

Preschool Development Grant – Birth through 5 New Hampshire Renewal Grant Overview

The three-year (2020-2022), \$26.8 million, Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) from the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families provides the state the much-needed opportunity to build an early childhood care and education (ECCE) system that support the New Hampshire's vision that *All families are afforded comprehensive and responsive supports, so they are I, learning, and thriving now and in the future.*

- An **effective** ECCE system that positions families at the center.
- An **inclusive** system that offers a continuum of universal and targeted supports that promote the wellbeing of all NH children, their families, and communities.
- A **responsive** system that engages diverse stakeholders and builds on the strengths of families, professionals, and communities.
- An **efficient** system that builds the capacity of families while strengthening the professional system to promote successful transitions for children.
- An **evidence-based** system that embeds research-informed practices that are developmentally and culturally appropriate and establish quality standards.

Grant Governance

- **Interagency Executive Team (IET)** with decision making authority.
 - UNH: Kimberly Nesbitt, Primary Investigator
 - DHHS: Associate Commissioner Chris Tappan and Division Director Chris Santaniello
 - DOE: Commissioner Frank Edelblut and Deputy Commissioner Christine Brennan
- **Leadership Advisory Board (LAB)** to guide the direction and of grant activities, includes a broader range of ECCE stakeholders.
- **Project Staff.** All PDG project staff will be employed by UNH.
 - UNH: Project Manager and 3 Coaching Positions
 - DHHS: Integration Specialist, DEHS Coordinator, BCDHSC Coordinator, BCDHSC Admin
 - DOE: Integration Specialist and Grant Manager
 - DHHS/DOE: ECCE Data Management/Analysis
- **State Partners.** New Hampshire stakeholders involved in the completion of the grant include: Child Care Aware of NH, Endowment for Health, Family Support NH, Early Learning NH, NH Charitable Foundation, NH Children's Trust, NH Family Voices, Parent Information Center of NH, Preschool Technical Assistance Network, and the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council - Spark NH.
- **Contractual.** The IET will contract with external vendors to add in completion of work. UNH will be responsible for contract process from proposal through completion of work.

PDG B-5 Renewal Grant Activities

Activity 1: Needs Assessment

- Annual updating of Needs Assessment developed as part of NH's PDG B-5 Planning Grant to identify changing community and family needs across the state.
- Collect comprehensive data pertaining to child and family access to programs and services, the quality of those services, and the level of coordination in the ECCE system, with a focus on possible disparities.
- Improve primary data collection processes and system through data inoperability and strengthen the data collection capacity of local communities with standardized tools to drive continuous quality improvement and sustainability planning.

Activity 2: Strategic Plan

- Annual updating of the Strategic Plan developed as part of NH's PDG B-5 Planning Grant to reflect changing community and family needs based on annual updates to the Needs Assessment.
- Support the capacity of local communities to develop local Strategic Plans to drive continuous quality improvement and sustainability planning and inform state planning.



Activity 3: Family Knowledge, Choice, and Engagement

- **Welcome Families Website.** Increase family's knowledge by providing them with access to the most up-to-date information on recreational resources, housing resources, guidance on child development, social service resources, and crisis-related supports.
- **Family Resource Centers (FRC).** Build FRCs capacities to serve NH families, including increasing family awareness of the FRCs, investigate potential for satellite programs to reach underserved families, and increase FRCs access to resources and training.
- **Watch Me Grow.** Develop and pilot training modules to ensure guidelines and recommendations are effective and useful for families.
- **Kinship Navigator Program.** Expand Kinship Navigator Program to help link other relative caregivers to services and supports that meet their own needs along with those of the children they are raising.
- **Parent-Focused Initiatives.** Various entities across NH utilize different programs aim at supporting parent-focused initiatives, as part of the grant alignment and evaluation of programs will be examined.
- **Whole Families Approach to Jobs.** Coordination between NH's Whole Families Approach and PDG is a priority and PDG will work to support the state's effort to close the cliff effect to ensure can parents can work while their children thrive.
- **Public Awareness.** Increase awareness of importance of early childhood via Spark NH's *Children: The Bedrock of the Granite State* campaign, including adapting campaign to meet diverse community needs.

Activity 4: Sharing Best Practice in ECCE

- **Professional Development (PD).** Strengthening pre-service coursework and in-service PD efforts that ensure the workforce is well-educated, highly-skilled, and culturally competent across health, early learning, and family support. The grant will support effort to reduce duplication of effort, leverage financial and other resources, and increase program quality reduce duplication of effort, leverage financial and other resources, and increase quality PD providers.
- **Early Childhood Center of Excellence at UNH.** Formalize the coalition of interdisciplinary early childhood experts at UNH and create a sustainable practice-based coaching model, including coordination of practice-based coaching opportunities relevant to ECCE professionals.
- **Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).** Expand current pilot evaluation of QRIS coaching model work to provide practice-based coaching to infant, toddler, and preschools programs and to formalize a QRIS coaching implementation guide.
- **Play-based Learning.** Expand current work of the PDG B-5 planning grant to provide embedded coaching on play-based learning to kindergarten teachers and include evaluation effectiveness.
- **Expanding Availability.** Engage in targeted study to expand the availability of early learning programs for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers outside of the home by working directly with communities to increase access through a whole family mixed-delivery model (i.e., early learning programs with integrative family support services).

Activity 5: Increase ECCE Access and Quality

- **Community Grants.** Conduct a competitive procurement process to allow communities to access critical funds to address local needs, informed by and aligned with statewide efforts. Grants will vary based upon community need and prioritize communities based on vulnerability. Grants will be provided to: 1) conduct needs assessment and or 2) strategic plan, 3) implement evidence-informed programs and practices, and 4) expand programs and practices proven to work for their community.

Activity 6: Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Use for Continuous Improvement

- **Data Interoperability.** Build upon the state's scalable data integration platform, Enterprise Business Intelligence (EBI), to enhance integrated reporting. Interoperability will seek to align metrics of ECCE program quality, ECCE workforce professional development, and relevant child and family outcomes needed to guide continuous quality improvement.
- **Interagency Coordination.** Support for current state department efforts to increase alignment and capacity via DHHS and DOE Early Childhood Integration Teams.