Contact:
Kate Noble
New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership
Katen@nmecdp.org
917-721-5977
Or
Hailey Heinz
UNM Cradle to Career Policy Institute
Hailey57@unm.edu
505-554-8821

NMECDP Rolls out Comprehensive Early Childhood Dashboard

As New Mexico turns its attention to expansion of early childhood education, the Early Childhood Development Partnership (NMECDP) is pleased to offer a new dashboard that maps service slots across programs that serve New Mexico's young children. The dashboard can be accessed by going to ccpi.unm.edu and clicking on "Data Visualizations," or by clicking here.

The dashboard, created in collaboration with the University of New Mexico Cradle to Career Policy Institute (CCPI), maps service slots for child care, New Mexico PreK, home visiting, Early Head Start, and Head Start. The dashboard allows users to select a county of interest, and to look at specific types of services within that county or statewide. These slots are shown against estimates of need, which vary by program and have been established to help stakeholders see where young children may remain underserved.

"As we work to expand access to quality early childhood programs, it's important to understand what services we already have. This is a powerful, data-rich tool which can complement outreach, interviews, focus groups, and other qualitative work to build an accurate picture of the current programs, needs, and gaps in early childhood throughout New Mexico," said Katherine Freeman, CEO of the New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership.

The New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership works to create statewide awareness, support and understanding of the overwhelming benefits of early learning, and partnered with the Cradle to Career Policy Institute to create a dynamic tool to understand and visualize the programs and services provided in early childhood in New Mexico.

"New Mexico's early childhood system has a lot of moving parts, and it can sometimes be difficult to see how they all fit together," said CCPI's Hailey Heinz. "We think this tool is exciting because it brings together data about how many children New Mexico serves across different early childhood services, and lets users see all that information in one user-friendly place."

CCPI does applied policy research and data visualization, in areas affecting children and families from birth to higher education. The CCPI early childhood team works on bringing data and context to New Mexico's conversations around home visiting, PreK, child care, Head Start, and other services for families and young children. More information is at ccpi.unm.edu.

NMECDP develops short- and long-term strategies for increasing public awareness and investment in early learning, and strategies for an array of stakeholders, including policy and business leaders, early learning professionals and families in championing legislative actions in support of early learning. For more information please visit nmecdp.org.

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