VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

September 22, 2026

Wayne Propst, Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration
407 Galisteo Street, Room 180
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Subject: Child Care Facility Recommendations

Secretary Propst:

The New Mexico Higher Education Department (Department) is pleased to present capital outlay funding recommendations that support Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's child care expansion, codified through the signing of Senate Bill 241 during the 57th Legislature. These recommendations build upon the department's $10 million investment earlier this year, which funded capital improvements at five higher education institutions across New Mexico.

Through a formal request for applications issued in March, the Department received twenty-five (25) proposals totaling $119,830,422. After allocating the initial $10 million, a balance of $109,830,422 in unmet requests remained. Applying the same prioritization criteria used for the first round of funding, the Department identified an additional ten (10) projects that would collectively create or expand childcare capacity statewide for an estimated 587 children.

Exhibit C provides an overview of the ten (10) projects recommended for capital outlay funding in the amount of $25,488,130. These recommendations focus on renovating and expanding existing childcare facilities, advancing the planning and design of new facilities to address the substantial backlog of families unable to access care, and supporting the purchase and installation of furnishings and playground equipment necessary for the added capacity.

Thank you for your time and attention. If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact Gerald Hoehne, Chief of Staff, at Gerald.Hoehne@hed.nm.gov or me directly.

Sincerely,

Stephanie M. Rodriguez
Cabinet Secretary

Attachments: Ex. C – 2026 FY28 Capital Outlay Funding Recommendation – Childcare Facilities

Cc: Dr. Patricia Trujillo, Deputy Secretary, New Mexico Higher Education Department
Gerald Hoehne, Chief of Staff, New Mexico Higher Education Department
Kendal Chavez, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Programs, Early Childhood Education & Care Department
Wesley Billingsley, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Division

NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Fostering Student Success from Cradle to Career

New Mexico Higher Education Department

2026/FY28 Higher Education Capital Outlay Funding Recommendation - Childcare Facilities

New Construction

Institution	Project Title	Total Project Cost	State Funding Request	Committed Match Funding	Match Funding Source	Recommended Language	HED Rec
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology	NMT Children's Center Expansion	$ 2,000,000	$ 2,000,000	$ -	None	To plan, design, construct, renovate, and equip the children's center at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, New Mexico.	$ 2,000,000
Eastern New Mexico University	ENMU Child Development Center	$ 13,250,000	$ 10,000,000	$ 3,250,000	None	To plan, design, construct, furnish and equip a new child development center at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mexico.	$ 10,000,000
Navajo Technical University	NTU Child Care Multipurpose Building	$ 5,250,000	$ 5,250,000	$ -	None	To plan and design a new child care facility at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, New Mexico.	$ 525,000
Mesalands Community College	MCC Early Chilhood Education and Care Training Center for Excellence (Moderate Remodel)	$ 4,500,000	$ 4,500,000	$ -	None	To plan and design a new child care facility at Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari, New Mexico.	$ 450,000

Renovation and Equipment

Institution	Project Title	Total Project Cost	State Funding Request	Committed Match Funding	Match Funding Source	Recommended Language	HED Rec
ENMU-Roswell	ENMU-Roswell Child Development Center Renovation	$ 250,000	$ 250,000	$ -	None	To plan, design, renovate, furnish and equip the child development center at Eastern New Mexico University Roswell campus in Roswell, New Mexico.	$ 250,000
ENMU-Ruidoso	ENMU-Ruidoso Childcare Lab Major Renovation and Equipment	$ 1,550,000	$ 1,550,000	$ -	None	To plan, design, renovate, furnish and equip the childcare lab at Eastern New Mexico University Ruidoso campus in Ruidoso, New Mexico.	$ 1,550,000
San Juan College	SJC - CFDC Renovation & Equipment/Furnishing Purchase/Playground Equipment Purchase	$ 3,050,000	$ 510,000	$ 2,540,000	K2019 Award	To plan, design, renovate, furnish and equip the Child and Family Development Center, including playground equipment, at San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico.	$ 510,000
University of New Mexico	UNM Children's Campus Cluster 1 & 2 with Playground Expansion	$ 9,903,300	$ 5,193,300	$ 4,710,000	K2019 Award	To plan, design, construct, furnish, and equip renovations to the UNM Children's Campus Cluster 1 and 2, including playground expansion, at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico.	$ 5,193,300
Santa Fe Community College	SFCC Kids Campus Classroom Renovations and Expansion	$ 3,500,000	$ 2,500,000	$ 1,000,000	K2019 Award	To plan, design, construct, furnish, and equip renovations to the Kids Campus at Santa Fe Community College in Santa Fe, New Mexico.	$ 2,500,000
New Mexico State University - Dona Ana Community College	DACC Early Learning Center and Lab School	$ 3,346,440	$ 2,509,830	$ 836,610	DACC Match	To plan, design, construct, renovate, and equip a Early Learning Center within the Digital Media building at New Mexico State University Dona Ana campus in Las Cruces, New Mexico.	$ 2,509,830

New Construction:	**$ 12,975,000**
Renovation and Equipment:	**$ 12,513,130**
TOTAL:	**$ 25,488,130**