

State of New Mexico

CHILDREN, YOUTH, and FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

MICHELLE LUJAN-GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

HOWIE MORALES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



BRIAN BLALOCK
SECRETARY

TERRY L. LOCKE
DEPUTY CABINET SECRETARY

December 23, 2020

Dear Resource Parents:

On behalf of every member of the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department staff, I wish a Happy Holiday Season to you and your families. As I reflect on this past year, I know 2020 has been especially challenging for all of you as you work to support and protect your families amid the tragic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For those of you who have been impacted directly by COVID-19, we share in your grief and celebrate every recovery from this devastating virus. We are deeply thankful for those of you who have continued to support children in your home while navigating the uncertainty, and at times devastating impact, of the pandemic. We are especially thankful for the increasing numbers of relative caregivers who have stepped up – often with little notice – to take in and provide support for children. We are humbled by all of your work in this difficult time. Please continue to let us know what we can do to better support you and the children in your home stay safe and supported.

As a reminder, please follow all directives of ECECD regarding positive tests at child care centers, including quarantining and working with your caseworker to develop alternatives to limit exposure of children and staff at child care centers. Please do not register your children in a new center if they have been exposed to COVID. We know this adds complexity to your lives and appreciate your assistance and support in reducing the spread of the virus.

Checks were sent out earlier in the month to provide assistance to your family in ensuring our children can receive something special during this holiday season. Additionally, the pandemic supplemental payment of \$100/child per month will continue until March 2021.

The Resource Family Bill of Rights and Grievance Procedure is attached to this letter. We are pleased to provide an objective process to demonstrate CYFD's commitment to zero tolerance for retaliation and provide information to resource families on grievances. Our agency is committed to partnering with all our resource families and doing this in a fair, objective, and caring manner.

We understand the holidays are a stressful time for some and the impact of the pandemic increases this stress. The State of New Mexico has partnered with ProtoCall Services to offer the New Mexico Crisis and Access Line ([NMCAL](#)). This line offers a peer-to-peer warmline available to call from 3:30-7:00pm or text 6pm-11pm, seven days a week. 1-855-4NM7100 (466-7100). This line offers non-crisis support from trained specialists or an understanding ear to discuss any issues you may be experiencing. NMCAL also offers a mental health crisis line 24/7, seven days a week 1-855-1NM-CRISIS (662-7474).

May your holidays be peaceful and safe.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Blalock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Brian Blalock
Cabinet Secretary
Children, Youth, and Families Department