Supporting Early Learning in Idaho

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five

January – December 2020
PDG B-5 grants are designed to improve early childhood systems by building upon existing federal, state, and local early care and learning investments.

Governor Little authorized Idaho AEYC to apply for the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five in November 2019 and designated our organization as the lead agency to administer the grant.

The Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children is thrilled to be the recipient of the federal PDG B-5 for the State of Idaho.

For more information: idahoaeyc.org/pdg
The Preschool Development Grant B-5 provides the opportunity to design and implement an early care and education system that gives equitable access to high-quality programs for children and families.

This federal funding will allow Idaho to engage in:

1) a thorough needs assessment,
2) a robust strategic planning process, and
3) other activities intended to support a shared vision and goals for young children.
Together We Are Building a Coordinated and Collaborative Early Childhood System

Supporting communities and families in building opportunities that prepare children for school.

Creating comprehensive approaches to child development and early learning opportunities.
1. Research and Analyze Existing Services and Supports and Identify Gaps in Service

2. Develop Recommendations and Implementation Plans to Support a Statewide Early Learning System

3. Create Early Childhood Mixed Service Delivery Systems that:
   - Maximize Parental Choice
   - Improve Transitions between Early Care and Learning Programs and Elementary Schools
   - Enhance Overall Quality of Early Childhood Programs
PDG B-5: THE IDAHO WAY!

- Activity 1: Statewide Needs Assessment
- Activity 2: Statewide Strategic Plan
- Activity 3: Maximize Parent Knowledge and Choice
- Activity 4: Share Best Practices Among State Early Childhood Care and Education Programs
- Activity 5: Improve Overall Quality of ECCE Programs, Educators, and Services
Activity One
Statewide Needs Assessment
University of Idaho McClure Center for Public Policy Research

- Document Review
  - Administrative Data Analysis
  - Data Integration Analysis
  - Draft and Final Needs Assessment

WSU Social and Economic Sciences Research Center
- Statewide survey of families with children ages 5 and younger (where children are while parents are working)

Danielle Horras Consulting, LLC
- Town Hall Meetings
- Focus Groups
- Data Integration
- Draft/Final Needs Assessment with McClure Center

GS Strategy Group (advisory capacity)
- Stakeholder Surveys
  - Parents/Caregivers
  - Early Childhood Care and Education Providers
  - Community Partners/Service Providers

Child Trends
- Facilities Study
- Quality Rating and Improvement System Validation Study
- Telehealth Feasibility Study

The Policy Equity Group
- Higher Education Inventory

Bipartisan Policy Center
- Idaho’s Child Care Program Landscape / Child Care Deserts
Activity 2:
Statewide Strategic Plan

Define
- Define Scope of Strategic Plan

Review
- Review Needs Assessment Data and Stakeholder Input to Create Goal and Strategy Statements

Conduct
- Conduct Literature Review and Review of Best Practices

Incorporate
- Incorporate Stakeholder Feedback

Present
- Present Strategic Plan
ACTIVITY 3: Maximize Parent Knowledge and Choice

• Steps to Quality Outreach: Quality Rating and Improvement System

• Business Startup Toolkit and Incentive Grants

• Expansion of Early Intervention Screening and Referral

• Exploration of Telehealth Models: Service Provision in Rural Areas

• Idaho Public Television Media Campaign: Parent Engagement

• Idaho Commission for Libraries Outreach: Read To Me B-5

• Countdown to Kindergarten: Pilot Program in Four School Districts

• READY! For Kindergarten and BLOCK Fest Expansion
ACTIVITY 4:
Sharing Best Practices Among State Early Childhood Care and Education Providers

Local Collaborative Grants
Classroom Mini-Grants for Early Childhood Literacy Materials
Online and Video Modules – Idaho Public Television and Lee Pesky Learning Center
Regional Early Learning Academies
Frontline Social Service Provider Training – Head Start Collaboration Office
Provide CLASS Training to Quality Care Consultants and IdahoSTARS Assessors

The CLASS assessment tool focuses on insights and strategies to enhance the way teachers interact with children to create secure, supportive relationships that promote learning and exploration.

Activity 5: Improving Overall Quality of ECCE Programs, Providers, and Services
Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five recipients are required to develop a Program Performance Evaluation Plan.

- The PPE Plan will detail how Idaho will monitor and assess progress toward goals and objectives of the PDG Project in the renewal year and beyond.

Boise State University Performance Evaluation and Research Lab (PEARL) will be creating the PPE Plan.