

BECC proposes meeting with NM PreK grant specialists to amend our grant. This amendment would be to ensure that NM PreK grant money is not lost and can be utilized by other NM PreK grant award recipients. The amount of the amendment would be determined in consultation with Staci Babcock, James Olivas, and NM PreK Staff. We are estimating that we will not be able to expend approximately \$200,000 - \$300,000 of our award this school year.

Reasons for the proposal:

1. Regulations on spending changed. There is now no approval for any project that totals over \$4,999.
 2. Enrollment has been down over the past 5 years (following Covid and opening of NM PreK community centers)
 3. We have encumbered all expenses.
- Consideration for BECC to ask permission from the NM PreK Grant to offer up to \$2,000 per semester in retention bonuses/stipends to NM PreK teachers and EAs as allowed by NM PreK grant based on the following:
 - 1) completion of 6 credit hours per semester in college classes and completion of all PD required by the grant, and at least 24 credit hours of NM PreK PD (\$2,000 per semester for 6 or more credit hours completed)
 - 2) Teachers and EAs/LTS with 5 or more years in NM PreK experience at BECC and that have the appropriate degree for their position (EA-Associate Degree, Teacher-BA Degree) may earn \$1,000 as a retention bonus/stipend if they have completed all NM PreK Grant required training, and at least 24 credit hours of PD.
 - 3) No one NM PreK employee (teacher/EA/LTS) may earn more than \$5,000 annually in bonuses/stipends.
 - 4) This impacts approximately 15 employees with a potential maximum cost of \$75,000
 - 5) We still can afford to give back the amount listed above (\$200,000-300,000).