



New Hampshire's

Preschool Development Grant Birth to 5

Quarterly Newsletter

This newsletter highlights progress from **July to September, 2021** (Quarter 3 in Year 2 of the PDG B-5 grant) and summarizes upcoming activities for **October to December, 2021** (Quarter 4 in Year 2 of the PDG B-5 grant).

The PDG B-5 grant is intended to provide infrastructure support for the implementation of [NH's Strategic Plan for Early Childhood](#). To that end, this newsletter begins with a review of the needs assessment and strategic planning activities for PDG B-5. It is then organized by the goals and objectives of the state's Strategic Plan.



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) incorporated feedback on the **updated statewide Needs Assessment** for Year 2 (2020-2021). A public version will be released in the next quarter. UNH also partnered with researchers at the Carsey School of Public Policy to plan for updating the statewide Needs Assessment for Year 3 (2021-2022).
- Two of the Needs Assessment Community Grantees submitted their **final needs assessment and local data**. The reports were shared internally to support state data interoperability efforts and the Year 3 Needs Assessment activities.

PDG CONNECTIONS

In Quarter 3, the NH PDG Project Director served on an Advisory Committee for a study on early childhood equity funded by the Endowment for Health and managed by Child Trends. The Project Director shared resources developed by PDG staff and contractors with the Committee to support their efforts to identify key informant groups and develop study dissemination strategies.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- NH PDG staff will continue to work with staff from the Carsey School of Public Policy, DHHS, and DOE to finalize the focus of needs assessment activities for the remainder of Year 2 and Year 3.
- Three active Needs Assessment Community Grantees will finish planned activities and submit year-end reports.



STRATEGIC PLAN SUPPORT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- Pear Associates and a subcommittee of the Council for Thriving Children presented the **annual update to the Strategic Plan** to the full Council. The document included catalysts to progress, challenges, measures of success, and alignment with other state and local strategic plans.
- Pear Associates initiated planning for the **2021 Year in Review** report, which will provide a summary of the state's progress on the Strategic Plan. They attended the September Council meeting to discuss the collection of stories across the state to be included in the 2021 report.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- Pear Associates will continue working with the Council subcommittee and a group of advisors to identify stories and develop the 2021 Year in Review report.
- Three active Strategic Plan Community Grantees will finish planned activities and submit year-end reports.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Positive Learning Experiences

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- The **Pyramid Model Consortium (PMC)** began training additional members to join NH's Master Cadre and planning for a second cohort of Pyramid Model implementation sites.
- UNH's **Play Based Learning Coaches** completed recruitment for the 2021-2022 Kindergarten Cohort and held the Cohort Kickoff at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire in collaboration with researchers at Temple University. In preparation for evaluation of the play-based learning coaching program, Abt Associates revised the data collection tool and trained observers.
- Abt Associates incorporated feedback on a brief summarizing the [interactive mapping](#) in support of the state's understanding of child care deserts and to inform the Early Childhood Regional Partnerships.
- NH PDG staff supported the DHHS Bureau of Child Development (BCDHSC) Quality Team in aligning the finalized practice-based **Coach Competencies** with internal Early Childhood Credential efforts.

PDG CONNECTIONS

- In Quarter 3, Southern NH Services (SNHS) and the PMC partnered to train the NH Master Cadre members in support of embedding Pyramid Model into the revised Quality Recognition & Improvement System (QRIS).
- Parent Information Center/ New Hampshire Family Voices (PIC/NHFV) and NH Children's Trust launched the [YOUR VOICE](#) campaign in Quarter 3. The family voice campaign and materials are available for statewide use across a variety of stakeholders, including families, educators, providers, and organizations.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- The PMC and SNHS will complete training the seven new Master Cadre members. The PMC will continue to support merging the Pyramid Model and iSocial State Leadership Teams, and will assign a Program Coach to the new implementation sites.
- The UNH Play Based Learning Coaches will continue biweekly coaching sessions with the Kindergarten Cohort. Abt Associates will conduct observations in 20 participating classrooms.
- UNH will enter a contract with a strategic planning contractor to coordinate a needs assessment of the University's early childhood research and educational resources, a state-wide environmental scan, and stakeholder evaluation to inform an [Early Childhood Institute for Excellence](#).



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2: Healthy Children & Families

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- The NHFV Care Coordinator created a library of materials related to the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), the developmental screening tool that will be used as part of the **Developmental Screening Centralized Access Point**. The Care Coordinator also continued to develop relationships with community partners and completed a Train-the-Trainer session with Brookes Publishing.

PDG CONNECTIONS

NHFV continued discussions with a database consultant to design a "bridge" of Brookes' ASQ and NHFV's Salesforce systems to support sharing data between local agencies and the Centralized Access Point.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- The NHFV Care Coordinator will continue to support finalizing the contract between DHHS and Brookes, and will be available to train other NHFV staff and partners in the ASQ.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 3: Strong Families

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- NHCT continued the evaluation of the **Kinship Navigator Program (KNP)**. NHCT finalized and distributed the KNP program practice/policy manual and established five modules of the KNP training curriculum.
- NHCT finalized a subcontract with the remaining **Family Resource Center (FRC)**, and continued infrastructure support for the Family Support Data System and the FRC of Quality designation process.
- The **Play Based Learning Task Force**, a group of cross-sector stakeholders committed to establishing a sustainable network of Play Based Learning throughout NH, summarized connections they have made and actions to promote play-based learning in communities.

PDG CONNECTIONS

PIC/NHFV attended the RECC Alliance's Family Engagement Task Force Meetings and joined the RECC Alliance's project to construct a comprehensive strategy map to increase authentic family leadership in system design and improvement.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- PIC/NHFV will continue working with the RECC Alliance and NHCT, creating universal tools for family engagement and co-facilitating the NHCT Communications Community of Practice.
- NHCT will continue the evaluation of the Kinship Navigators Program.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 4: Statewide Coordination

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- The NH PDG Council Business Analyst began drafting an outline for a manual for the proposed NH **Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)** and began to conduct an official data integration inventory. NH PDG staff also continued efforts to obtain a distinct count of children served by NH's early childhood care and education system.
- The **Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) and Transition Task Force** began discussing transition practices and family engagement in addition to review of KEA tools.
- Four of the **Implementation/Expansion Community Grantees** submitted their final reports. The experience of the Community Grants will be reviewed to inform the Regional Lead system.

PDG CONNECTIONS

NH PDG staff released an RFP and awarded seven lead organizations for the **Early Childhood Regional Partnerships** to enhance early childhood care-school-family support collaborations and build infrastructure for cross-sector collaboration. These grants represent a significant collaborative effort between NH PDG leadership and staff, the joint DHHS and DOE regional workgroup, the Council for Thriving Children, and other state partners.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- The final Implementation/Expansion Community Grantees will finish and submit reports.
- NH PDG staff will partner with the National PDG B-5 TA Center to develop content and conduct monthly capacity-building technical assistance meetings for the Early Childhood Regional Partners. Regional Leads will also submit project-specific requests to address needs identified by the partnership.

Contact Information: Questions? Comments? Please contact Meredith O'Shea (UNH) at Meredith.O'Shea@unh.edu or Katie Murphy (Abt) at Katie_Murphy@abtassoc.com.

Please note this newsletter is a public document, but many of the PDG B-5 products referenced are considered internal and may not be shared externally.

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