



Quarterly Newsletter

YEAR 1 SUMMARY

This newsletter is part of a series of quarterly updates for the New Hampshire (NH) Preschool Development Grant Birth to 5 (PDG B-5) contractors and other stakeholders. In 2020, there was impressive progress across each of the six NH PDG B-5 activity areas! In lieu of a Quarter 4 (October to December 2020) summary of NH PDG B-5 progress, this newsletter presents some of the accomplishments achieved by NH PDG B-5 staff and partners over the course of the year. Please note that we were able to describe only a few select accomplishments here, and we recognize there were even more achievements than what is included in this newsletter.

NH PDG B-5 Renewal Grant Activities, 2020 Accomplishments:

The NH PDG B-5 team made significant progress across the six activity areas in 2020. We summarize these accomplishments here and describe them in greater detail throughout the rest of the newsletter.

- NH Family Survey
- Family Resource Center Staff Survey
- Community Grants

Activity 1: Needs Assessment



- Formation of NH's Council for Thriving Children
- Year in Review Report
- Community Grants

Activity 2: Strategic Plan



- Infrastructure Support for Family Resource Centers
- Public Awareness
- Welcome Families Web Tool
- Developmental Screening

Activity 3: Family Choice & Knowledge



- Coaching
- Environment Rating Scale Technical Assistance
- Pyramid Model Consortium
- Kindergarten Entry Assessment Tools and Transition Practices

Activity 4: Best Practices



- Community Grants
- Evaluation Technical Assistance
- Mapping Child Care Deserts and System Supports

Activity 5: Improving Quality



- NH's Council for Thriving Children
- Data Interoperability

Activity 6: Governance & Interoperability





ACTIVITY 1: Needs Assessment

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

YEAR 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- **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.

NCCP and Parent Information Center/New Hampshire Family Voices (PIC/NHFV) developed a successful and collaborative partnership in 2020. One activity involved piloting the Family Survey instrument and outreach materials with a group of NH families and making adjustments based on their feedback.



ACTIVITY 2: Strategic Planning

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

YEAR 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- **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: Maximizing Family Choice and Knowledge (State-level activities)

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

YEAR 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Infrastructure Support for Family Resource Centers:** The New Hampshire Children's Trust (NHCT) provided infrastructure support 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.
- **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. PIC/NHFV provided 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: welcomefamiliesnh.org.
- **Developmental Screening:** NH DHHS initiated a pilot process to develop a centralized access point for developmental screening embedded within the NHFV organization.



ACTIVITY 4: Sharing Best Practices

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

YEAR 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- **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 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.
- **Pyramid Model Consortium:** 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:** Abt Associates conducted a literature review of kindergarten entry assessment tools and transition practices. A Kindergarten Transitions Taskforce was initiated in 2020.



ACTIVITY 5: Improving Quality/ Subgrants

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

YEAR 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- **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).
- **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: Governance/ Data Interoperability

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

YEAR 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- **NH's Council for Thriving Children:** 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 Data Analyst was hired in 2020 to advance data interoperability tasks across the two departments.

