shows an increase in the number of American grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, with 7.1 million grandparents living with their grandchildren under 18, and 2.3 million of those being responsible for them. Census data also shows that around one-third of grandchildren under the care of grandparents are under six years of age, and approximately half of the grandparents responsible for their grandchildren are aged 60 or over (Baime, 2023).

New Mexico has one of the highest rates of grandparents raising grandchildren in the country. There are a variety of reasons grandparents are raising their grandchildren in New Mexico. Some are providing a stable and safe home environment for their grandchildren due to their own adult children's challenges with addiction, mental health, death, or incarceration. According to a 2020 report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 8% of children in New Mexico live with a grandparent, compared to the national average of 6% (Casey, 2020).

Grandparents raising grandchildren encounter innumerable challenges. In New Mexico, many of these grandparents are older adults who may be grappling with their own health concerns or living on limited incomes. About 20% of grandparent caregivers in New Mexico live below the poverty level, according to a report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. They may also be managing complex legal and financial systems to obtain custody or guardianship of their grandchildren. Furthermore, they endure the emotional distress of watching their adult children grapple with addiction, illness, or other issues (Casey, 2020).

It is crucial to ensure that grandparents have access to needed support and resources in order to provide a stable and nurturing home environment for their grandchildren. By acknowledging and appreciating the important role that grandparents play in the lives of their grandchildren, home visitors can promote positive outcomes for these families and ensure that all children in New Mexico have the opportunity to thrive.

References

Baime, A. J. (2023, March 2). When Grandparents Are Called to Parent-Again. Retrieved May 3, 2023, from <https://bit.ly/3LGcl9v>

Casey, A. E. (n.d.). Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Retrieved May 2, 2023, from <https://bit.ly/41eKYcb>

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE DEPT (ECECD)

Regional Baby Showers are underway, and we hope that our support to recruit new families will prove successful. We'd like to thank all of our Home Visiting programs, state agency partners, and local partners who participated in the committee meetings and at the events. We couldn't have facilitated these without you! Thanks!

Our Annual Meeting in conjunction with our FIT partners (for the afternoon portion) is set for June 14th in Albuquerque. This meeting will be for Program Managers and Supervisors. We look forward to supporting connections between the regional home visiting programs and FIT programs.

We are winding down our fiscal year and getting ready to start FY24. Budget proposals for FY24 are due back to your M/M and LouAnn by 06/01/2023.

Some of the successes to date include program expansions, a successful MIECHV federal audit in May, and the completion of in-person site visits with each of our programs. CQIs for the third quarter have been completed and we are so pleased to hear how well our programs are doing. Thank you to each and every one of you for all of your hard work. Another success is we met the LFC benchmarks related to the PICCOLO.

We are expanding at the state as well and hope to add two more Manager/Monitors, a Supervisor and a Business Operations Manager. These job postings will be on NM SPO: www.spo.state.nm.us/ soon. Home visiting received \$8 million to support the overall expansion and the expected expansion over the next five years.

Our goal is to increase the enrollment in programs by 5000 families over the next 5 years. We have onboarded one new program, LEAP International Montessori School and we plan to onboard another two programs in FY24.

Our department celebrates its 3rd year in July, and we have seen growth in the services the department offers to families. We look forward to a successful FY24 and working with our home visiting programs and staff as we continue to support the children and families of New Mexico.

STORY FROM THE FIELD

I provide services to a 71-year-old grandmother. Grandma was enjoying retirement when there was a sudden change in her life. Her two-year-old granddaughter moved in with her in June 2022 due to exposure to narcotics. The state of New Mexico granted Grandma temporary custody as she is the child's closest relative capable of caring for her.

Grandma and her granddaughter enrolled in the Aprendamos/Carino Program in June 2022. Grandma shared that the program has been a valuable resource for the family. She has learned new skills to safely and healthily raise her granddaughter, strengthen their relationship, prevent problems, and manage misbehavior.

Grandma is grateful for the emotional support she has received on her journey, the financial assistance from Aprendamos/Carino, and the car seat and speech therapy referrals for her granddaughter. One of Grandma's goals is to continue participating in the program to become a good caregiver and ensure her granddaughter grows up healthy and happy.

In May 2023, a judge granted Grandma permanent custody of her granddaughter.

Blanca Gomez, Home Visitor

Aprendamos Family of Services
Cariño Home Visiting, Las Cruces, NM



If you are not receiving emails from the Home Visiting listserv, please notify your program manager and they can forward your information to your UNM Program Consultant.

The listserv provides timely information on upcoming training, events, and news!



[Home Visiting Training Calendar](#)



[Previous COL Sessions, Articles, Tips & Resources](#)



[Reflective Practice](#)



HOME VISITING DATES ON THE HORIZON

<p>June 1, 27</p> <p>Reflective Case Reviews</p> <p>1:30-2:30 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>June 2</p> <p>ECECD Baby Shower- Farmington</p> <p>11 a.m.-3 p.m. San Juan College</p>	<p>June 5, 12</p> <p>Mothers and Babies NM Consultation</p> <p>12-1 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>June 7, 8, 22, 23</p> <p>New Home Visitor Training Interaction Orientation Sessions</p> <p>9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>June 12, 21</p> <p>Reflective Case Reviews</p> <p>9-10 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>June 13</p> <p>ECECD Baby Shower - Farmington</p> <p>11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sycamore Park Community Center</p>
<p>June 13</p> <p>Community of Learners: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren</p> <p>10-11:45 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>June 14</p> <p>Home Visiting Annual Meeting</p> <p>8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Marriott Pyramid</p>	<p>June 16</p> <p>ECECD Baby Shower- Las Cruces</p> <p>11 a.m.-3 p.m. Hilton Garden Inn</p>	<p>June 30</p> <p>Supporting the Home Learning Environment</p> <p>10-11 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>June 30</p> <p>NM ECECD: Implementing Hands-on-Materials to Support Children & Families</p> <p>10-11 a.m., via Zoom</p>	<p>Visit the HV Training Calendar link above or HERE to register.</p> <p>If you cannot attend an event/ training that you registered for, please cancel in advance to allow those on the waiting list to register.</p>

RECOMMENDED READING

The Sacred Work of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren by Elaine K. Williams, Balboa Press, Copyright 2011.

JUNE OBSERVANCES/CELEBRATIONS

[June 1-7, CPR & AED Awareness Week](#)

[Men's Health Month](#)



SUBMIT NEWS!

To submit information to be shared in future newsletters, please send an email to: HSC-ECLN@salud.unm.edu

For more information, visit us below.



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UNM Early Childhood Services Center,
UNM Center for Development & Disability



NEW MEXICO
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