

NEW MEXICO OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME NETWORK 2019-2020 Report



in New Mexico!



# A Note from the Executive Director

As we complete another year of working toward our mission of creating, strengthening and sustaining a statewide system of support for high quality out-of-school time programs, we have an opportunity to reflect on an unprecedented year. In a year of so much loss, hardship, and unfathomable pain, NMOST is so proud to have been able to act as a resource to programs and individuals throughout the state of New Mexico. We are proud to have been able to do what we do best, convene and elevate the voices of our frontline OST, childcare and education staff. The accomplishments of NMOST this past year were a product of staff effort and community. We are humbled and lucky to be able to share this report with you and would like to once again thank our state's OST and childcare community who worked day and night to ensure that the children and youth of New Mexico were cared for during this precarious and devastating time.

MAY SAGBAKKEN

Executive Director, NMOST

The New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network (NMOST) is a non-profit collaboration of public and private organizations and community members seeking to improve access to and quality of out-of-school time learning programs (before and afterschool, summer learning, and youth development).

To ensure that every young person has access to high quality programs outside the school day, we:

- Convene stakeholders
- Influence policy on behalf of youth and families
- Advocate for sustained funding
- Build capacity in communities through professional development
- Build a community that supports student's success

## **NMOST MISSION**

To create, strengthen and sustain a statewide system of support for high quality out-of-school time programs.

## **NMOST VISION**

To ensure that all children and youth in New Mexico have access to high quality out-of-school time programming regardless of zip code and income.



afterschool **WORKS** in New Mexico!

# WHO WE ARE

#### **NMOST STAFF**

May Sagbakken Executive Director

Jeff McConaughy
Director of Policy and Communication

Kaski Suzuki Program Coordinator Caitlin Everhart STEM Expansion VISTA

Sophia Rose Meals Expansion VISTA

Mahalia Hunt STEM Expansion VISTA (former)

#### **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

Renata Witte, Chair New Mexico PTA

Yvette Kaufman-Bell Albuquerque Public Schools

Lisa Guida National Museum of Nuclear Science and History

Tyson Ledgerwood New Mexico Public Education Department

Kristin Leigh Explora

Hollie Lovely New Mexico <u>PBS</u> Melinda Franco Teen Court of Lea County

Tim Sheahan

Alzheimer's Association

Brittany Sonntag

Danette Townsend ABC Community Schools

Flo Trujillo
Farmington Public Library (retired)

Christine Trujillo New Mexico State Legislator

#### FISCAL SPONSOR

NMOST is sponsored by Explora Science Center and Children's Museum, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to creating opportunities for inspirational discovery and the joy of lifelong learning through interactive experiences in science, technology, engineering, art, and math. NMOST operates out of the Explora facility located at 1701 Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87104.



# SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## **Policy**

- Developed a communications strategy emphasizing afterschool for all. In collaboration with the Lieutenant Governor, NMOST hosted four Roundtable Events to increase awareness and facilitate collaboration among policy leaders, state agencies and OST programs and partners to increase OST access for children and families.
- NMOST continuously pushes for funding designated specifically for afterschool to ensure equitable access for all children and youth in New Mexico.

#### COVID-19

• In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, NMOST mobilized to acquire and disseminate the most up-to-date information and resources to share with our network, partners, and stakeholder. This consisted of a weekly newsletter that was utilized by programs throughout the state, as well as weekly listening sessions with statewide programs and policy leaders. These sessions elevated the voices of program staff during a stressful and confusing time.

## **Professional Development**

- Fall into Place Conference: The 10th annual Fall into Place Conference hosted by the New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network took place virtually on the DCPV360 virtual platform Monday, October 19 Friday, October 23. In total, 648 individuals registered for the free online event from across the state and world. Daily themes this year included Social and Emotional Learning; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Social Justice; and STEM Learning.
- New Mexico Out-of-School Time Leadership Institute: NMOST has created the Institute to increase access to out-of-school time (OST) programs across New Mexico by providing high-quality professional development for emerging OST leaders working in underserved and vulnerable New Mexico communities. In January of 2020, the Institute culminated in a legislative training session in Santa Fe, NM. NMOST was able to recruit 20 individuals with 15 leaders from across the state successfully completing their training. In the summer of 2020, NMOST hosted a free virtual Out-of-School Time Leadership webinar series for individuals throughout the state.

## **Advancing Young Women in STEM**

- In 2020, NMOST received 54 applications from all around the state for its Advancing Young Women in STEM Scholarships. Thanks to our wonderful sponsors, 12 scholarships were awarded to young women pursuing a STEM related degree or career!
- In conjunction with the Million Girls Moonshot sponsored by the STEM Next Opportunity Fund, the New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network (NMOST) convened a STEM Gender Equity Coalition including representatives of programs serving girls and young women throughout the state. The Coalition developed <a href="Promising Practice Guidelines">Promising Practice Guidelines</a> for OST programs to recruit, engage and inspire more girls in STEM. The Guidelines are designed for leaders, practitioners, families, community partners, and volunteers working with girls in OST programs across New Mexico and nationally.

## Fighting Hunger through OST

- NMOST works to expand access to healthy meals after school and during the summer for the 130,000 children who face food insecurity in New Mexico. We do this by educating and connecting schools and OST programs with federal childhood nutrition program sponsors.
- NMOST's federal nutrition outreach work has expanded access to meals for children and youth in Southern and Central New Mexico.
- NMOST launched <u>its first podcast</u> centered around food insecurity and the people who are making change in our food system both locally and nationally. Along with the podcast, NMOST has established a monthly "Meals in OST" newsletter focused on disseminating the most relevant and up-to-date resources to community members as it relates to food.

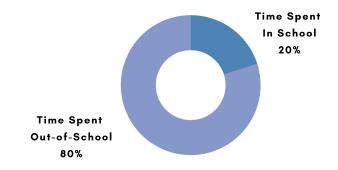
# DATA ON OST IN NEW MEXICO

In New Mexico, for every child in an afterschool program, 3 are waiting to get in, with 59,758 children alone and unsupervised after school.



# Why Afterschool and Summer Learning matters:

• Children spend 80% of their time out-of-school.



- By 8th grade, low-income youth have 6000 fewer hours of enrichment and extracurricular activities.
- 9 in 10 adults agree that afterschool programs are important to their community.



92% of New Mexico parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program. New Mexico children in afterschool programs are:

<b>S</b>	Building life skills	56%
	Getting help with homework	65%
	Engaging in STEM or computer science learning opportunities	64%

2	Taking part in physical activities	78%
Ö	Receiving healthy snacks or meals	73%
	Interacting with peers and building social skills	88%

# POLICY

## Policymaker Engagement and Advocacy

NMOST has created very exciting momentum and impact with our policy and communication initiatives. The New Mexico Lt. Governor Howie Morales has stepped up as a prominent and committed champion for NMOST and continues to lift up afterschool as a major focus of his education platform. The Lt. Governor disseminated op-eds in support of OST and STEM to various newspapers. He issued recommendations for legislative policy and OST budget increases and gave awards to state legislators who proposed a bill for \$2M in OST funding. NMOST and the Lt. Governor, with funding from the National League of Cities, have hosted four Roundtable Events to increase awareness and facilitate collaboration among policy leaders, state agencies and OST programs and partners to increase OST access for children and families. Finally, NMOST's Executive Director participated in the NM Public Education strategic planning committee led by Secretary Stewart, and ensured that the need for afterschool and summer learning is emphasized in the

comprehensive strategic plan. NM PED's strategic plan is focused on creating an education system that uses evidence-based, community-oriented, innovative programs that reflect our culturally diverse communities to address issues identified in the Martinez-Yazzie lawsuit.

#### **Legislative Actions**

NMOST has continued to build relationships with State Representative Trujillo and Senator Tallman and other legislators. Trujillo and Tallman co-authored a \$2M bill to reinstate the Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (ASSE) in the 2020 January session. ASSE is the only state legislative funding dedicated to OST and was previously eliminated in 2018 when \$67M was reallocated to extended learning and community schools. NMOST took its 15 OST-LI participants to the legislature in 2020 who spent a day at the capitol sharing their stories during the session, and received a personal training on the process and how to speak with legislators by the Lt Governor's staff in his office. OST-LI participants also wrote letters to their legislators before the session.

#### State of New Mexico "Lights on Afterschool" Proclamation

Since its launch in 2000, Lights On Afterschool has been the only nationwide rally celebrating afterschool programs. Every year, more than 8,000 afterschool programs across the country draw 1 million people to join celebrations of the impact these programs have on children, families, and communities. This year, New Mexico's Afterschool Ambassador, Flo Trujillo, secured a Proclamation from the Governor of New Mexico declaring October 22nd, 2020, as "Lights on Afterschool Day".

# COVID-19

### NMOST COVID-19 Response

#### Website Resource Page and Weekly Newsletters

During this challenging time of social distancing due to the Covid-19 pandemic, NMOST provided resources for schools and parents to help keep children engaged and healthy. NMOST continuously compiled a list of resources that included weekly newsletters, meal sites throughout the state, childcare options for families, information for childcare providers, educational activities for home, remote

conferencing/communication services, and support for teachers/administrators.

#### **Weekly Listening Sessions**

NMOST hosted a series of Community Listening Sessions for out-of-school time (OST) and childcare providers throughout the state of NM in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. These calls occurred most Tuesdays from 11am - 12pm from March to July of 2020. These sessions influenced the OST Guidelines for reopening later released by the NM Public Education Department and provided a platform for OST Staff to voice concerns, successes, and struggles.

#### **COVID-19 NM Meals Listing**

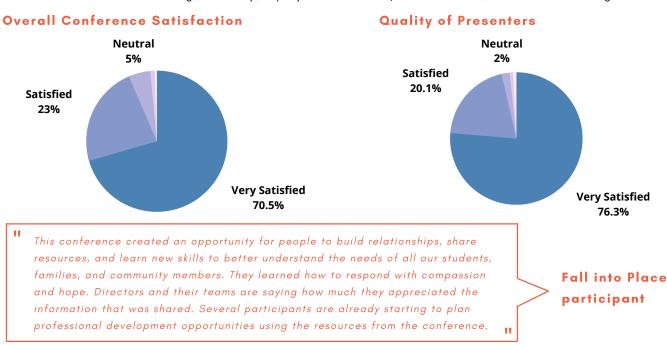
When the Governor of the state of New Mexico took the drastic but necessary step of closing

public schools across the state in March of 2020, NMOST realized the negative impact this would have on the prevalence of food insecurity and hunger among our children and youth. NMOST has long understood that schools feed children. To respond, NMOST staff compiled the first statewide public school grab-andgo meals listing that was disseminated by media outlets and organizations across the state of New Mexico. NMOST continually updated the list throughout the summer and fall months realizing the exacerbating effect that the pandemic was having on food insecurity rates among children and youth.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Fall into Place Conference

In the past, the <u>Fall into Place Conference</u> has brought together in-person more than 350 OST staff and advocates to learn, network, and expand equitable learning opportunities for NM youth. In the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the conference planning committee decided to take all proceedings online in 2020 in order to ensure safety for all participants and presenters. Consequently, the 10th annual Fall into Place Conference, hosted by the New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network, took place virtually on the DCPV360 virtual platform Monday, October 19 - Friday, October 23. In total, 648 individuals registered for the free online event from across the state and world. Daily themes this year included Social and Emotional Learning; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Social Justice; and STEM Learning.



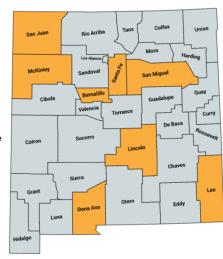
## New Mexico Out-of-School Time Leadership Institute

#### The OST-LI Project Vision

Many OST provider organizations in New Mexico lack key professional development and capacity building support for their leaders and staff. Training is often expensive, and subsequently out-of-reach for many OST provider organizations. NMOST addressed this need through the development of the first Out-of-School Time Leadership Institute in New Mexico. This institute provided emerging leaders in OST provider organizations skills in: operational and administrative direction, program planning and curriculum

development, positive youth development, strategic partnership building, social and emotional tools, cultural relevance awareness, fundraising and grant writing tools, and individual leadership mentoring. Throughout 2019–2020 OST staff and directors from across the state convened in person a total of three times and were provided cutting edge training as well as opportunities to network with the NM OST community. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NMOST hosted a virtual Out-of-School Time Leadership webinar series in the summer of 2020.

15 Graduated OST Leaders 8 NM Counties Served Hundreds of Children Impacted



# ADVANCING YOUNG WOMEN IN STEM

### Advancing Young Women in STEM Scholarship

Women remain underrepresented in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) professions and there is a need to close the gender gap and inspire the next generation of female innovators and leaders. As a way to help address gender inequity in STEM, the New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network (NMOST) has created the Advancing Young Women in STEM Scholarships. NMOST's goal is to give women interested in STEM the opportunity to pursue their passions and interests and work towards closing the gender gap in STEM. In 2018, scholarships helped three New Mexico women pursue their dreams in STEM fields. NMOST was able to increase the number of scholarships for 2019 to six, and we achieved our goal for 2020 by raising enough funding to support 12 young women in pursuing their passion for STEM. NMOST encourages you to donate to the scholarship fund to support women in STEM, building their confidence in themselves and their abilities, as well as motivating them to continue their work.



# Promising Practices Guidelines for Engaging Girls in STEM through Out-of-School Time

NMOST, with funding from the STEM Next Million Girls Moonshot initiative, launched the New Mexico STEM Gender Equity Coalition in July 2020. The coalition worked together to develop <u>Promising Practice</u> <u>Guidelines</u> for OST programs, along with a two-year action plan. The purpose of the guidelines is to offer promising practices for out-of-school time (OST) programs to recruit, engage and inspire more girls in STEM. The Guidelines are designed for leaders, practitioners, families, community partners, and volunteers working with girls in OST programs across New Mexico and nationally. Coming together to create a shared framework opens the doors for new ways to work together, develop training, and build new supports for the OST field to accelerate STEM change in our communities.

#### Guidelines:

- Celebrate Diversity
- 2 Create Safe Spaces and Sense of Belonging
- 3 Start Early and Keep it Going
- Invite Girls to Change the World through STEM
- 5 Elevate the Voices of Girls
- 6 Create Opportunities for Mastery

- 7 Involve Families
- Engage Female Role Models
- 9 Connect with Community Partners
- 10 Explore STEM Careers
- 11 Provide Training and Resources for Afterschool Staff
- 12 Assess Results and Measure Impact



# afterschool **WORKS** in New Mexico!

To learn more about Mizzen by MOTT, go <u>here</u>!



# FIGHTING HUNGER THROUGH OST

## What does NMOST do to Address Childhood Food Insecurity?

NMOST conducts outreach to OST programs and schools to share information about the <u>Child and Adult</u> <u>Care Food Program (CACFP)</u>. We expand access to meals in the OST space by connecting programs to sponsors of the federal child nutrition program, allowing children to have an additional evening meal.

Data shows that one in every four children in NM is food insecure — that's approximately 130,000 children who are unsure where their next meal is coming from. NMOST is actively working to address this issue by creating strong community partnerships and convening key stakeholders.

### NMOST's Impact

#### Number of children reached:



#### Total number of meals served:



## Rethinking Hunger: Coordinating the Food Security Fight Through Critical Conversations



Rethinking Hunger is a new podcast project developed by NMOST to broaden its anti-hunger initiative by facilitating biweekly podcast episodes to discuss issues and engage in critical conversations with guests from the nonprofit world that have a distinct approach to the issue of food insecurity. The goal is to meet people where they stand, facilitate a thought-provoking discussion for guests to listen to (and weigh in on), and coordinate these local "knowledges" to fight for a better food system and future. Through the podcast, NMOST has expanded its partner network and has established itself as a major convener in New Mexico's fight to address rampant food insecurity rates and hunger among children and youth in the state.

## OST Hunger Relief Monthly Newsletter

NMOST has launched a monthly newsletter centered around food insecurity. This newsletter compiles relevant and important information about activities that are occurring at the local and national level. The newsletter was initiated in March of 2020 when NMOST saw the need for sharing important meal site listings and food resources to our network. In October, we established a stable, regular newsletter that covers topics such as grant opportunities, national updates, state updates, policy information, and new work from NMOST. To read past newsletters and to stay up-to-date with what NMOST is doing in regards to hunger relief in the state of New Mexico, go to our Fighting Hunger through OST webpage here.

# THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS!

































# YOU CAN HELP ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY OST PROGRAMMING FOR ALL NM CHILDREN AND YOUTH!

Our work cannot be done without valuable partners and community members like you. Join us today by making a donation to the New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network by mailing a check issued to NMOST, c/o Explora, 1701 Mountain Rd NWAlbuquerque, NM 87104.

