Dana Bell and Hailey Heinz from the UNM Cradle to Career Policy Institute are conducting a research project. The purpose of the research is to better understand the child care needs and preferences of families in tribal, immigrant, and Spanish-speaking communities. You are being asked to participate because you are the parent or primary caregiver of a young child in one of our communities of interest.

Your participation will involve a guided discussion with a group of 4-15 other parents/guardians of young children. The focus group should take about 40-90 minutes to complete, and you will be provided a $20 gift card as compensation for your time. The focus group includes questions such as your opinion about the child care options in your community, any barriers or challenges that families face, the strengths of the child care offered in your community, and your ideas for how child care options could be improved to meet the needs of families. Your involvement in the research is voluntary, and you may choose not to participate. You can refuse to answer any of the questions at any time. There are no names or identifying information associated with your responses. There are no known risks in this research, but some individuals may experience discomfort or loss of privacy when answering questions. The focus group will be audio recorded if all participants consent to recording, and otherwise will be recorded through notetaking. Audio recordings and/or notes will be transcribed and analyzed, and will be stored in a secure drive maintained by the UNM Information Technology Department. All data collected during the project, including de-identified data, will be destroyed no later than December 31, 2031. Your information collected for this project will NOT be used or shared for future research, even if we remove the identifiable information like your name.

The findings from this project will provide information on whether the child care options in New Mexico are meeting the needs of the state’s diverse and distinct communities, and how the options could be improved. If published, results will be presented in primarily in summary form, although some direct quotations, presented anonymously, may be used to illustrate key points. Direct quotations will only be used if the research team has discussed the quote and determined that it does not contain information that might identify the speaker.

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about the research, please feel free to call Hailey Heinz at 505-554-8821. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, or about what you should do in case of any harm to you, or if you want to obtain information or offer input, please contact the UNM Office of the IRB (OIRB) at (505) 277-2644 or irb.unm.edu.

In lieu of a signature, please verbally confirm that you consent to participate in this research.