



OST COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION CALLS 1-3 SUMMARY REPORT

The OST arena is now 8am to 6pm. For parents who have to be out working, having a safe space for children is more important than ever. The New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network (NMOST) has been hosting a series of Community Listening Sessions for out-of-school time (OST) and childcare providers throughout the state of New Mexico during the COVID-19 crisis. These calls occur every Tuesday 11am -12pm and will continue to be held on this day and at this time every week.

Information in this report was compiled from the first three (3) listening sessions that occurred on March 24th, March 31st (call with the Lieutenant Governor, Howie Morales), and April 7th.

Information Collected from Community Listening Session Calls:

Small businesses like childcare facilities need financial support while they are at limited capacity or closed.

Keeping staff working during the crisis even at planning levels and/or in virtual spaces is critical to the recovery capacity. Keeping existing staff working will cut down on the hardship of re-hiring, retraining staff during the recovery which would take a long time and not serve the communities well.

There remain many concerns about state efforts to expand access to internet for children and youth throughout the state, especially for low-income and rural communities. There are clear gaps of opportunity for students in poverty. Lack of access to technology, internet, school supplies etc. are key issues and concerns for providers.

Many providers from Bernalillo to Dona Ana County are utilizing meal distribution sites to distribute learning material for children and youth. In Hobbs, they are putting learning

material/opportunities in a pack that children can pick up when they grab their breakfast or lunch. Each pack contains STEM components: engineering, building, and an art section as well. Backpacks are open to everyone, not just 21st century students. They are grade specific k-2, 3-5, and middle school. They have integrated things online – “we have a violin instructor who works with MS students. Our big project this year was Shrek Jr. Broadway Musical play which was supposed to be April 24. We’ve uploaded all the choreography and songs on lines so students can still practice. Students have been working on this all year.”

Boys & Girls Club in Farmington is adding a virtual component/online work sessions for their children and connect children with mentors so they don’t lose social connection which is an important aspect of out-of-school time.

In partnership with APS Title 1, Explora Science Center made Try This at Home experiment cards to give out at 89 lunch distribution sites. CABQ and APS to develop content for gov tv channel and NMPBS. Hour long bilingual science lessons for distance learning that begins April 13. Rude Boy Cookies has science cookie decorating kit and will include Explora activity cards.

Bernco 4-H is using Zoom hosting meetings twice a day with different projects around STEM. They are trying to put in lessons that children would get in school and is working on a public speaking activity. We’re using social media to let children know and mailing supplies so children can do activities. This is the time when 4-H gives out hatched chickens to participants and they have 27 chickens in the office. (Let Brittany know if you want a chicken)

ABQ Biopark is working to create a platform through their website that will have hands-on activities at home for children and youth.

NDI statewide program is quickly putting programming up on their youtube station. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNsluecjCQQ> The videos are organized by age of kids and levels. It is programming they can do with families. Question for state team leaders; can we get a list for each department for those of us who are putting up online content so we can send them updates and links and they can assist in pushing it out through their communications channels and we can coordinate?

NMSU STEM outreach center work with 3 districts: Gadsden, Hatch, Las Cruces. The center has put together weekly flyers of activities with STEM based activities that don’t require materials and families can do together such as birdwatching and observing the environment. The center is making about 8000 flyers a week in both Spanish and English and schools are helping distribute them at nutrition sites. The center is also working on school supply packets for children who don’t have resources for schoolwork at home: paper, markers, pencils, glue sticks, kid scissors. Main challenge was how to get resources to families, and district partners have helped.

Girls Inc. in Santa Fe is reaching out to all of the girls from afterschool programs through zoom three times a week, checking in and doing activities. Staff is creating videos that girls can watch and everyone else too focused on STEM activities, stress management, fun cooking with science. Santa Fe Public Schools is working to contact the rest of the girls they work with in Santa Fe and Espanola. Skype and Zoom are not secure enough for girls in the schools, so Gilrs Inc. is

working to find another platform. They are staying flexible and trying to keep all staff on to be able to hit the ground running when they can open back up.

Los Alamos is a small, tight-knit, isolated community and YMCA is biggest childcare provider in the county. With schools closed, YMCA is unable to offer care for the 250 children in the area they serve on a regular basis. YMCA reports that it is difficult to provide childcare for essential workers because there's no place to have them. Their own facility is closed until further notice. The YMCA staff is getting creative and working on things like virtual storytime, and is waiting to see what's going to happen. YMCA is not a licensed program, and do not fall under that thread of funding from the state.

Some providers make more money on unemployment than if they were to continue working, putting their own lives and those of their families at risk. This is another systems level gap that needs to be addressed.

Concerns on needing social distancing best practices from providers and the need for training in this area emerged.

Masks, gloves and sanitizing equipment is hard to come by. Providers are asking that closed businesses and schools share what they have in stock with childcare providers that remain open and provide essential services.

Sanotsee reports horrible connection issues and asks how we make sure children, especially in tribal areas, are not being left behind. They also reported having difficulty finding ways to begin distributing evening meals for children and youth.

There is a lot of confusion on the parameters around meal distribution for providers/schools. With new USDA waivers, many sites are unsure of what that means for their own flexibility in providing meals to children in the evening/on weekends. Questions about funds and how to provide more meals arose during conversations.

Albuquerque Public School looking towards summer (K5+). Summer day camps? Etc. District leadership wants to see what will happen with potential lifting of stay at home orders. Schools need to plan now, but no one wants to commit in case the situation changes. CFL, YMCA, RGEC currently renewing for 1 year extension. Providers have already given some thought to how to incorporate online learning via PBS and APS in their curricula.

Service leadership is front and center of the conversation with providers in the field. Not just what can I get to help me and my program during the crisis, but how can I serve the community during this expanded OST space of 8am-6 pm during the school closure. From making students in programs making masks for hospitals, to teachers reaching out to student on SEL home calls or ordering kits and technology to help families with student and family engagement and closing the opportunity gaps during this school closure time.

Having a paradigm shift to a new normal is part of the planning – i.e. retrofitting a student theater production into a movie studio to adapt to social norms of the time and a lot of questions around capacity for broadcasting distance learning lessons.

Unlicensed programs are finding it difficult to provide childcare for essential workers because there is no place to have them. They are reporting that facilities are closed until further notice. Staff is getting creative and working on things like virtual story time, but they are just waiting to see what's going to happen. They report because they are not licensed, they do not fall under the thread of funding that comes from the state. Many are unaware of the new guidelines for entities to become emergency childcare providers.

Afterschool program in Lovington went from an afterschool program to an all-day provider. They are utilizing the school district's meal distribution sites as a source for food/nutrition for their children.

Lieutenant Governor thanked everyone on the call for bringing up questions and ideas. "There are lessons to learn; there's no manual or handbook for this situation. We're all doing the best we can. Keep communication going. Provide questions and ideas. Amanda's exactly right. This is the time to be creative. To do things we always thought what if. We'll keep up this communication. I appreciate each and every one of you. I'll pass this information on to the governor. Special thanks to state agencies for their hard work. We are grateful for everything you do. How can I best be of service to out-of-school and afterschool time especially as we go into summer?"

Claire Dudley Chavez shared that Secretary Groginsky hosts calls with providers. Please e-mail - Claire.DudleyChavez@state.nm.us if you would like to be invited to take part in these calls.

NMOST COVID 19 resource page. <https://nmost.org/covid-19-resources> is the network's resource page.

Information Collected from NMOST's ongoing OST/Child Care Survey (survey can be found [here](#)):

Support/Assistance Needed:

- Financial assistance
- Technology (computers/internet)
- Collaboration to provide services to schools (State Police)
- Guidance on how to run programs that meet safety guidelines

Questions or issues to share with policy makers:

- Common background check for volunteers (for back-to-school)
- Inequities in technology access will further widen learning gaps
- Focus on children with disabilities and how to provide them with services
- Help in getting supplies
- Timely updates as circumstances change
- Guidance on safety for programs, including going outside during the crisis
- Frequent forecasts on summer for planning purposes.

Issues raised in program plans section:

- Cannot find hand sanitizer (*sent CYFD request form information*)
- Tech issues (lack of internet/phones or not answering) contacting families
- Combining sites and laying off staff due to low need
- Summer program provider – uncertainty makes planning difficult, tech availability unknown
- Difficulty finding service locations and vendors to provide materials quickly to large target audience
- Internships are on hold or being converted to online where possible (tech issues)
- Lack of funds/employees/cleaning supplies (*sent CYFD request form information*)
- Revenue stream interrupted, consolidation, all PT staff furloughed