



Organizational/Community Capacity and Experience

La Vida Felicidad, Inc. is a non-profit agency with 501(c)(3) status that provides services to children and families, adults, and seniors in **Valencia, Socorro, Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley** and **San Juan Counties** in New Mexico. La Vida first began providing early intervention services to children in 1983 in Valencia County. Our Early Childhood Services program now includes early intervention programs in Valencia and Cibola Counties, CYFD funded Home Visiting Services in Valencia and Cibola Counties and a four-star licensed child care center in Valencia County.

As an Early Intervention (EI) provider through the NM Department of Health, Family Infant Toddler Program, we provide in-home family centered services to infants and children (birth to three years) that have or are at risk for a developmental delay or disability and their families. As a Home Visiting Program, we serve pregnant Moms and families with children birth to three to support, enhance and guide their attachment, nurturing and child development for their child. Our four-star child care center provides integrated developmental services to families of children ages six weeks through five years. We are currently participating in FOCUS Pilot program and are working closely with our FOCUS consultant to examine areas we can enhance quality. Our last fiscal year, La Vida served nearly 600 children and their families in these programs. La Vida Felicidad is uniquely suited to model a community-specific seamless continuum of high quality early childhood care and education program as each of our programs have allowed us to be recognized in our community as a leader in providing early childhood services, as well as leaders in collaborating with others. Our mission, "Life quality for children and families, adults, and seniors, through advocacy and individualized services in collaboration with community partnerships", is the foundation for which we are known. We routinely collaborate with Los Lunas Public Schools, Belen Consolidated Schools, Mid-West Cap of New Mexico, NM Children, Youth and Families Department, NM School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, NM School for the Deaf, NM GRADS program, NAPPR (EI and Home Visiting), EPICS and Parents Reaching Out (parent advocacy groups).

Because La Vida has provided high quality services over the last 34 years, we are a well-respected and integral piece to serving children and families. As active members in the communities we serve, we have employees who are known and trusted. As an organization we understand the value and opportunity that exists within collaborations and community. In late March 2015, La Vida Felicidad was awarded a contract to create a comprehensive plan for Valencia County's early care and education programs to serve as a model demonstration site to achieve the goals of establishing a community-specific high quality early childhood care and education program to serve as a model demonstration site that would

- A. Provide children and their families with a continuum of high quality early learning services before birth through entry to public school.

La Vida Felicidad, Inc. • P.O. Box 2040 • Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031 • www.lvfnm.org
530 Sun Ranch Village Road • Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031 • T 505-565-1614 • 800-474-4651 • F 505-565-1608
555 Don Pasqual Rd • Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031 • T 505-865-4651 • F 505-865-5331
514 Park Street • Socorro, New Mexico 87801 • T 505-838-0515 • F 505-838-5018
833 Roosevelt Ave • Grants, New Mexico 87020 • T 505-287-5118 • F 505-287-5138
3200 Carlisle Blvd. NE, Suite 130 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110 • T 505-865-4651 • F 505-865-5331



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- B. Provide early childhood care and education practitioners with the opportunity to view and replicate high quality state- and federally-funded early learning programs. The demonstration site was to La Vida recognized that this demonstration project would be one that denounced the silo effect and embraced community collaboration. Thus, we began the process of developing this plan by recognizing essential early care and education partners within the community. Once assembled, the group began the necessary steps to identifying what was working within our community and what areas we would need assistance to create a full system of systems as identified by the State of New Mexico.

Through the activities in this model project, La Vida Felicidad was able to organize opportunities for community leaders to come together and complete a SWOT analysis for Valencia County. (See Addendum A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ESTABLISH COMMUNITY SPECIFIC HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION PROGRAM MODEL DEMONSTRATION SITE: VALENCIA COUNTY) as example of our agency's history in collaboration, data analysis and working with community leaders)