



## PROFILES: SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

<b>State:</b>	New Mexico
<b>Partnership name:</b>	New Mexico Early Childhood Alliance: Quality Through Shared Services/ Alianza Para Calidad
<b>Web site(s):</b>	<a href="http://www.newmexeca.org">http://www.newmexeca.org</a>
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### 1. Background

The Shared Services initiative in New Mexico is a partnership that was catalyzed through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to the New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children (NMAEYC), with strategic support from a national technical assistance organization that supports shared services (Opportunities Exchange). Starting in September 2012, NMAEYC brought together a broad range of early childhood participants and stakeholders: directors of early childhood centers and homes, funders, state agencies, community partners, etc. The aim was to construct a statewide Shared Services Web platform that would serve early childhood centers and homes committed to quality, to support community

networking, particularly in the South Valley of Albuquerque, and to explore the feasibility of sharing staff between programs. These goals were accomplished and are continuing.

## 2. Mission and Goals

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The purpose of the New Mexico Early Childhood Alliance (ECA): Quality Through Shared Services/Alianza Para Calidad is to strengthen the systemic capacity of early childhood education programs in New Mexico through a shared services approach and through the Web platform, and to bring together public and private entities to strengthen the quality and sustainability of early childhood education programs, particularly those located neighborhoods of high need.

Goals include the following:

- Using a statewide, Web-based shared services initiative as a strategy accessible to all early childhood programs with a focus on sustainable, high-quality services;
- Building awareness of, and engagement in, networking as well as staff sharing models in order to increase opportunities to support high-quality early learning;
- Demonstrating how a shared services framework can help strengthen quality of service delivery and support of reflective practice and family engagement; and
- Linking the work in New Mexico to the national movement of shared services.

## 3. Governance and Partnership Members

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There are many partners involved in this work. NMAEYC is the lead partner, making the Shared Services Web site available to interested child care centers and homes, marketing it to the broader community, and developing local shared services alliances. NMAEYC and the many directors, teachers, and support staff who have joined the Shared Services partnership have been supported by public sector and private sector partners. The state government's early childhood system leader and partial investor in this effort is the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD). CYFD does more than provide resources for this effort. It has also made its resources

available through the NewMexECA Web site, strengthening the Shared Services Web site AND making these materials available to more early childhood education programs. The Kellogg Foundation served as the first private foundation partner, providing the catalytic start-up funding for this effort.

## 4. Funding and Other Resources

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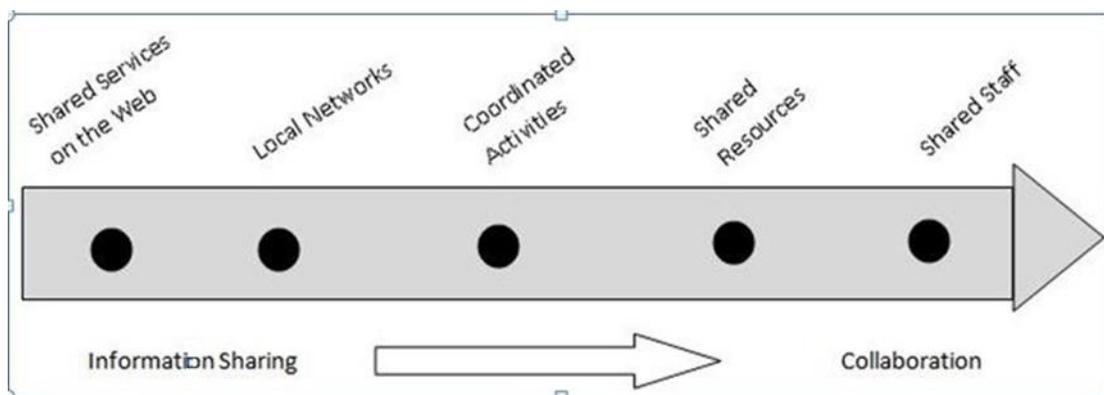
Quality Through Shared Services is supported with public and foundation resources that are managed by the lead partner, NMAEYC. Federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge funding through the New Mexico CYFD is used to support ongoing customization of a national Web site for shared services, which is overseen by CCA Global, and to provide no-cost access to any interested child care director, teacher, and support staff in the State that commits to and supports quality. Other funding, such as the Santa Fe Community Foundation, is supporting on-the-ground community organizing in the Santa Fe area to explore local alliances that meet the needs of the community. The Kellogg Foundation provided support for the first 18 months.

## 5. Activities

One of the major foci of New Mexico ECA Quality through Shared Services is to engage community providers in the path to quality and to promote the Web-based Shared Services platform as a responsive, helpful mechanism to support quality. The Web site is customized to meet the needs of New Mexico's early learning professionals, and includes a section known as Raise Quality, which was developed in collaboration with the state CYFD partner and training and technical assistance programs. These pages link New Mexico's Quality Rating and Improvement System standards to targeted resources and forms. Regular updates of the Web site include a focus on key resources to support quality improvement as well as plans for hosting of Webinars and online training.

Working at the community level is a major activity for New Mexico ECA Quality Through Shared Services. Outreach and marketing activities are targeted to child care centers and family child care homes, and organizers have assisted in creating and supporting several regional alliances comprised of networks of child care providers who meet together in person to share challenges and resources, and to focus on how to understand the use of shared services as a way to restructure early childhood to promote quality and business efficiency. One local alliance has been exploring sharing substitute staff. Alliances are currently actively exploring shared distribution and preparation of affordable, nutritious food, and policy changes around licensing and child care subsidy.

The plan is to continue to move along the following Shared Services continuum:



## 6. Evaluation and Outcomes

The New Mexico ECA partnership tracks the number of people participating and the frequency of their use of online Shared Services. Other early outcomes include identification of shared services needs, such as professional development, and cultivation of appropriate Web content to meet the need. The plan is to conduct periodic user surveys on the Web platform, and to continue to survey members and plan to meet needs and then evaluate impact.

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