

NEBRASKA PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT



PDG Renewal Grant

Building on the successful implementation of the Preschool Development Grant last year, whose purpose was to encourage more efficient use of federal, local, and private resources to align and strengthen the delivery of existing early childhood services, the National Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, has notified Nebraska DHHS that an award of \$8.9M over three years for Preschool Development Grant Birth-Five (PDG) Renewal Grant has been made. Together, contributing partners have pledged \$2.7M in matching funds.

The effort is designed to improve the quality of early childhood services and expand access to the most vulnerable families while strengthening and streamlining state-level infrastructure. The proposal builds on the first-year accomplishments, including the comprehensive needs assessment and statewide strategic plan. It will also leverage the community-level leadership and infrastructure that have been built over many years and accelerate progress at both the local and state levels.

NDHHS will provide overall project oversight. As a subgrantee, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation will serve in a Project Coordination role and will lead the communication and dissemination efforts. The Nebraska Department of Education Office of Early Childhood is also a subgrantee, leading some key activities. Another key partner is the Buffett Early Childhood Institute who will continue the work on the Statewide Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan.

Twenty-two projects will address gaps and align resources within the Early Childhood System in six targeted areas including:

- Statewide Needs Assessment Plan
- Statewide Strategic Plan
- Maximizing Parental Choice and Knowledge
- Sharing Best Practices and Professional Development for the Early Childhood Workforce
- Improving Overall Quality and Service Integration, Expanding Access and Developing New Programs, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Data Use for Continuous Improvement
- Meaningful Governance and Stakeholder Engagement.

Questions about the grant may be directed to Nicole Vint – nicole.vint@nebraska.gov.

Expected Outcomes from a PDG B-5 Renewal Grant:

- Continually updated information about the status of young children in Nebraska to inform decision-making at the state, community, and program level, with an emphasis on improving capacity in rural communities;
- Stronger community-level infrastructure to help families learn about available early childhood programming, and to help connect families to the services they need;
- Expanded efforts to engage with families, obtain information about their needs, inform them about child development, and connect them to services to benefit their young children;
- A stronger early childhood workforce, supported by a coherent set of professional development (PD) initiatives and meaningful incentives to stay and grow in the field; Improved services for infants and toddlers to begin the birth-to-five years, and stronger transitions into kindergarten to end them;
- A stronger, more integrated state system with updated governance and finance policies that support community-level leadership;
- A Nebraska public that is well-informed about the importance of child development, the impact of the grant, and the state's investment in early childhood; and
- Evaluation results that inform continuous quality improvement.