Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five

MAY 2020

SUMMARIZING PROGRESS TOWARD PDG B5 GOALS AT THE END OF EACH MONTH

WORKING TOGETHER

SHARING PROGRESS

SUPPORTING EARLY LEARNING IN IDAHO

ACTIVITY ONE
Statewide Needs Assessment

ACTIVITY TWO
Statewide Strategic

ACTIVITY THREE
Maximize Parent Knowledge and Choice

ACTIVITY FOUR
Share Best Practices Among State Early Childhood Educators

ACTIVITY FIVE
Improve Overall Quality of Early Learning Programs and Services

ACTIVITIES 1 AND 2: Statewide Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan

Idaho AEYC is holding regular progress meetings with all of the partners working on the statewide Needs Assessment, including Child Trends, The Policy Equity Group, Washington State University Social and Economic Sciences Research Center, University of Idaho McClure Center on Public Policy Research, Danielle Horras (consultant), and Boise State University.

The PDG Family Survey, conducted by WSU SESRC, will go live the first week of June 2020. The Bipartisan Policy Center has completed an analysis of Idaho’s Child Care Landscape which identifies areas in the state where there are gaps in availability of child care services.

ACTIVITY 3: Maximize Parent Knowledge and Choice

Idaho Public Television is continuing to partner in the creation of the Idaho Ready to Learn campaign. Beginning in June 2020, ten concise PSA messages will be televised to encourage families to engage their young children in activities that support school readiness.

The fun, literacy-based Read and Share project, spearheaded by the READY! for Kindergarten team, is in the final design phase and will be available toward the end of the summer, in conjunction with Idaho Commission for Libraries.

An outline for the Child Care Business Start-up Toolkit has been developed by IdahoSTARS. Idaho AEYC is in conversation with a national agency to potentially expand and complete this project.

ACTIVITY 4: Share Best Practices Among State Early Childhood Educators

A successful kick-off meeting was held on May 27, 2020, for all of the communities that will form collaboratives and engage in local needs assessment and strategic planning processes through the creation of Local Early Learning Advisory Committees. Contractor agreements have been signed and the work of the early learning collaboratives will begin in June 2020. More than $750,000 is being disbursed throughout Idaho to conduct these important local assessments.

The statewide planning team for the Regional Early Learning Academies has met to discuss the outline for the 6-hour professional development event. One of the challenges is the uncertainty of being able to meet in groups due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussion is underway to consider options for outreach and delivery, including potentially offering the event through virtual or hybrid means, thereby reducing public health risks.

The Lee Pesky Learning Center professional development team is working on creating four online literacy modules (infant/toddler and preschool) for early childhood educators, which will be available in December 2020.

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

Our federal PDG Project Officers have given approval for us to begin implementing Activity 5 immediately – CLASS Pre-K Observation Training – rather than having to wait until later in the grant year.

Conversations with Teachstone® have been successful in moving this project forward so that all goals will be met by December 2020.