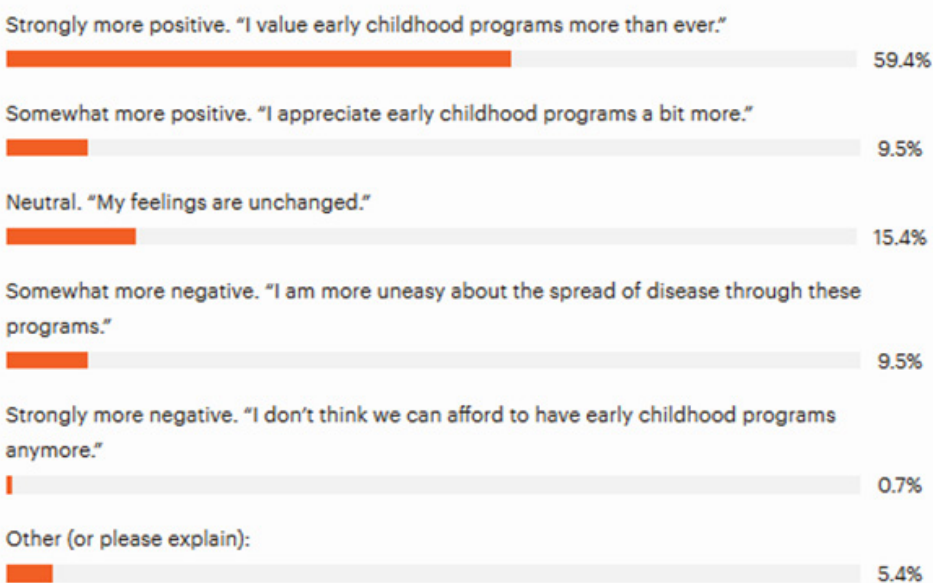


EARLY CHILDHOOD IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

WHAT WE HEARD IN A SURVEY OF NEARLY
800 PEOPLE THROUGHOUT NEW MEXICO

How have **your feelings about early childhood programs changed** as a result of COVID-19 and stay at home orders?

“It has taken this crisis for child care/early education to be recognized for its importance in communities across NM and the country.”



COMMENTS

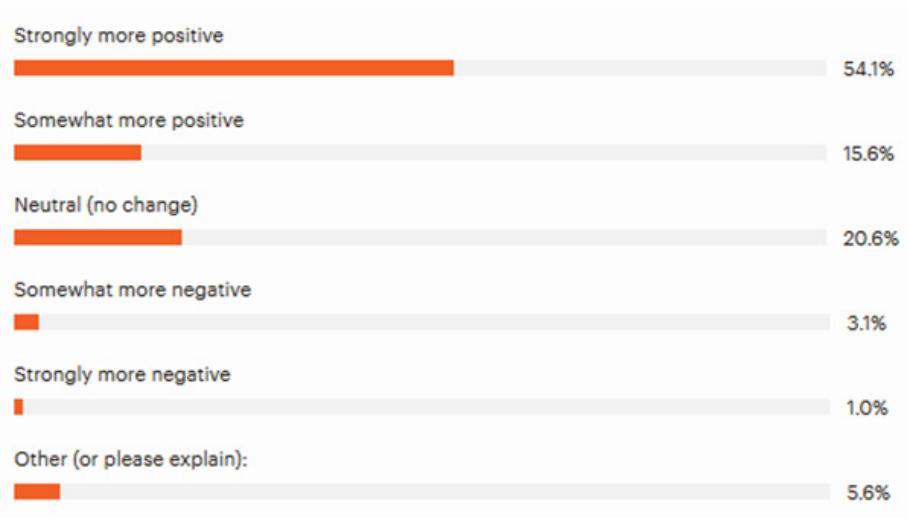
“I have a lot of respect for the programs that chose to remain open during COVID-19 and the staff working in those programs.”

“I feel we deserve raises. We shape and model these kids to be future doctors, lawyers, nurses...”

“I don’t think we can afford to have early childhood programs anymore.”

How have **your feelings about early childhood staff changed** as a result of COVID-19 and stay at home orders?

“I am amazed at the creativity of teachers, therapists and social workers and their ability to find a way to connect with families.”



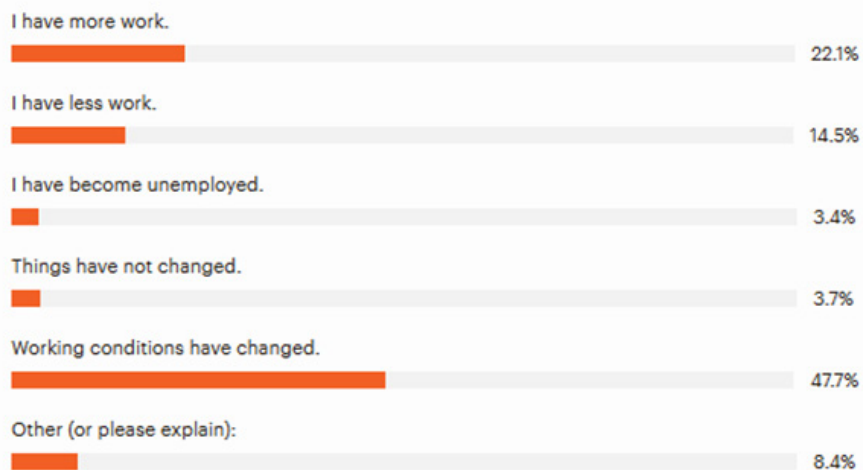
COMMENTS

- “I know the teachers who love early childhood as much as I do and are vested no matter the stay at home order or risk we take working in the field .“
- “It’s made me see who really cares and works for the kids and who’s just there.”
- “(Employees) continue to work, however they are still are scared.”



How has **your work or life changed** as a result of COVID-19 and stay at home orders?

“Without child care services available, parents are having to take more time off from work to care for their young children at home.”



COMMENTS

“Distance Teaching and Learning is extremely hard...especially on those with lower incomes and those without the knowledge to use technology.”

“There is no drive time to homes and relationships have been harder to create, maintain and develop with families and children.”

“Trying to support my teaching staff to be motivated to support the children and families has been exhausting. I still love working with children and families.”



How have **your feelings about seeking medical treatment and care changed** as a result of COVID-19 and stay at home orders?

“I would like to get some kind of medical insurance for myself and family it’s really important to have especially now during this pandemic just can’t afford it.”



COMMENTS

"I'm afraid to go to the doctor or dentist for anything other than an immediate emergency. simply because of the risk of infection from encountering other patients / people"

"Periodic checkups are crucial to long term health."

"I have a great connection with my children's doctors. I love all the precautions they are taking to ensure families and children are safe and not being put at risk for the virus."

OTHER RESPONSES

What is needed to support children and families in your community since the stay at home orders and concerns about COVID-19?

"The inequality of access to basic necessities has become more evident."

"It has been difficult to get basics for our center such as wipes, Lysol, bleach, gloves, paper towel, toilet paper and hand sanitizer. We use these things on a daily basis to clean and ensure the safety of our staff, students and families."

"Child care programs need more support to stay open. A business cannot function and pay employees to serve less than ratio every day."

“There is nowhere here for childcare here with the schools not open.”

"The majority of our families do not have access to reliable free internet. They also do not have computers at home. Especially in the more rural areas of our district there is no Internet infrastructure to support our families and staff."

What are your biggest concerns for early childhood programs, as the economy begins to reopen?

“Social distancing is not natural to young children.”

“Our work is all about loving, and touching, and holding young children but they are silent carriers and may easily pass the virus on to adults. I am unsure how we can avoid that.”

“The financial stability of our local providers is a major concern. Some are on the verge of closing their doors permanently due to the lack of enrollment from non-essential families who’ve stayed at home.”

“My concern is that EC programs and innovation will bear the brunt of budget cuts, which, with equal inevitability, will hamstring NM’s ability to improve its child wellbeing and educational attainment.”

What are your greatest hopes for early childhood programs, if we are able to build back better than before?

“Better quality programs because there is always room for improvement.”

“The increased use of telehealth allows us to meet families where they are. I would like to see telehealth be a more acceptable practice if families prefer...”

“Higher pay for teachers, health insurance, and more paid sick leave. It is the right climate for change now with all the so called essential workers treated like they are essential and not sacrificial.”

“My biggest hope for early childhood programs is that we are valued for the essential work that we do and that society sees the integral role that we play in the functioning of the economy.”

What else should people know about your early childhood in your community in 2020?

“We’re always here to help and support all families and we go above and beyond because the children’s health, safety and education are our highest priorities.”

“EC professionals are the most creative people I know. They are passionate about their work and serving the families in their communities. They do the work and ask questions later.”

“Our educators are hardworking and deserve respect. They are helping shape the critical early lives of our children. They deal with the challenges of respecting diversity, early childhood trauma, and building social and emotional skills...”

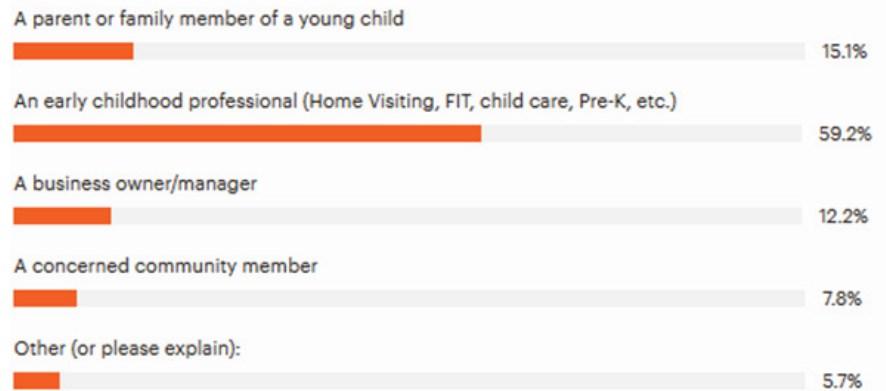
“As a state, we have worked so hard to put early childhood services at the forefront of education. We cannot lose ground! Invest early for a better future for our families and their children.”

“We are working hard to keep our facility safe, clean, and healthy for all children in our care while still providing a fun, high-quality childcare experience for all.”

WHO WE HEARD FROM

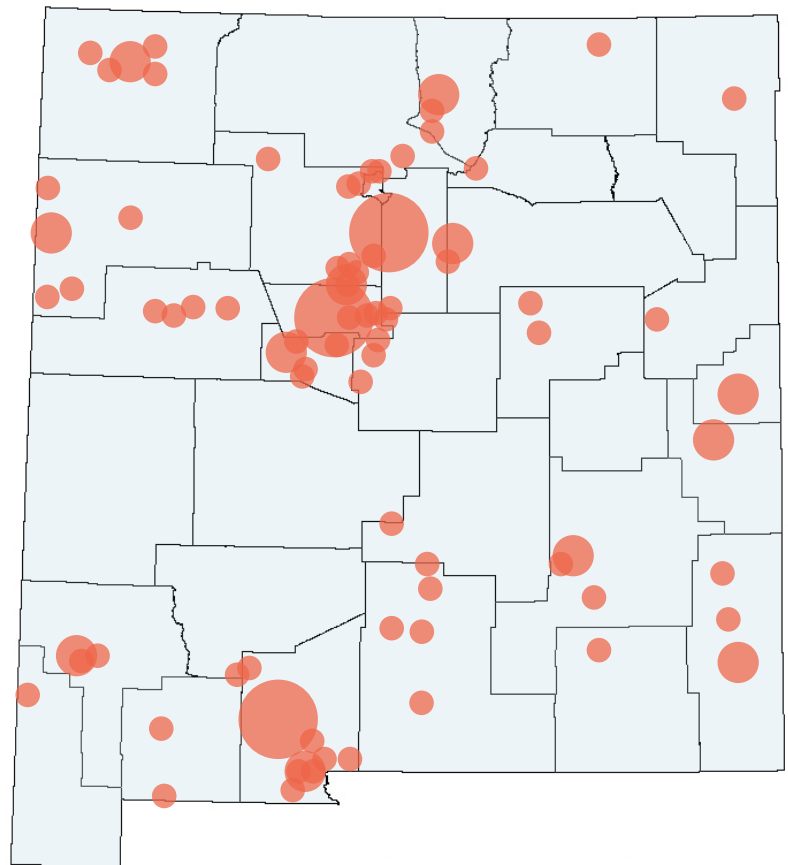
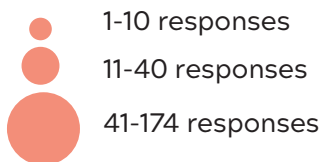
Close to 800 people across diverse locations in New Mexico gave answers to this survey, most were early childhood professionals with parents and family members as the second largest group.

My perspective on New Mexico's early childhood programs is as:



People from all over New Mexico shared their thoughts.

Dots represent the number of responses in each region.



THANK YOU!

The New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership is grateful to everyone who answered this survey and for everything you do for our youngest children. We work to enhance early learning policy and investment in order to grow high-quality, sustainable early childhood programs. Please stay in touch!



NEW MEXICO EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

WEBSITE: NMECDP.ORG
EMAIL: ENGAGE@NMECDP.ORG
FACEBOOK: FACEBOOK.COM/NEWMEXICOEARLYCHILDHOOD/