

**New Hampshire's Preschool Development Grant
Implementation Period Overview**
<https://mypages.unh.edu/pdg>







The three-year (2020-2022), \$26.8 million, NH Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families supports the state in building an early childhood care and education (ECCE) system that *affords comprehensive and responsive supports to all families, so they are healthy, learning, and thriving now and in the future.*

The grant is a collaboration between the University of New Hampshire, the NH Departments of Education and Health and Human Services, and the Governor's Council for Thriving Children, as well as New Hampshire's early childhood advocates and practitioners.

The NH PDG is guided by the state's aspiration to create an early childhood system that is

- **Effective** and positions families at the center.
- **Inclusive** and offers a continuum of universal and targeted supports that promote the wellbeing of all NH children, their families, and communities.
- **Responsive** and engages diverse stakeholders and builds on the strengths of families, professionals, and communities.
- **Efficient** and builds the capacity of families while strengthening the professional system to promote successful transitions for children.
- **Evidence-informed** and embeds research-informed practices that are developmentally and culturally appropriate and establish quality standards.

NH PDG B-5 Activities, 2020 Accomplishments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •NH Family Survey •Family Resource Center Staff Survey •Community Grants <p>Activity 1: Needs Assessment</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Formation of NH's Council for Thriving Children •Year in Review Report •Community Grants <p>Activity 2: Strategic Plan</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Infrastructure Support for Family Resource Centers •Public Awareness •Welcome Families Web Tool •Developmental Screening <p>Activity 3: Family Choice & Knowledge</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Coaching •Environment Rating Scale Technical Assistance •Pyramid Model Consortium •Kindergarten Entry Assessment Tools and Transition Practices <p>Activity 4: Best Practices</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Grants •Evaluation Technical Assistance •Mapping Child Care Deserts and System Supports <p>Activity 5: Improving Quality</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •NH's Council for Thriving Children •Data Interoperability <p>Activity 6: Governance & Interoperability</p> 

Graphic developed by Abt Associates

NH PDG B-5 Renewal Grant Activities, 2020 Notable Successes

Activity 1: Continue conducting a statewide needs assessment to better understand challenges facing New Hampshire families. Support local efforts to conduct needs assessments.

- **Family Survey:** The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) developed and administered a Family Survey to better understand how the state can support families, with particular focus on vulnerable populations. The findings will be reported in 2021.
- **Family Resource Center (FRC) Staff Survey:** NCCP developed the FRC Staff Survey to better understand services and supports that FRCs offer to families with young children. Findings will be reported in 2021.
- **Community Grants:** UNH awarded funding to six Community Grants to support local organizations in conducting needs assessments. Projects run through July 2021.

Activity 2: Update and disseminate NH's Early Childhood Strategic Plan. Support local community groups in their efforts to create local strategic plans.

- **Formation of NH's Council for Thriving Children:** NH's Council for Thriving Children was formed in 2020 – a major step toward implementing NH's Strategic Plan. Pear Associates and the Council's Director work closely to track developments and share progress.
- **Year in Review Report:** Pear Associates is creating a "Year in Review" report to highlight the work of early childhood stakeholders across NH represented by 20 success stories.
- **Community Grants:** UNH awarded funding to five Community Grants to support local organizations in creating strategic plans. Projects run through July 2021.

Activity 3: Increase awareness of and improve the quality of supports, information, and resources for NH families with young children.

- **Infrastructure Support for Family Resource Centers:** The New Hampshire Children's Trust (NHCT) provided infrastructure to 14 Family Resource Centers (FRCs), through data system support, quality designation, and a campaign to promote the FRCs as NH communities' local hubs of support for families. [BA2](#)
- **Public Awareness:** Early Learning NH implemented a statewide public awareness campaign to share information with families about the importance of supporting children's early learning. The Parent Information Center (PIC) and NH Family Voices (NHFV) support family involvement in statewide Needs Assessment activities as well as providing training on authentic family engagement in local communities.
- **Welcome Families Web Tool:** The Welcome Families Web Tool, an interactive website and resource directory for families in NH, was launched. Rebel Interactive Group designed and created the site in collaboration with Early Learning NH, and since the soft launch on October 30, 2020, there have been over 1,000 visits to the site.
- **Developmental Screening [BA2](#):** NH DHHS initiated a pilot process to develop a centralized access point for developmental screening embedded within the NHFV organization.

Activity 4. *Improve training, professional development, and supports for all early childhood care and education providers.*

- **Coaching:** NH PDG B-5 Play-Based Learning (PBL) coaches provided a range of coaching and training to multiple cohorts of kindergarten and early childhood care and education providers [BA2](#) across the state.
- **Environment Rating Scale Technical Assistance:** Southern New Hampshire Services (SNHS) provided virtual TA on the Environment Rating Scale (ERS) to a cohort of nine early childhood care and education providers [BA2](#).
- **Pyramid Model Consortium** [BA2](#): The Pyramid Model Consortium established a Master Cadre of Pyramid Model trainers to support early education and care programs to implement the Pyramid Model with high fidelity.
- **Kindergarten Entry Assessment Tools and Transition Practices** [BA3](#): Abt Associates conducted a literature review of kindergarten entry assessment tools and transition practices. A Kindergarten Transitions Taskforce was initiated in 2020.

Activity 5. *Improve the overall quality of early childhood care and education provider programs and services. Increase access to providers in child care desert communities.*

- **Community Grants:** UNH awarded funding to six Community Grants to support the implementation or expansion of ten different programs (e.g., Choose Love, Community Cafes, Developmental Screening, Drop-in Childcare, Family Child Care Providers, Home Visiting, Play-Based Learning, Pyramid Model, Waterford Upstart, Welcome Baby). [BA2 & BA3](#)
- **Evaluation TA for Community Grantees:** Abt Associates supported Community Grants funded for implementation and expansion projects, in drafting logic models and developing evaluation plans.
- **Mapping Child Care Deserts and System Supports:** Abt Associates analyzed contextual and system-level data (e.g., FRC locations, Regional Early Childhood Coalitions) and developed maps to highlight gaps and strengths of the statewide system.

Activity 6. *Support efforts led by NH DHHS, DOE, and NH's Council for Thriving Children to increase data interoperability and build a data governance structure*

- **NH's Council for Thriving Children** [BA1](#): The Council for Thriving Children, NH's advisory council on early education and care, was formed in 2020. This new governance structure, led jointly by NH DHHS and DOE, will work toward an integrated and coordinated system.
- **Data Interoperability:** NH DHHS made significant progress towards expanding internal databases to develop a more comprehensive data and information platform. A DOE/DHHS Business Analyst was hired in 2020 to advance data interoperability tasks across the two departments.

PDG B-5 Bonus Area 1 ([BA1](#)): Coordinated Application, Eligibility, Enrollment

PDG B-5 Bonus Area 2 ([BA2](#)): Infant/Toddler Emphasis

PDG B-5 Bonus Area 3 ([BA3](#)): Collaborative Transition & Alignment from Birth to the Early Grades

NH PDG B-5 Project Budget, 2021

YEAR 2 OF IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

Description	Estimate
Activity 1 - Needs Assessment	
National needs assessment consulting team (statewide update; local standardization)	\$200,000
Technical Assistance re: family participation (statewide, locally)	\$50,000
Participant recruitment & support (state-level needs assessment)	\$60,000
Total Activity 1	\$310,000
Activity 2 - Strategic Plan	
Consultant to coordinate statewide Strategic plan update, facilitate meetings with the Council for Thriving Children and related entities	\$150,000
Total Activity 2	\$150,000
Activity 3 - Family Knowledge and Choice (State-level activities)	
Family Resource Center Support/Facilitating Organization Infrastructure	\$1,500,000
Family voice/knowledge/awareness activities and contracts	\$300,000
DHHS/DOE Family Supports	\$200,000
Total Activity 3	\$2,000,000
Activity 4 - Sharing Best Practice	
ECE Opportunities	\$970,000
DHHS/DOE Best Practices	\$200,000
Integration/Alignment Grants	\$187,500
Early Childhood Center of Excellence (mission/research/training)	\$150,000
Stipends to compensate for coaching	\$20,000
Total Activity 4	\$1,527,500
Activity 5 - Quality/Subgrants	
Community Grants (collaborative community workgroups)	\$1,500,000
Total Activity 5	\$1,500,000
Activity 6 - Governance/Data Interoperability	
Data Interoperability (Data System Platform Development)	\$375,000
Communications	\$150,000
Total Activity 6	\$525,000

NH PDG B-5 Project Budget, cont.

YEAR 2 OF IMPLEMENTATION GRANT (2021)

Description	Estimate
General Grant Activities	
Evaluation expert to conduct PPE	\$400,000
General/administrative grant activities	\$1,364,600
Total Administrative Activities/Personnel	\$1,764,600
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	
Facilities and Administrative/Indirect Coasts	\$1,165,086
TOTAL SPONSOR COST	\$8,942,186
Cost Match	\$2,682,656

NH PDG B-5 Team

NH Council for Thriving Children	NH Department of Health and Human Services	NH Department of Education	University of New Hampshire
Christina Lachance, Director	Chris Santaniello, Director, Division of Economic and Housing Stability	Frank Edelblut, Commissioner Christine Brennan, Deputy Commissioner	Kimberly Nesbitt, Principal Investigator
	Patricia Tilley, Deputy Director, Division of Public Health Services		
	Marti Ilg, Deputy Director, Division of Economic and Housing Stability		
Dylan Gatta, Business Analyst	Ellyn Schreiber, DHHS PDG Coordinator	Victoria Sullivan, DOE Administrative Consultant	Karen DuBois Garofalo, Play-based Learning Coordinator
	Sarah Henry, DHHS BCDHSC Project Manager		Jennifer Berube, Play-based Learning Instructional Coach
	Brittany Little, DHHS Early Childhood Integration Specialist		Sarah Bond, Play-based Learning Instructional Coach
	Emma Heath Salerni, DHHS Program Administrative Specialist		Meredith O'Shea, Project Director