

**New Hampshire's Preschool Development Grant
Implementation Period Overview**
chhs.unh.edu/early-childhood/preschool-development-grant







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 advances 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, and endeavors to support systems-level change and data-driven decision-making.

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 2021 Accomplishments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2020-2021 Needs Assessment report •2021-2022 Needs Assessment planning •Needs Assessment Community Grants <p>Needs Assessment </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Year in Review Reports •Update to Strategic Plan and Measures of Success •Strategic Plan Community Grants <p>Strategic Planning </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Play Based Learning Coaching •Mapping Child Care Deserts and System Supports •Supporting Quality Improvement in ECCE Programs <p>Goal 1: Positive Learning Experiences </p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Developmental Screening Centralized Access Point •Funding to support DOE and DHHS alignment projects •NH's mixed-delivery system and families' early care and education needs <p>Goal 2: Healthy Children & Families </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Infrastructure Support for Family Resource Centers •Resources for Authentic Family Engagement •Implementation/Expansion Community Grants <p>Goal 3: Strong Families </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Early Childhood Regional Leads •Early Childhood Integrated Data System •Kindergarten Entry Assessment and Transition <p>Goal 4: Statewide Coordination </p>

NH PDG B-5 Renewal Grant Activities, 2021 Notable Successes

Annual update of statewide needs assessment and support of local needs assessments to identify changing community and family needs across the state.

- **2020-2021 Needs Assessment Report:** The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) completed the [2020-2021 Needs Assessment](#), compiled from data collected in the 2020 NH Family Survey and focus groups with families, a Family Resource Center (FRC) Staff Survey and interviews with FRC staff, and relevant NH-specific data.
- **2021-2022 Needs Assessment Planning:** NH PDG finalized a partnership with UNH's Carsey School of Public Policy for a broad survey of NH families and of NH's ECCE workforce, specifically early supports and services, and behavioral and mental health.
- **Needs Assessment Community Grants:** NH PDG funded and supported six Community Grants to local NH organizations to conduct needs assessments in their communities.

Annual update of statewide strategic plan to achieve NH's vision for early childhood and the metrics by which progress will be measured, as well as support for local strategic plan development.

- **Year in Review Reports:** NH's Council for Thriving Children and Pear Associates released the 2020 "[Year in Review](#)" of state and local accomplishments on the goals of NH's Strategic Plan for Early Childhood. The "2021 Year in Review" will be publicly disseminated in 2022.
- **Strategic Plan Annual Update:** The statewide [Strategic Plan update](#) reflects the changing context in NH since the 2020 release, as well as [revised metrics](#) of progress towards the Plan's goals and objectives. In 2022, a Council subcommittee co-chaired by parents will work collaboratively with the Council quadrants to develop a 2023-2025 plan.
- **Strategic Plan Community Grants:** NH PDG funded and supported five Community Grants to local NH organizations to develop strategic plans for early childhood in their communities.

Strategic Plan Goal 1, Positive Learning Experiences

Effective learning opportunities are provided in all settings, including the home, childcare, after school programs, preschools, and elementary schools.

- **Play Based Learning Coaching:** NH PDG shares best practices through practice-based coaching and evaluation of the Early Learning Coaching program. NH PDG Early Learning Coaches support and train cohorts of kindergarten and ECCE teachers across NH.
- **Mapping Child Care Deserts and System Supports:** Abt Associates created [interactive maps](#) and a [brief](#) identifying potential childcare deserts and representing contextual and system-level information, which informed the Early Childhood Regional System.
- **Supporting Quality Improvement in ECCE Programs:** The Pyramid Model Consortium (PMC) trains Master Cadre members to support ECCE [implementation programs](#). NH PDG-funded staff coordinated the revised NH Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS), [Granite Steps to Quality](#), with technical assistance by Southern NH Services (SNHS) to cohorts of ECCE programs.

Strategic Plan Goal 2, Healthy Children and Families

Children and families throughout NH have the best opportunities for early and life-long health.

- **Developmental Screening Centralized Access Point:** NH Family Voices' (NHFV) streamlined resource on the developmental screening/referral/service status of young children will also provide families linkages to services and serve as a central directory of community partners.
- **DOE/DHHS alignment projects:** Timely, responsive, and effective projects implement state initiatives that improve quality and meet real-time Department needs such as promoting transition practices or integration of public health campaigns into the early childhood sphere.
- **NH's mixed-delivery system and families' early care and education needs:** Informed by the Needs Assessment, projects support Department efforts related to child development and early learning, and infrastructure that expands family choice in early childhood programming.

Strategic Plan Goal 3, Strong Families

Families have the skills, basic resources, and supports to promote their children's development and learning before birth continuing through age 5 and beyond.

- **Infrastructure Support for Family Resource Centers:** Family Resource Centers (FRCs) serve as hubs of local support for families with young children and provide programs specific to community needs. With NH PDG funding, New Hampshire Children's Trust (NHCT) supported quality improvement and data coordination among NH's 16 FRCs.
- **Resources for Authentic Family Engagement:** Parent Information Center (PIC)/NHFV developed open-source universal tools for family engagement (i.e., [crosswalk of family engagement frameworks](#)) and worked closely with NHCT to launch the statewide [YOUR VOICE](#) campaign on the important role of [family voice](#) and engagement in shaping services.
- **Implementation/Expansion Community Grants:** NH PDG funded and supported six Community Grants to local NH organizations to implement new or expand a total of existing programs serving children and families in their communities.

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

- **Early Childhood Regional Leads:** Seven Early Childhood Regional Leads enhance ECCE-school-family support collaborations, build infrastructure for cross-sector alignment, and better coordinate state resources and local services within identified regions. Region-specific projects were also awarded to enhance coordination of existing services or provide additional services, as informed by data and input from community and family partners.
- **Early Childhood Integrated Data System:** NH PDG facilitated efforts to establish a cross-agency statewide Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS), identifying programs within the state's mixed delivery system for inclusion and establishing data governance.
- **Kindergarten Entry Assessment and Transition Support:** NH PDG staff embedded within DHHS and DOE contribute to cross-department initiatives, including the joint Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) and Transitions Task Force that endorsed KEA tools and developed a menu of effective practices.

NH PDG B-5 Project Budget, 2022

YEAR 3 OF IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

Description	Estimate
Activity 1 - Needs Assessment	
Needs assessment consulting team (statewide update; accessible dissemination)	\$100,000
Participant recruitment & support (state-level needs assessment)	\$60,000
Total Activity 1	\$160,000
Activity 2 – Strategic Plan	
Consultant to coordinate 2023-2025 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 Facilitating Organization Infrastructure	\$500,000
Family voice and participation contractor	\$150,000
Total Activity 3	\$650,000
Activity 4 – Sharing Best Practice	
DHHS/DOE Alignment Projects	\$250,000
DHHS/DOE Best Practices	\$150,000
Misc. Community Best Practice Support	\$18,200
Early Childhood Institute for Excellence (mission/research/training)	\$50,000
Stipends to compensate for coaching, taskforce participants	\$25,000
Total Activity 4	\$493,200
Activity 5 – Quality/Subgrants	
Regional Leads (capacity building and project-specific requests)	\$2,537,500
Early Childhood Regional System TA	\$120,000
Strategic Integration Grants	\$250,000
Total Activity 5	\$2,907,500
Activity 6 – Governance/Data Interoperability	
Data Interoperability (Data System Platform Development)	\$1,500,000
Communications	\$50,000
Total Activity 6	\$1,550,000

NH PDG B-5 Project Budget, cont.

YEAR 3 OF IMPLEMENTATION GRANT (2022)	
Description	Estimate
General Grant Activities	
Evaluation expert to conduct PPE	\$400,000
General/administrative grant activities	\$1,403,485
Total Administrative Activities/Personnel	\$1,803,485
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	
Facilities and Administrative/Indirect Coasts	\$1,228,001
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, Associate Commissioner	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 QRIS Support Coordinator		Melissa McFarland, Play-based Learning Instructional Coach
			Meredith O'Shea, Project Director