

State of New Mexico CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR



TERESA CASADOS
CABINET SECRETARY

HOWIE MORALES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Children's Trust Fund Board of Trustees 2023 Annual Report

Prepared by Sara Kimmell, Prevention & Initiatives Bureau, Bridget Schneider, Children's Trust Fund Chair, and Margaret Elliston, Children's Trust Fund Vice Chair
December 2023



I. Background

The **New Mexico Children's Trust Fund (CTF)** was created by the legislature in 1985. The CTF provides statewide advocacy, education, and funding to community organizations for the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

The CTF is governed by a board of trustees with 13 members appointed by the Governor and approved by the state Senate. Administration of the CTF is provided by staff of the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), Prevention & Initiatives Bureau (PIB).

The CTF board also oversees the **Next Generation Fund Council**, which offers grants supporting positive youth development. The Next Generation Fund Council, appointed by the CTF board, recommends these grants for approval by the CTF board and assists in strengthening statewide efforts to support youth in our state.

The New Mexico Children's Trust Fund is a member of the Children's Trust Fund Alliance (ctfalliance.org), a national organization supporting local efforts to prevent child maltreatment. CTF board members and CYFD staff participate in sponsored education sessions and regional networking opportunities with representatives of Children's Trust Fund programs in neighboring states.

Revenues into the CTF include a portion of marriage license fees, the sale of the "KID" license plate, donations, and income from invested permanent funds. The board is committed to seeking additional revenue sources and increasing the amounts received from current sources through greater marketing and public awareness efforts.

CYFD is required to provide an annual report to the governor and legislature on the progress of CTF's work and the results of its projects. A report was not prepared in 2022, and this report will cover 2022 and 2023.

II. Children's Trust Fund Board Members Calendar Year 2022

Alexis Shannez Dudelczyk, Santa Fe	Judge Grace Duran, Las Cruces
Corinne Carmony, Cedar Crest	Billy Knight, Taos
Marg Elliston, Corrales, <i>Vice Chair</i>	*William Romero, Mora
Mickie Holland, Lovington	Bridget Schneider, Albuquerque, <i>Chair</i>
Traci Neff, Farmington	Kim Straus, Santa Fe
Alexis Jimenez, Rio Rancho	Amanda Wild Christensen, Sandia Park
Stacy King, Stanley	* Ryan A. Salmon, Santa Fe
* Marty Braniff, Santa Fe	* Elizabeth Knight

- *Ms. Marty Braniff resigned in January 2022.
- * Ms. Elizabeth Knight was replaced in April of 2022.
- *Mr. Ryan A. Salmon resigned in July 2022.
- *Mr. William Romero resigned in September of 2022.

III. Children's Trust Fund Board Members Calendar Year 2023

Alexis Shannez Dudelczyk, Santa Fe	Judge Grace Duran, Las Cruces
Corinne Carmony, Cedar Crest	Billy Knight, Taos
Marg Elliston, Corrales, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Katherine Ports, Albuquerque
*Mickie Holland, Lovington	Bridget Schneider, Albuquerque, <i>Chair</i>
Traci Neff, Farmington	Kim Straus, Santa Fe
*Alexis Jimenez, Rio Rancho	Amanda Wild Christensen, Sandia Park
Stacy King, Stanley	

- *Ms. Mickie Holland has resigned as of July 2023.
- *Ms. Alexis Jimenez has resigned as of November 2023.

The CYFD PIB informed the Office of Boards and Commissions on November 28, 2023. The notification of the vacancy and opportunity to apply for the CTF board is posted on the CTF website and the CYFD website.

A. Meetings

The CTF Board met virtually throughout 2023 and were able to offer a hybrid meeting setup beginning in August, affording those who could make it person the option to do so. The board met on the following dates: July 15, 2022, September 16, 2022, November 18, 2022, December 3, 2022, January 13, 2023, March 3, 2023, May 5, 2023, August 11, 2023, October 13, 2023, and December 8, 2023.

IV. Next Generation Council Members Calendar Year 2022

Megan Dunn Davison, Albuquerque, District 1
Amanda Lopez Askin, Las Cruces, District 2
Melani Buchanan Farmer, Albuquerque, District 1
Jessi Stockwell, Clovis, District 3
Tanya Schlingman, Glorieta, District 3, *Chair*

Kayla Strickler, Albuquerque, District 1
Lauren Koelling, Roswell, District 3
**Tara Jaramillo, Chair*
Lisa Paz, Rio Rancho, District 1, *Vice Chair*
Aleta (Tweety) Suazo, Albuquerque, District 1

**Ms. Tara Jaramillo resigned as of January 2023*

V. Next Generation Council Members Calendar Year 2023

Megan Dunn Davison, Albuquerque, District 1
**Amanda Lopez Askin, Las Cruces, District 2*
Melani Buchanan Farmer, Albuquerque, District 1
Jessi Stockwell, Clovis, District 3
Tanya Schlingman, Glorieta, District 3, *Chair*

Kayla Strickler, Albuquerque, District 1
Lauren Koelling, Roswell, District 3
Cecelia Bernal, Alamogordo, District 2
Lisa Paz, Rio Rancho, District 1, *Vice Chair*
**Aleta (Tweety) Suazo, Albuquerque, District 1*

**Ms. Tweety Suazo resigned as of July 2023.*

**Ms. Amanda Lopez Askin resigned as of October 2023.*

We will be working diligently to fill the positions. The notification of the vacancy and opportunity to apply for the Next Generation Council is posted on the CTF website and the CYFD website, as well as being promoted by CTF and Next Generation Council members.

A. Meetings

The Next Generation Council met virtually throughout 2022 and 2023. The council met on the following dates: September 26, 2022, January 27, 2023, February 27, 2023, July 17, 2023, October 2, 2023, and December 4, 2023.

VI. Children’s Trust Fund Multi-Year Grantees

CTF awards grants for *innovative* community-based programs. Grants are renewable for up to four years, allowing organizations to develop, implement, evaluate, and, if successful, sustain these innovative approaches to child abuse and neglect prevention or treatment. The grant awardees were chosen via the Request for Proposal process.

In January 2021, the following multi-year contracts were awarded, all of which are available for annual renewal through December 31, 2024.

- 1) **New Mexico Child Advocacy Network (NMCAN) -\$380,000.00:** Offers a multi-faceted parenting program to pregnant or parenting youth ages 14 to 25 who reside in Bernalillo, Valencia, and Sandoval Counties. The program has five approaches: 1) Monthly, professionally facilitated parent groups; 2) Staff training to better support young parents; 3) Outings for young families; 4) Expanding the capacity of the

Opportunity Passport program, which promotes financial literacy; and 5) Linking young parents to needed resources in the community via the Transition Age Youth (TAY) ECHO. Ninety-eight (98) families and sixty-six (66) children have benefitted from this program between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

2) PB&J Family Services, Inc. - \$380,000.00: Offers an innovative group program for high-risk elementary and middle school youth in Bernalillo County focused on social-emotional development and self-care. One hundred and ninety-three (193) families and two hundred and four (204) children have benefitted from this program between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

3) Taos Health Systems, Inc./Holy Cross Hospital - \$360,000.00: Provides parenting classes for families with children and is offering support groups for grandparents raising grandchildren and pregnant/parenting youth in Taos County. One hundred and thirty-three (133) families and two hundred and eight (208) children benefitted from this program between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

4) Guidance Center of Lea County, Inc. - \$380,000.00: Provides a trauma-informed program to youth ages 11 to 14 in Lea County. The program consists of weekly group sessions, quarterly psycho-social outings, bi-weekly home visits, safety planning, and the creation of an individualized treatment plan. This agency promoted the staff person running this program, and they had a difficult time finding a qualified candidate to hire. They were recently able to hire someone. Eight (8) children have been identified who would benefit from the program between April 1, 2023, and June 30, 2023.



Elementary student participating in PB&J Family Services self-care program in 2022.

VII. Additional CTF Funded Projects FY21-FY22 Update

Nine (9) grantees received small grant funding in FY21-FY22, especially for critical needs during the pandemic. Out of the nine (9) grantees, four (4) were able to continue and keep the program they proposed. These four are:

- First Born of Northern New Mexico (Las Vegas), who are providing books to families to ensure a safe and stable environment that promotes positive child development and deters abuse and neglect.
- Santa Fe Recovery Center, which provides a Women and Children’s program, that serves women and their young children. Training enabled staff to build their knowledge and capacity to effectively serve the developmental needs of infants and toddlers who accompany their mothers into its residential treatment program.
- The Birthing Tree (Santa Fe), which provides services of social and emotional support and practical guidance that helps families prepare for birth and for caring for their newborns.
- Appletree Educational Center (Truth or Consequences) provides training to staff, youth, and other adult community members on how to recognize child abuse and neglect and their role as mandated reporters.

Four (4) grantees received large grant funding from 2018 to 2022. One (1) was able to continue the program they proposed. Aprendamos Intervention (Doña Ana County) continues providing education to new and expecting fathers through their Conscious Fathering Program.

All the grantees listed above were able to see the impact that these services had on the families and children in their communities. Most of them were also able to expand their services to surrounding counties.

VIII. Next Generation Fund FY23 and FY24 Funding

- A. There were no Next Generation Fund contracts awarded in FY23.
- B. In March 2023, the Children’s Trust Fund Board and Next Generation Council invited organizations statewide to apply for Next Generation funding via a Request for Applications (RFA) process overseen by CYFD PIB. The aim of this one-year funding is to be used by organizations to promote positive youth development, strong and healthy families, civic engagement, and/or coordination of child and youth programming. Twenty (20) applicants applied for funding. In keeping with the procurement requirements of the RFA process, the available funding was capped at \$60,000.00 per agency, with a total funding amount of \$120,000 to be awarded.

C. Out of the twenty (20) applicants, three (3) were recommended for funding by the Next Generation Fund Council for FY24 and approved by the CTF board:

- 1) **Cuidando Los Ninos, Inc. - \$42,000** (Albuquerque): Offering the Little Adventures programming to promote homeless children's healthy development through a combination of outdoor enrichment and family support in Barelvas/South Valley communities in Bernalillo County.
- 2) **National Indian Youth Leadership Project - \$60,000.00** (Gallup): Offering the Project Venture program, an adventure-based, experiential program to high-risk, underserved middle and high school Indigenous students living on reservations and satellite communities in McKinley County, the Navajo Nation, and Zuni Pueblo.
- 3) **New Day Inc. - \$18,000** (Albuquerque): Offering a drop-in center which is meant to create a safe and supportive, trauma-responsive environment, where young people (16–22) who are experiencing homelessness, disconnection, and marginalization can have their basic needs met and connect with additional services as needed within Bernalillo County.

IX. Additional Next Generation Funded Projects FY21- FY22 Update

Nine (9) total grantees received grant funding in FY21-FY22 from the Next Generation Fund. Out of the nine (9) grantees, three (3) were able to continue the program they proposed:

- Albuquerque Sign Language Academy Charter School, which connects classroom learning to outdoor education for Albuquerque Sign Language Academy (ASLA) students and their families.
- New Mexico Black Leadership Council (Albuquerque), which provides support in the International District using the arts as a tool to teach self-esteem, leadership, and civic engagement.
- Future Generations LLC (Clovis), which provides a year-round tutoring and enrichment program to at least twenty-five (25) school-aged children in Curry County.

These programs report that they are expanding throughout their communities. They are seeing higher volumes of children and families participating in the programs, which in part are making the programs available year-round.

X. Children's Trust Fund Subcommittees

1. Marketing

CTF board members Bridget Schneider, Kim Straus, Shannez Dudelczyk, and Next Generation board member Jessi Stockwell currently comprise the marketing subcommittee. The primary goal of the board is to increase awareness of the CTF's purpose, how the public can support CTF, and how organizations supporting children and families can apply for CTF funding. The subcommittee managed the creation of a website for the Children's Trust Fund. <https://nmchildrenstrust.org>. The subcommittee worked with the Motor Vehicles Division and State Printing Office to create "KID" license plate posters and rack cards which have been sent out to MVD offices across the state. The subcommittee is working with the two New Mexico automobile dealers associations on a campaign to promote the KID license plates during April 2024, Child Abuse Prevention Month. They will focus on other communication strategies such as social media campaigns for FY24.

2. Finance

CTF board members Corinne Carmony, Billy Knight, and Next Generation board member Tanya Schlingman meet regularly (typically every other month) to review the financial status of CTF, based on the information provided to them by CYFD, PSD's Finance Office. Reviews include the status of the trust fund gains and losses and the expenditures from the CTF and Next Generation Fund contract awardees. For example, the finance subcommittee recommended moving permanent funds from the State Treasurer's Office to the State Investment Council for greater investment returns. Financial updates during the CTF meetings include an update from the PSD Finance Office, as well as the CTF Finance subcommittee. In FY21 the CTF contracted with Wilshire Advisors on Asset and Liability Study, Asset Allocation Policy, Setting Investment Policies and Guidelines, and Warranties and Acknowledgements. A new investment policy was adopted by the full CTF board.

3. Legislative

Board members Bridget Schneider, Kim Straus, Marg Elliston, Traci Neff, Stacy King, Alexis Jimenez, and Next Generation board members, Lisa Paz and Jessi Stockwell currently comprise the members of the legislative subcommittee. Ms. Elliston and Mr. Straus have been working with CYFD to gain a better understanding of the Children Trust Fund's current financial state and investment portfolio to provide legislators with a thorough understanding of the need to increase the CTF endowment. CTF made an unsuccessful request to the 2023 legislature for a one-time allocation for the CTF and Next Generation Fund endowments and is doing so again in the 2024 session.

XI. 2024 Priorities

- A. Increasing the amounts in the Children's Trust Fund and Next Generation Fund through legislation, investments, as well as revenue from the KID plate and other sources, to have additional resources to award as grants to the innovative community

programs. This has been a priority for CTF and will continue to be a priority for FY24.