Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five

JULY 2020

SUMMARIZING HIGHLIGHTS OF PDG B5 ACTIVITIES 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

The PDG team at the University of Idaho McClure Center for Public Policy Research has scheduled virtual Town Hall sessions to be offered during the month of August. In July, marketing efforts began to encourage families to participate. In addition to the community-wide sessions in the seven Health District regions, Spanish and Tribal sessions will be held to generate voices from as many Idaho families as possible.

These sessions will provide families with opportunities to share their perspectives related to early learning programs for young children.

As work on the many components of the Needs Assessment continues, Child Trends and The Policy Equity Group are making significant progress related to studies focused on 1) Idaho’s Quality Rating and Improvement System, 2) Child Care Facilities, 3) Feasibility of Telehealth Services, and 4) the Early Childhood Higher Education Inventory.

ACTIVITY 3: Maximize Parent Knowledge and Choice

In July, our PDG B5 Federal Project Officers approved a restructure of Activity 3.1 – Steps to Quality Outreach, to bring awareness to the need for quality child care as well as to encourage child care programs to become part of Idaho’s Quality Rating and Improvement System. Rather than hiring additional team members to recruit programs into Steps to Quality, we will focus our efforts on a statewide campaign to create awareness of and promote quality early learning opportunities for families with young children. This initiative will reach a statewide audience with adaptations for various regions. Marketing materials will be delivered via direct mail, social media platforms, e-communication, and more.

ACTIVITY 4: Share Best Practices Among State Early Childhood Educators

The Local Early Learning Collaboratives (Activity 4.1), made significant progress in July. Working in partnership with the Boise State University PEARL team, Idaho AEYC and Advocacy & Communication Solutions created a useful resource to assist local collaboratives in data collection efforts. This Local Collaboratives Needs Assessment Worksheet is available on the Idaho AEYC website IdahoAEYC.org/pdg.

The Regional Early Learning Academy sessions (Activity 4.2) have been scheduled and registration will begin in August. The three, 2-hour professional development webinars are available at no cost to participants. Webinar attendees will receive resources and materials after each session to enhance quality early learning throughout the state. Beginning on August 10, early childhood educators and professionals supporting children ages birth through five years may register for these sessions at IdahoAEYC.org/pdg.

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

Participants have been confirmed for the virtual, 2-day CLASS Pre-K Observation training and materials have been distributed by Teachstone to the 15 early childhood educators who will be joining this session.