



New Hampshire's

Preschool Development Grant Birth to 5

Quarterly Newsletter

This newsletter highlights progress from **Quarter 1 (January to March, 2022)** and summarizes upcoming activities for **Quarter 2 (April to June, 2022)**.



ACTIVITY 1: Needs Assessment

QUARTER 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- NH PDG continued to partner with researchers at the Carsey School of Public Policy at UNH to **update the statewide needs assessment**. The focus of the needs assessment will be NH's early childhood workforce capacity and training needs, particularly in the fields of developmental and early supports and services (ESS) and child behavioral health. The needs assessment will also examine families' experiences accessing supports that ensure success for children's healthy growth and development.

PDG CONNECTIONS

Parent Information Center/ New Hampshire Family Voices (PIC/NHFV), the Carsey School, and staff at DHHS and DOE collaborated to finalize three surveys as part of the needs assessment update: **a 2022 NH Family Survey, an ESS Workforce Survey, and a Child Behavioral Health Workforce Survey.**

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 2

- The 2022 NH Family Survey will launch in Quarter 2 and NH PDG staff and Carsey will obtain IRB approval for the two workforce surveys.
- Carsey, PIC/NHFV, and NH PDG staff will collaborate to determine follow-up data collection activities after the surveys launch, including potential interviews and focus groups.



ACTIVITY 2: Strategic Planning

QUARTER 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- In Quarter 1, the Director of the Council for Thriving Children and the Council's Strategic Plan subcommittee continued their partnership with Greenway Strategy Group, the organization **contracted to provide Strategic Planning support** in Year 3. Greenway Strategy Group completed an environmental scan of existing summaries, data reports, and other documentation to reflect the current understanding of the needs and priorities of NH families with young children. They also conducted a series of stakeholder interviews.

PDG CONNECTIONS

Pear Associates maintained their partnership with the Council Director in Quarter 1 to draft the **2021 Year in Review Report**, which highlights accomplishments across each of the goals and objectives of NH's [Strategic Plan for Early Childhood](#). They also worked closely with representatives from each Council quadrant to ensure that the Report includes a variety of perspectives across the NH early childhood governance structure.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 2

- Pear Associates and the Council Director will finalize the 2021 Year in Review Report.
- Greenway Strategy Group will present findings from their environmental scan and stakeholder discussions at the April 2022 Council for Thriving Children meeting.
- Greenway Strategy Group will move into the strategy development phase of their strategic planning support work. This will include identifying priority outcomes for children and families, identifying strategic themes, objectives, and measures, and developing specific strategic initiatives.



ACTIVITY 3: Maximizing Family Knowledge, Choice, and Engagement (State-level)

QUARTER 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- New Hampshire Children's Trust (NHCT) provided **communication support to FRCs** around effectively managing and streamlining social media messaging. They identified four FRCs to participate in a pilot effort to integrate individual agency social media feeds.
- NHCT continued efforts to **strengthen the network and infrastructure of FRCs**. They utilized data from internal strategic planning efforts to generate a list of FRC needs and develop a menu of trainings and professional development opportunities. In Quarter 1, they facilitated trainings on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire®- Third Edition (ASQ-3) and the Social and Emotional Scales of the ASQ Second Edition.
- PIC/NHFV initiated an effort to adapt and expand their **NH PDG State Family Leadership group** curriculum. The group is comprised of diverse individuals with young children to offer key feedback to the NH PDG team on planned and ongoing initiatives.

PDG CONNECTIONS

PIC/NHFV worked with NH PDG staff to present an interactive workshop to the Early Childhood Regional Leads called **"Building it Together: A Systematic Approach to Family Engagement."**

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 2

- NHCT will continue providing communications support to the FRCs, as well as initiate activities related to public relations campaigns for under-utilized DHHS and DOE programs.
- NHCT will monitor FRC needs in Quarter 2 and offer trainings: *Strengthening Families- Bringing Protective Factors to Life in Your Work* and *Continuous Quality Improvement Standards of Quality*.
- PIC/NHFV will conduct trainings with the State Family Leadership Group. PIC/NHFV will also work with TA experts from the National Center for Parent, Family, and Community Engagement to gather resources requested by the Regional Leads and other PDG stakeholders.



ACTIVITY 4: Sharing Best Practices

QUARTER 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Play Based Learning Coaches provided **Play Based Learning coaching** to the cohort of Kindergarten educators across NH. They also conducted outreach on Play Based Learning, including leading workshops on learning environments and biweekly coaching with infant/toddler teachers.
- WestEd continued to conduct needs assessment and comprehensive strategic planning for the **Early Childhood Institute for Excellence** at UNH.
- The **Pyramid Model Consortium (PMC)** supports merging two separate state leadership teams for Pyramid Model integration and expansion work in NH. They continued maintenance of the master cadre of trainers and the 10 previously established Pyramid Model implementation sites, and solicited applications from 17 newly identified programs to potentially join the cohort of implementation sites in 2022.
- NH PDG staff assist in implementing the state's new **Quality Recognition and Improvement System**, [Granite Steps to Quality](#) (GSQ). Southern New Hampshire Services (SNHS) maintained Anchors throughout the state in the Environment Rating Scale (ERS) tools and facilitated programs entering GSQ.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 2

- The Play Based Learning coaches will complete the Kindergarten coaching cohort in Quarter 2.
- The PMC will support the final merging of the state leadership teams, as well as select the new implementation sites for 2022.
- SNHS will continue to provide ongoing training and maintenance of Anchors in the ERS tools, as well as begin to conduct assessments in GSQ programs in Quarter 2.



ACTIVITY 5: Improving Quality/ Subgrants

QUARTER 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- All seven of the **Early Childhood Regional Lead partnerships** were awarded **project-specific funding** to implement or expand programs in their regions. The focus of each region's specific project is represented in the table below.

Regional Early Childhood Lead	Project-Specific Funding Focus
Region 1: Monadnock United Way	Practice-Based Coaching Institute
Region 2: Granite United Way	Home visiting program; Play-Based Learning
Region 3: United Way of Greater Nashua	Health/Behavioral Health; Strong Families; Positive Learning Experiences
Region 4: Amoskeag Health	Pyramid Model implementation and expansion
Region 5: Granite United Way	Home visiting program; developmental screening; Pyramid Model implementation; resource coordination
Region 6: Granite United Way/ United Way of Greater Seacoast	FRC/school-supported playgroups
Region 7: Children Unlimited	Pyramid Model expansion; early childhood care and education workforce

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 2

- In Quarter 2, the EC Regional Leads will continue carrying out their projects and will submit their second quarterly report update to NH PDG staff.
- Abt Associates will work with NH PDG staff to finalize plans for an update to the child care access maps that were developed in Year 2.



ACTIVITY 6: Governance/ Data Interoperability

QUARTER 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- In Quarter 1, NH PDG staff contributed to Department-specific efforts around **governance and improving state agency capacity**, including work to address the [cliff effect](#) in NH, developing a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) outreach plan, and soliciting a contractor for the Public Health p-3 Early Childhood Comprehensive System of Support project.
- NH PDG staff continued facilitation of the seven **Early Childhood Regional Leads**. They reviewed quarterly reports and assessments, facilitated capacity-building TA, and coordinated bi-directional communication meetings between the Regional Leads and DHHS and DOE leadership.
- The Council Business Analyst sustains efforts to establish the statewide **Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)**. NH PDG staff are also carrying out the Data Integration Pilot, the first step towards obtaining a distinct count of children served by NH's early childhood care and education system.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 2

- NH PDG staff will continue supporting Department-specific governance efforts as well as managing and assisting the Regional Leads.
- NH PDG staff will move forward the Data Integration Pilot, drafting a governance manual, and completing integration readiness assessments.

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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