



## Abriendo Puertas/American Heart Association National Latino Family Survey (2023) Summary Report From New Mexico Sample

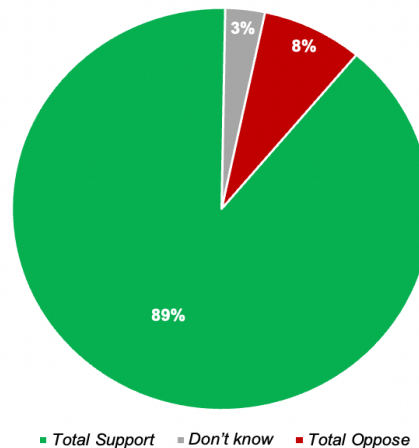
BSP Research fielded a national survey (n= 1500/+/- 2.5%) of Latino parents on behalf of Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors) and the American Heart Association. The survey’s sample focused on children between the ages of 0-5, and is the most recent study in the annual effort commissioned by Abriendo Puertas. This year’s survey was fielded in November of 2023 and included an oversample (n=200/+/- 6.9% for the NM sub-sample) of parents of young children from New Mexico to allow for results to be generated for that specific community.

New Mexico has the highest percentage of young children who are Hispanic/Latino of any state in the United States, and is currently undergoing a significant expansion of early childhood programming. The results of this survey should therefore be useful to policy-makers and institutional leaders in New Mexico.

### Latino Parents and Overwhelmingly Support Paid Family Leave, Earned Income Tax Credits and Baby Bonds

The survey provides insights on Latino parents and caregivers and their support for paid leave for families to take up to 12 weeks of paid time to welcome a newborn or a newly adopted child, care for a family member with a serious health concern, or manage their own serious medical condition. Unlike most nations in the world, there is no paid federal leave program in the United States to support working parents. As reflected in the figure below, when asked if they would support a paid family and medical leave program in New Mexico, 89% support this policy, with 59% strongly supporting paid family medical leave. Support is consistently high regardless of partisanship, with 93% of Latino parents who are self-identified Republicans supporting providing parents with 12 weeks of paid leave.

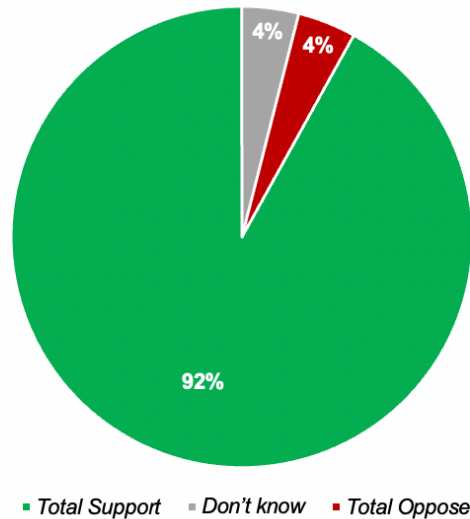
**Current federal law allows some workers to take up to 12 weeks of UNPAID LEAVE to welcome a newborn or a newly adopted child, care for a family member with a serious health concern, or manage their own serious medical condition. Some states are creating PAID family and medical leave programs for employees. Would you support or oppose a PAID family and medical leave program in your state?**



State family and medical leave programs are typically funded by both employers and employees. When respondents were informed that the average cost to employees for paid family and medical leave will likely be a few dollars per week, support remained high at 88%. Latino parents and caregivers overwhelmingly support providing state residents with paid leave to support a newborn child or address a serious medical condition, even if it means paying a little more themselves to support the program.

Latino families are also supportive of other policy interventions to provide families in New Mexico with resources to care for the well-being of their children. This includes 67% of respondents strongly supporting (92% support overall) adopting Medicaid and CHIP policies that remove barriers to participation and reduce gaps in coverage. The full implementation of the [Medicaid Forward program](#) would be responsive to Latino families, as the program is projected to ensure that all New Mexicans are eligible for health insurance coverage at little or no cost.

**Do you support or oppose the following: Adopting Medicaid and CHIP policies that remove barriers to participation and reduce gaps in coverage so that more Latino children have health insurance for the full year**



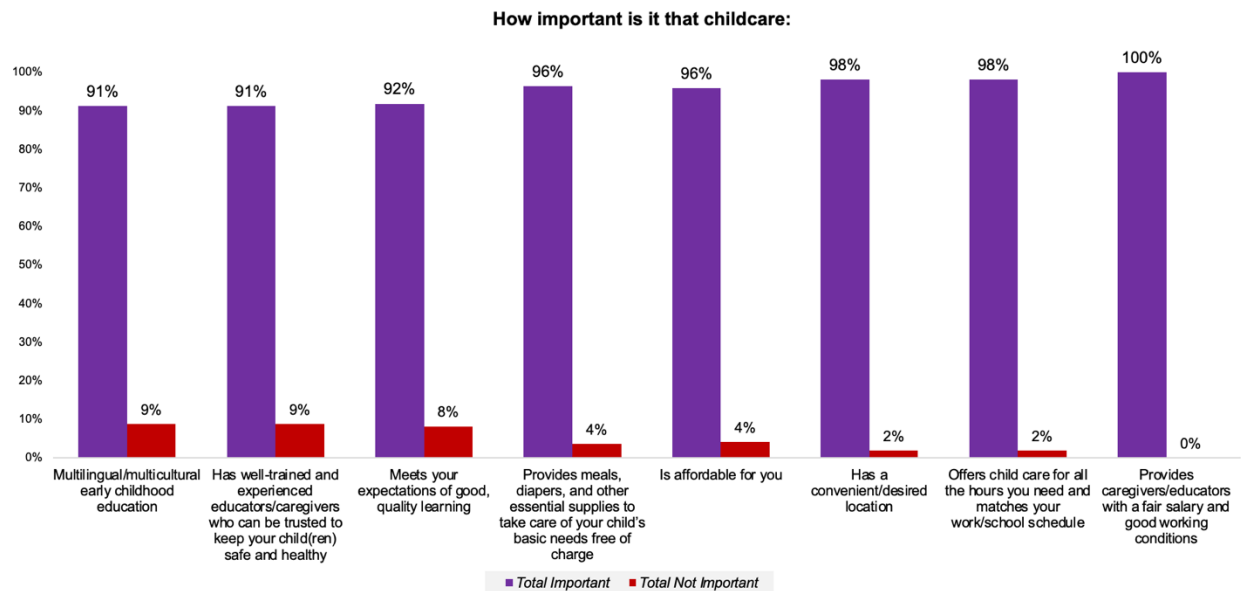
There is also strong support (67% overall) among Latino parents for increasing the earned income tax credit amount to give working families more tax benefits to help with their expenses year. Over half (54%) of Latino parents also strongly support (94% support overall) increased funding for parent and family engagement that supports child learning and provides more resources for families.

Finally, the majority of Latino parents of young children (53%) strongly support (96% overall support) the federal government putting aside \$3,000-\$4,000 in an account for all children shortly after they are born that they can later use to help pay for college, buy a home, or start a business. The implementation of this program often referred to as “Baby Bonds” is [projected to](#) help reduce the racial gap in wealth facing most Latino children across the country including in New Mexico.

## Latino Parents Priorities for Childcare and Mental Health Services

As the state continues to expand the early childhood care infrastructure in the state to reach their goal of ensuring all families in the state have access to high quality and affordable childcare for their young children, the survey provides Latino parents priorities to include in the development of programming across the state. Given that all parents interviewed for the survey have children ages 0-5, the data provided here is focused specifically on the group of parents the state will be attempting to serve with their programming.

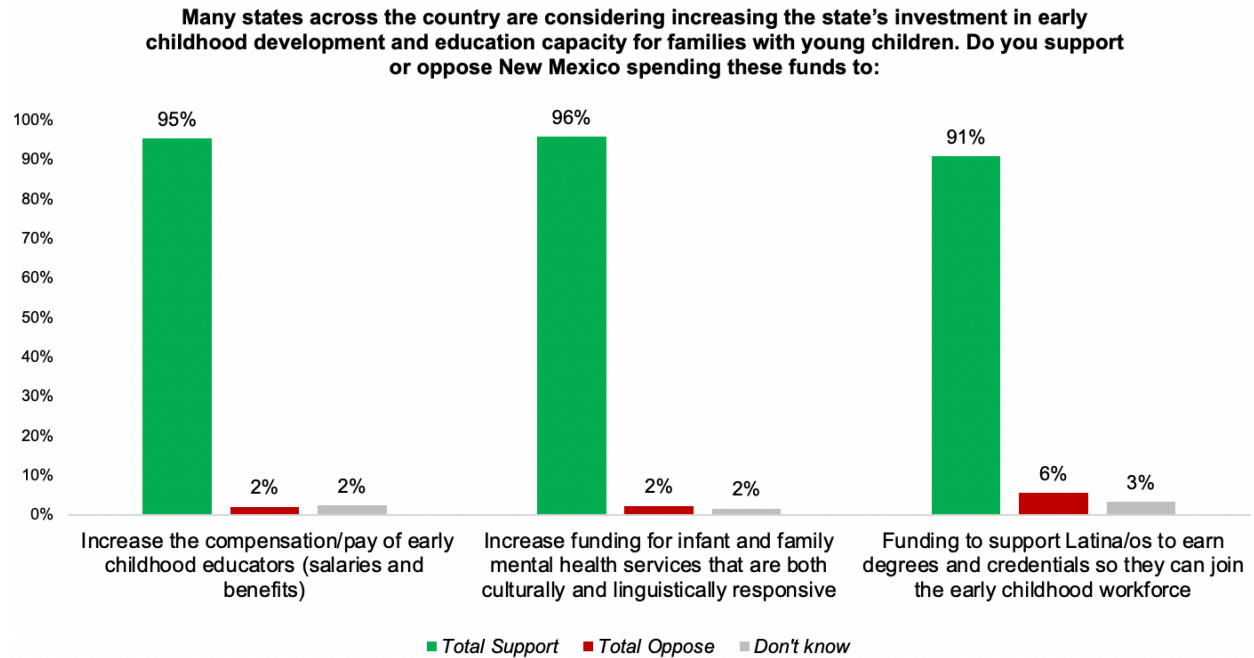
Ensuring that childcare is provided close to the homes of parents will be key to the state, as 78% of parents believe it is very important that childcare be provided at a convenient or desired location (98% important overall). There was also near universal agreement (96%) that it is important that childcare is affordable, with 69% of respondents from New Mexico indicating that this is very important to them. Latino parents support expanding funding to make sure this is possible, as 89% of Latino parents from the New Mexico sample support increasing funding for Early Head Start (59% strongly support) to make it more available for all children under the age of three years, and allow more families to qualify for free or subsidized access.



All Latino parents in the sample indicated that it was important (75% indicated it was very important) to them that providers and caregivers are provided safe working conditions and fair salaries. Nearly all (95%) Latino parents support increasing the compensation/pay of early childhood educators through salaries and benefits, including 68% who strongly support raising the compensation of early childhood educators. Latinas comprise a high ratio of early childhood professionals, therefore implementing pay raises for these professionals in New Mexico would also help improve the overall economic well-being of Latino families.

Meeting the goal of ensuring all families in New Mexico have access to early childhood programming will require expansion of the early childhood workforce across the state. To help ensure that happens, 91% of Latino parents support (61% strongly support) increasing funding to support Latinos to earn degrees and credentials so they can join the early childhood workforce.

The survey also provides Latino parents attitudes regarding mental health service provision. Nearly all (96%) of Latino parents support increasing funding for infant and family mental health services that are both culturally and linguistically responsive, including 59% who strong support increased funding.



Over half of Latino parents (53%) strongly support making treatment required for people with serious or chronic mental health or addiction ailments (85% overall), and 61% strongly support making mental health treatment free of cost (91% overall).

More About the Survey

BSP Research fielded a national survey (n= 1,500/+/- 2.5%) of Latino parents on behalf of Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors) and the American Heart Association. The survey’s sample focused on children between the ages of 0-5, and is the most recent study in the annual effort commissioned by Abriendo Puertas. This year’s survey included an oversample (n=200/+/- 6.9% for the NM sub-sample) of parents of young children from New Mexico to allow for results to be generated for that specific community. The poll, fielded from 11/08/2023 through 11/27/2023, was implemented through a blended approach including web-based and telephone interviews (both landlines and cell phones) in either Spanish or English, depending on respondents’ preference. Data was compared to the best-known estimates of the U.S. Census Current Population Survey (CPS) for demographic profile of parents of children of this age group and post-stratification weights were applied to bring the data into direct balance with Census estimates. The poll was led by Dr. Gabriel Sanchez, the Director of Research at BSP Research, a nationally recognized expert in research focused on Latino families with young children.