

2024 Year In Review



Dear Partnership for Community Action Family,



Connection is the heartbeat of our work and 2024 was inspiring as we continue building strong, thriving communities across New Mexico. Rooted in solidarity and fueled by the resilience of our community, this year reminded us of the power that emerges when we come together to create meaningful **change**.

The strength of our community partnerships has been a guiding force throughout the year. From vaccine clinics improving health outcomes statewide to the incredible launch of our Baby Bonds initiative, every effort has demonstrated what is possible when we **invest in people** and **organize communities**. The Baby Bonds program marks a significant step toward economic equity, and its promise to uplift generations is already resonating in families' futures. Looking ahead, we are on a clear path toward legislative wins in 2025, securing even more opportunities for early childhood education and wealth-building programs that empower New Mexican families.

Our statewide engagement with facilitators, particularly through our Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors (AP-OD) Trainer of Facilitator program, exemplifies the deep and intentional connections we have fostered and relationships we have cultivated and nurtured. These **leaders** have mobilized their communities, advocating for policies that dismantle inequities and build upon environments where every New Mexican can thrive. This work has illuminated

the ripple effects of collective action and stands as proof that we are stronger **together**.

Throughout the year, the stories of resilience and action have been abundant. Thousands of families accessed resources through our programming and countless leaders stepped forward to support and activate our shared mission. The progress made in 2024 reflects not only measurable outcomes but the unwavering spirit of a **united community**, committed to creating a future filled with equity, justice, and opportunity.

Moving into the new year, we reaffirm our commitment to working alongside you, our partners, leaders, advocates, and allies. While we do not yet know all that 2025 will bring, we face it with the power of collective vision and the strength of shared purpose. Together, we will continue shaping policies, amplifying voices, and ensuring that New Mexico's children, families, and communities have the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

As PCA begins to celebrate **35 years** of building power and connection, stay tuned for a year of storytelling and moments that honor the journey we have traveled together. Thank you for your partnership, your trust, and your belief in the **power** of community.

Here's to another year of connection, strength, and transformational change!

**Juntos Venceremos,
Together We Rise**





Investing in People

New PCA Team Members



Oriandi Mellas
Community Program Specialist

Meet Oriandi Mellas, our dedicated Community Program Specialist. She moved from Gómez Palacio, Durango, to Albuquerque at age nine; overcoming language barriers as a first-generation immigrant, she earned a degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE). Today, Oriandi empowers young parents and ECE providers to advocate for their communities through education and community-driven programs.



Ruby Rodriguez
Administrative Assistant

Meet Ruby Rodriguez, our Administrative Assistant. She brings diverse experience in retail, nonprofit administration, and arts coordination to support our mission. Ruby's passion for creativity and community drives her dedication to making a positive local impact.

Economic Equity and Access to Capital

Microloans

- In 2024, 10 loans were funded totaling \$87,130
- Since 2018, 94 loans have been funded totaling \$461,231

Microloans offer access to critical financial capital to community leaders, entrepreneurs, and families who may face barriers to traditional lending. What's even more remarkable is our negligible default rate, a testament to the strength of trust and accountability built through personal relationships with borrowers.

This program extends beyond financial support, by strengthening a sense of community and advocacy with our borrower network meetings. These gatherings are not transactional; they serve as a platform for borrowers to build power, share experiences, and support each other's growth. Borrowers engage in discussions about navigating systemic barriers, building advocacy skills, and working towards collective solutions that drive systems change. PCA relationship-based lending is supported by Nusenda Credit Union and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.



Carmen Estrella Trigo (left) and Yadira Sanchez (second from left) are key leaders in strengthening family and home-based childcare through Educadores RISE, pictured with PCA Trainers, Jessica George (right) and Ismael Hernandez (second from right).

Carmen, as a co-facilitator, shared her expertise to guide providers in growing and improving their businesses, enhancing both childcare quality and economic opportunities. Yadira, as a coach, provided one-on-one support to participants, empowering them to achieve their goals and address specific challenges in their childcare journey. Their expertise was pivotal in the success of the first year of Educadores RISE. Together, they have helped create sustainable solutions for families and caregivers.

Early Childcare Champions

Educadores RISE

Educadores RISE (Resources, Innovation, Support for Educators) is a free, professional development program that empowers and supports home-based childcare providers in increasing the quality of their services and meets requirements to be licensed by the state.

- **25 providers graduated**, completing over 40 hours of learning
- **22 hours** of one-on-one coaching
- **709 continuing education units** (CEUs) aligned with Early Childhood Education & Care Department (ECECD)
- **Over \$40,000** in business growth funds provided to participants
- **60%** participants demonstrated an increase in **social connectedness**
- **80%** participants demonstrated an increase in **business knowledge**
- **56%** participants demonstrated an increase in **knowledge of child development and kindergarten readiness**
- **64%** participants demonstrated an increase in **knowledge about quality childcare practices**
- **36%** participants demonstrated an increase in **empowerment**

THE Accelerator

THE (Training Home Educators) Accelerator is a state-wide, bilingual program for providers who want to grow and improve their family/home-based childcare business. In partnership with Growing Up New Mexico and WESST, the six-month intensive training helps increase the supply of quality childcare for families and improves economic opportunities for caregivers.

- **37 providers graduated**
- **39 licensed or registered providers**



An Educadores RISE provider participates in an interactive training activity.



Developing Strong Leaders

Multigenerational Community Engagement

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors Training (AP-OD)

- **72 newly Certified Facilitators** trained by PCA Trainer of Facilitators program
- These 72 individuals **represented 18 organizations and coalitions**
- In partnership with New Mexico Asian Family Center (NMAFC), 8 staff and parent leaders were certified. NMAFC offers services in 19 different languages.
- **9 trainings** hosted in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Las Vegas, Anthony, Farmington, and Hobbs
- Certified Facilitators were from **13 Counties**
- **PCA has facilitated over \$100,000 back to community organizations** who served over **290 families** across the state.

Early Childhood Coalitions

- Of the 72 newly trained facilitators, 27 are from the **17 statewide coalitions** created by ECECD



Young Parent Advisors & Trainers of Facilitators

Reeve Mora (left) and Marissa Munoz (right) exemplify leadership. Marissa and Reeve first participated in PCA programs in 2018, bringing their lived experiences as young mothers to their roles. Their involvement as parents in PCA programs amplified their passion for advocacy and transforming systems that impact young parents. Now, they train new Abriendo Puertas Facilitators and support young parents in driving meaningful change and advancing equity in New Mexico.



Young Parent Program Reviews

Here's what participants had to say:

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to share space and knowledge with other families going through similar experiences. Thank you PCA for creating these opportunities!"

- Veronica Ramirez



"I have learned a lot from being a part of the young parent group and this experience has opened so many opportunities with finding resources to help my family and overall my life."

- Neptaly De La Rosa

"Being part of the young parent group has been an incredible experience. It has empowered me to become a more confident mom for my baby boy while also helping me build meaningful connections with other amazing parents who share similar experiences. Thanks to the support of the teachers and parents in the program, I've grown into a stronger advocate for both my son and my community."

- Leslie Moreno-Roacho

2Gen Family Engagement (PCA Implementing AP-OD)

PCA implemented AP-OD for families statewide, both virtually and in-person

- **55 parents and caregivers** completed AP-OD hosted by PCA

Young Parents achieved:

From October 2023 to April 2024, PCA facilitated a dynamic program for young parent leaders, equipping them with tools and knowledge to advocate for meaningful change.

- **8 participants completed Abriendo Puertas/ Opening Doors (AP-OD)**
- All participants received training in **legislative advocacy**, the **Home Visiting Program**, and **Care and Connection** strategies.

Building on this success, a new cohort of 20 young parents, including 4 fathers, began their journey in July 2024.

- **20 parents completed AP-OD** training with a focus on the **2Gen approach**, which integrates family well-being with systemic advocacy.
- Participation in **5 virtual general meetings** and **2 in-person Care and Connection convenings** with families.

The general Young Parent meetings foster collaborative learning, focusing on critical topics such as **Baby Bonds**, early childhood education, and childcare policies. Care and Connection convenings prioritize relationship-building and self-care as essential tools to reduce the challenges of parenting and enhance overall family well-being.

"We really feel empowered by the PCA team and their leadership to be able to implement this confidently in our communities."

Daniela Garcia, AP-OD Facilitator
trained by PCA in July 2023





Organizing Communities

We encourage families, neighborhoods, and institutions to come together around the issues they care about and advance community-led solutions. Through programs, outreach, and organizing, **PCA has reached over 1,600 community members.**

Educadores Para Los Niños Del Futuro Network

Established in 2015 with 11 founding members, the Educadores Network has grown to serve over 300 childcare educators. In 2024, the network engaged **35 active members** who participated in 7 meetings, demonstrating their commitment to advocating for early childcare providers and children in New Mexico. Their efforts continue to strengthen the voices of educators and advance equitable opportunities in the field.

Family and Community Well-being

PCA staff, facilitators, early childcare educators, and families engaged in over 20 convenings, events and community days across the state.

- **133 people vaccinated** through 3 vaccine clinics
- The Community Engagement Center hosted events serving over **400 community members**

Building Collective Impact Through Coalitions

PCA collaborates across a powerful ecosystem to drive transformative change for families in New Mexico. These partnerships have advanced critical initiatives such as the Wage and Career Ladder for early childhood educators, advocacy for the establishment of a fund for Baby Bonds, and strategies to build political will for Guaranteed Income. By uniting diverse voices, these coalitions amplify community needs and champion innovative solutions for economic and social equity in the state.

Child Care NEXT Coalition

Advocates for equitable wage and career ladders, professional development, and transformative childcare policies to stabilize the early childhood education workforce.

BIPOC/ALAANA PN-3 Coalition

Focuses on culturally respectful perinatal care and anti-racist early education for families from historically underinvested communities.

ECE Budget Coalition

Secures dignified wages and benefits for early educators, prioritizing BIPOC and immigrant communities while advancing systemic reforms for workforce equity and childcare accessibility.

Economic Relief Working Group (ERWG)

Advocates for Guaranteed Income initiatives by supporting funding and legislation to establish or expand Guaranteed Income programs.



Advocating for System Change

PCA advocates for transformative policies that address poverty and drive systemic change. Through strategic, simultaneous action and investment, New Mexico can achieve prosperity for all its residents.

New Mexico's state budget presents a unique opportunity to lead in racial and economic justice. By adopting a proactive, multi-policy platform, we can address poverty and drive transformational systems change.

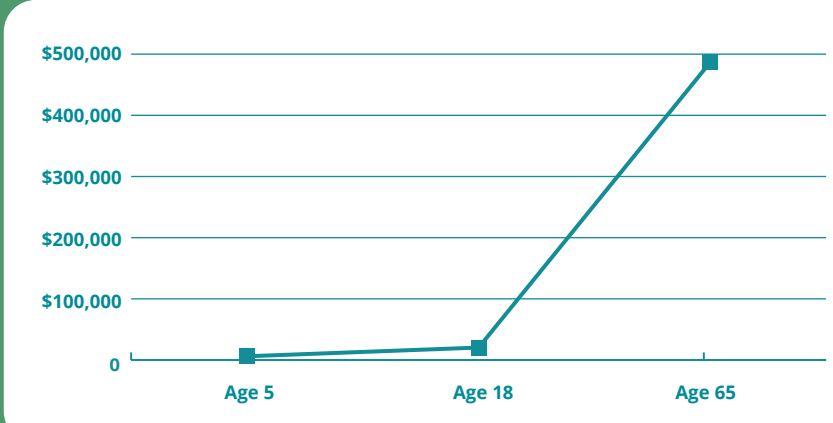
Advocating for Baby Bonds

15 children under age 5 in New Mexico received the state's first-ever Baby Bonds in August. Each child was awarded a \$6,000 investment account, projected to grow to \$20,280 at maturity and \$487,000 if it remains untouched until age 65. These Baby Bonds represent a transformative step toward wealth building, breaking generational poverty, and closing the racial wealth gap.

This historic achievement was made possible through the collaboration of Partnership for Community Action,

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors, MoneyByrd, and Prosperity Works. Together, with statewide partners, we are advocating for New Mexico to fund a universal Baby Bonds program, ensuring every child has a financial foundation for success.

Baby Bonds are more than a policy; they're a movement toward systemic change. By addressing deep-rooted inequities, they create pathways for economic mobility and generational wealth, fostering a more inclusive and prosperous future for all families in our state.



15 children under age 5 were awarded an initial investment account of \$6,000 per bond.

Value at age 18: **\$20,280**
Value at age 65: **\$487,000**



During the 2025 Legislative Session, PCA will engage the community on the following priorities as we advance our mission:

Baby Bonds: Advocate for a public funded universal program that builds generational wealth for all New Mexicans.

Early Childcare and Education Wage & Career Ladder: Advocate for robust, recurring funding to support dignified and equitable wages for early childhood educators.

Guaranteed Income: Support for the expansion of programs that build financial security for New Mexico families.

Community Engagement Through Listening Sessions

In 2024, PCA brought together over 40 community members to discuss key initiatives, including Baby Bonds, the Wage and Career Ladder for early childhood educators, and Guaranteed Income. These coalition meetings foster dialogue, inform our work, and strengthen community-driven solutions for economic equity and early childhood advocacy.





Thank You, Funders!

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors (AP-OD)

Cambiar Thrive

Care for All with Respect and Equity (CARE) Fund

Con Alma Health Foundation

Conrad Hilton Foundation

Energy Foundation

Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury

McCune Charitable Foundation

National Women's Law Center

New Mexico Foundation

New Mexico Department of Health

New Mexico Early Childhood Education & Care Department

PNM Foundation

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Santa Fe Community Foundation

Senator Martin Heinrich

United Parent Leaders Action Network

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

