The PDG B5 Federal Project Officers have approved a restructuring of Activity 3.2 – Business Startup Grants. Rather than recruiting the startup of new child care programs with incentive funds at this time, we are contracting with Child Care Aware of America to create two Child Care Business Startup Toolkits, both in English and Spanish. One toolkit will support center-based programs and the other will support family child care (in-home) programs. The toolkits will provide guidance and resources related to starting and sustaining quality child care programs with Idaho-specific information embedded for easy access.

The Local Early Learning Collaboratives, Activity 4.1, are well underway in 15 areas of the state. Contractor Agreements have been signed with each collaborative and funds have been disbursed to begin the work. Local Early Learning Advisory Committees have been created and some jurisdictions have already held their first ELAC planning meeting. Advocacy & Communication Solutions is providing technical assistance to the local collaboratives and has instituted an easy-to-use scheduling tool to make sure each area of the state has the support needed to be successful.

We are also making great progress toward the goals of the Regional Early Learning Academies and participant literacy kits that will be provided by Lakeshore Learning. We have developed an outline of the day and are working with a marketing company to develop invitations that can be shared via email and social media to promote the three two-hour virtual professional development opportunities that will be held in September and October 2020.

Working with Teachstone, we have finalized the CLASS Observation plan to meet this year’s PDG goals. We will be offering CLASS Pre-K Observation virtual training in August 2020 and CLASS Infant/Toddler Observation virtual training in October 2020, with up to 15 participants in each observation training session. In addition, as an in-kind donation, Teachstone has generously provided access for up to 15 participants to register for their newly released online trauma-informed professional development series, “Interactions at the Heart of Healing.”