



Parents Reaching Out is your one-stop resource for a stronger family!

We are a statewide non-profit organization that works with parents, caregivers, educators and other professionals to promote healthy, positive and caring experiences for New Mexico families and children. Founded in 1981 we have served New Mexico families for over twenty five years. Our circle of partners throughout New Mexico continues to enhance our outreach connections with families and the professionals who serve them. We have developed partnerships with state and community agencies including the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED), New Mexico Department of Health, Local Education Agencies (LEA), New Mexico PTA, hospitals, universities and family support agencies. These partnerships with funding from federal and state agencies, donations and the valuable time of our volunteers, help us provide materials, workshops, technical assistance and support to effect positive change for families in our state.

Our Mission

The mission of Parents Reaching Out is to enhance positive outcomes for families and children in New Mexico through informed decision making, advocacy, education, and resources. Parents Reaching Out provides the networking opportunities for families to connect with and support each other. This mission supports all families including those who have children with disabilities, and others who are disenfranchised. Parents Reaching Out achieves this by:

- Developing family leadership
- Connecting families to each other
- Building collaborative partnerships
- Providing families knowledge and tools to enhance their power

Our Beliefs

- Families need support where ever they are in their journey.
- All families care deeply about their children.
- Families need tools and support to accomplish their dreams.
- All families are capable of making informed decisions that are right for their family.
- Families in the state benefit from our organization having the staff and materials that meet their diversity.
- Systems that listen carefully to the family perspective improve outcomes for our children.

Parent to Parent is the cornerstone of Parents Reaching Out. Outcomes for children will be brighter when families connect with one another to share experiences, information, new ideas and offer support. Families are connected with others who have faced similar challenges. Matches are based on the age of the child, the community in which the family lives, issues and concerns, school or grade, diagnosis and disability or illness. Networks of knowledgeable and empowered families can move the education and healthcare systems toward a better understanding of the family perspective as they plan and develop programs and policies to serve children.

Our **Family Leadership Action Network (FLAN)** offers training and mentoring for families and others who want to make a difference in their community though volunteering. *We invite you to contact PRO for more information about FLAN and the important gifts you can share with others.*

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Parents Reaching Out is a network of programs woven together to meet the ever changing needs of families.

As the **NM PIRC** (New Mexico Parent Information and Resource Center), we help parents get the information and gain the skills they may need in order to support their children's learning and growth. We are funded by the US Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. We offer information about child development and early childhood programs including Head Start as children begin transitions from home to a school setting. We share information about No Child Left Behind and offer tools for building meaningful partnerships that improve academic achievement.

As the **NM PTI** (New Mexico Parent Training and Information Center), we serve families of infants, children and youth with all types of disabilities as well as related professionals. NM PTI is funded by the US Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). We help families understand the special education system and the Individual Educational Program (IEP) process so that they can make informed decisions, understand IDEA 2004 and effectively advocate for their child.

DreamCatchers work with the Early Intervention system to support the families of infants and toddlers who are at risk for or have developmental delays, disabilities or medical conditions through a grant from the New Mexico Department of Health Family Infant Toddler Program (FIT). We help families navigate systems and connect with other parents. We promote the importance advocacy, record keeping, family perspective and partnerships with those who provide services to our children.

NM FFHC (New Mexico Family to Family Health Information Center) serves communities through a grant from federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Our resources build family capacity to understand the health care system and make informed choices to access quality health care services that best meet their needs.

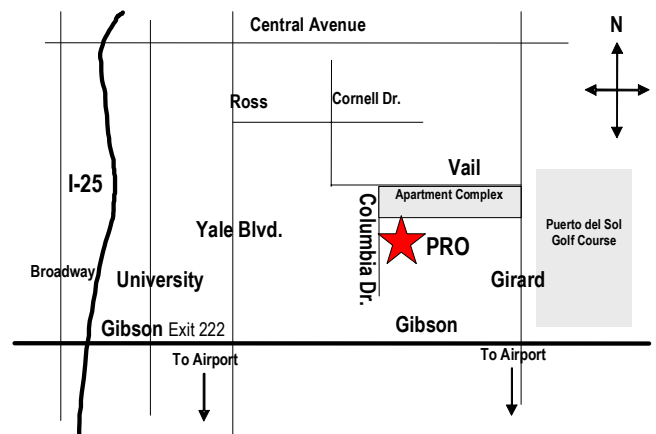
Families as Faculty is funded by the New Mexico Public Education Department, New Mexico Department of Health, Family Infant and Toddler Program and the University of New Mexico Medical School—Continuum of Care. This program promotes family leadership skills and provides professional learning opportunities for future teachers and doctors that prepare them to work in partnerships with families for systems change.

We invite families, educators, other professionals and agencies to visit or call our **Resource Center**. Our free lending library includes materials on child development, literacy, disabilities, the law, and much more. Families relocating to New Mexico or other states may contact us for connections to resources. Our publications, in English and Spanish, offer tools as families work with systems to create successful opportunities for children and young adults. We provide information booths for workshops and conferences throughout New Mexico.

Drop by our office, give us a call or visit our web site!

Parents Reaching Out

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www.parentsreachingout.org



From I-25—take the Gibson Blvd Exit and go East on Gibson. Turn left at the third stop light (Girard). Turn left on the first street—Vail. Go one block to Columbia. Turn left on Columbia. Go a half of a block (past brown apartments). Parents Reaching Out is the concrete building on the left. Welcome!

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