ACTIVITIES 1 AND 2: Statewide Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan

Idaho AEYC is working with multiple partners to provide contracted services that support the statewide Needs Assessment process. Partners include: the University of Idaho McClure Center for Public Policy, Danielle Horras Consulting, Washington State University Social and Economic Sciences Research Center, GS Strategy Group, Child Trends, and The Policy Equity Group.

Work on necessary components of the Needs Assessment has begun and we are using creative methods to engage in gathering information in ways that protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACTIVITY 3: Maximize Parent Knowledge and Choice

Strong partnerships have been formed to begin the work toward the goal of maximizing parent knowledge and choice. IdahoSTARS will lead outreach efforts to recruit more early childhood programs into the Steps to Quality system. IdahoSTARS is also supporting early intervention training and outreach by promoting the CDC’s Learn the Signs, Act Early milestone tracker and working toward the expansion of services to promote developmental screening using Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ-3).

The Idaho Commission for Libraries is working to promote early literacy by engaging families in early learning experiences through local library networks. READY! For Kindergarten sessions are being promoted through Facebook Live experiences and other web-based opportunities. A fun summer reading project is being created to engage young learners in school readiness experiences through children’s literature. In addition, Idaho Public Television will be promoting parent engagement through educational campaigns aired statewide.

ACTIVITY 4: Share Best Practices Among State Early Childhood Educators

Idaho AEYC is working closely with Advocacy & Communication Solutions to create local collaborative teams throughout the State of Idaho in conjunction with the Preschool the Idaho Way project. These local teams will identify needs and develop action plans for their communities that will support and promote successful school readiness goals.

ACTIVITY 5: Improve Overall Quality of Early Learning Programs & Services

PDG B-5 partners are working together to explore the possibility of using the CLASS Pre-K assessment tool as part of improving overall quality of early learning and preschool programs.

The CLASS assessment system focuses on insights and strategies to enhance the way early childhood teachers interact with children to create secure, supportive relationships that promote learning and exploration. By using this quality assessment component that increases positive adult-child interactions, children will be better prepared to enter school and be successful.