



Enhancing NH's Early Childhood Governance and Data Systems

Throughout 2020 to 2023, the NH renewal Preschool Development Grant (NH PDG) was a collaboration between the [University of New Hampshire \(UNH\)](#), NH's [Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\)](#), NH's [Department of Education \(NHED\)](#), and the [Council for Thriving Children](#). The grant sought to improve the overall quality of early childhood programs and services through data-driven decision-making and increased coordination among financing mechanisms and governance. This brief presents **three highlighted initiatives** that NH PDG funded in support of this goal, the **key successes** of each initiative, and **future opportunities**.

Early Childhood Data System Coordination & Integration

NH PDG invested in data system enhancements to integrate program-level data and encourage data-driven decision-making across programs and organizations serving children and families.

- Funded a Council for Thriving Children Business Analyst** who supported the development of NH's Early Childhood Integrated Data System and a visual plan for integrating 38 programs and 24 data systems within DHHS' and NHED's inventory of funded programs.
- Empowered Family Resource Centers to employ data-driven decision-making** through the development of the NH Children's Trust's Family Support Data System, which monitors families' reported needs and access to services and programs.
- Established policies to align the Early Childhood Integrated Data System efforts with an existing data platform** and guide integration for early childhood programs within DHHS.
- Supported development of several internal analytic data dashboards**, including the Comprehensive Family Support Services and Department of Children, Youth, and Families Outcomes Dashboard.

DHHS will continue to **use the enhanced data governance structures and dashboards** and **explore new and expanded programs to integrate into the Early Childhood Integrated Data System** to encourage continued and increased data-driven decision-making within the department.

NH's Early Childhood Governance Structure

NH PDG-funded staff positions fostered coordination and collaboration across state agencies.

Council for Thriving Children Director

- Facilitated meetings and initiatives of the **Council for Thriving Children**, which fulfills the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, Public Law 110-134.
 - Contributed to updating of the state's **Strategic Plan for Early Childhood** by engaging stakeholders across the [governance system](#) and early childhood sector.
 - Served on other relevant advisory bodies, including the Child Care Advisory Council and the Wellness and Primary Prevention Council.

Support for DHHS and NHED Integration Efforts

- Department Affiliates and Coordinator staff positions supported Early Childhood Integration Teams to **improve coordination** and **communication** within and across DHHS and NHED.
 - Contributed to **development of common definitions** for early childhood system terms.
 - Extended **DHHS-funded Community Health Worker training** on interpersonal communication to early childhood agency staff.
 - Supported **NHED's Leaning into Literacy Initiative** with Lexia (LETRS training).

The **Council Director will continue in their role** through at least December 2024 and the **NHED and DHHS Early Childhood Integration Teams continue to operate**, with support from permanent DHHS and NHED staff.



Statewide System of Regional Early Childhood Partnerships

NH PDG sought to improve early childhood system capacity and coordination across the state through two sub-grant initiatives to directly fund local and regional early childhood organizations.

\$3 Million
awarded over 2020-2021 to
14 NH PDG Community Grantees

More than \$4.5 Million
awarded over 2021-2023 to
7 Regional Partnership Grantees
(see map below)

Capacity-Building Grants funded infrastructure for local early childhood cross-sector collaboration and service alignment.

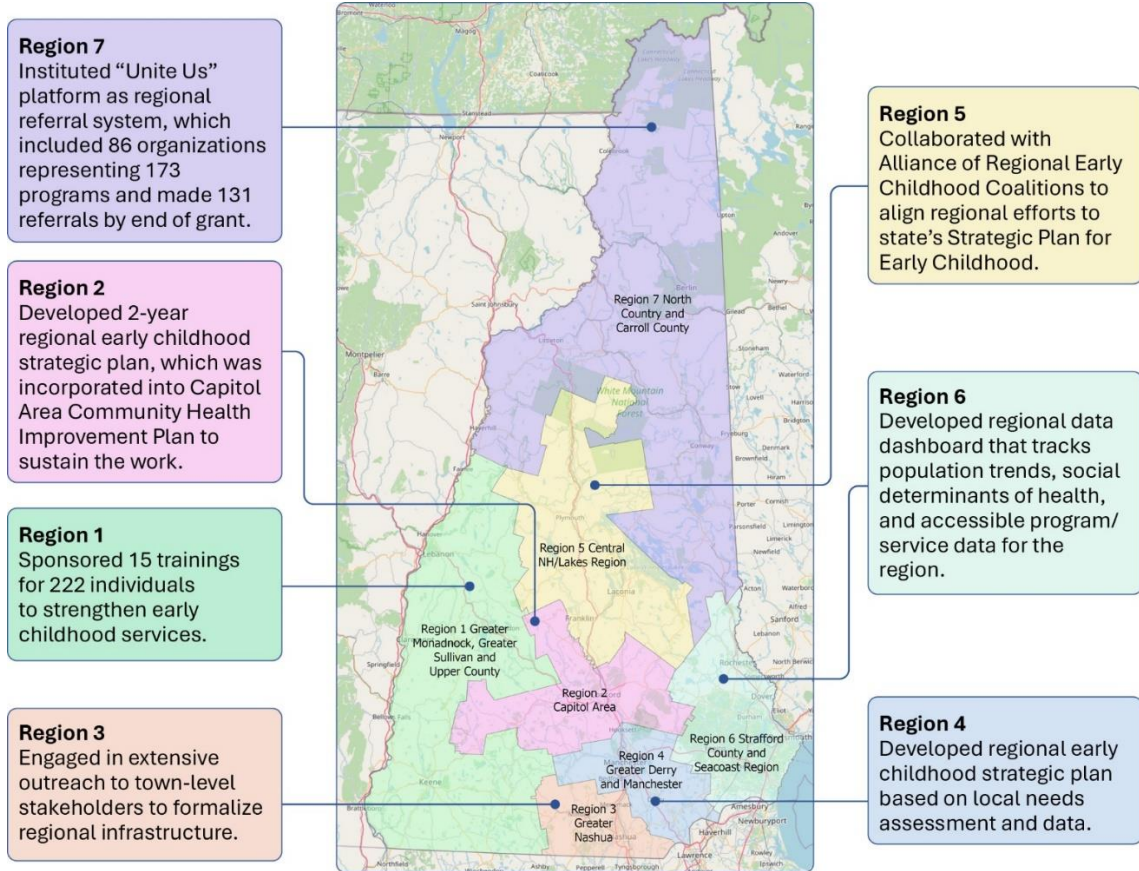
Implementation & Expansion Grants funded 12 local programs to address areas of need identified for each community.

Established Regional Early Childhood System and funded regions to enhance early childhood-family support collaborations and build infrastructure.

Project-Specific Grants funded 18 programs to address areas of need identified for each region.

While NH PDG funded the Regional Partnership Grants through June 2023, **DHHS issued follow-up funding in July 2023 for each region to continue capacity-building and coordination efforts** and funded **NH Children's Trust to serve as a facilitating organization** for the regional system.

Regional Partnership Grants Highlighted Accomplishments



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