New Hampshire’s 2020-2023 Preschool Development Grant

In 2020, New Hampshire (NH) received a renewal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) from the Administration for Children and Families valued at $27 million to strengthen the state’s early childhood care and education system to better address the needs of vulnerable young children and their families. NH PDG was a collaboration between the University of New Hampshire (UNH), NH's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Department of Education (NHED), and the Council for Thriving Children. This brief presents an overview of the leadership and organization of the grant, as well as a high-level summary of the key activity areas between 2020 and 2023.

NH PDG Leadership Team
Leadership from each agency collaborated and met on a regular basis to direct grant allocations and identify priority initiatives.

UNH also served as the grantee organization, managing:
- **Contracts with local, state, and national partner organizations** to support NH PDG initiatives
- **Subgrants to community and regional organizations** to increase regional and local early childhood system capacity and cross-sector coordination

NH PDG Key Activity Areas

- **Conducted comprehensive, statewide needs assessments** focusing on NH’s early childhood workforce capacity and training needs and families’ (in particular, families from vulnerable populations) experiences with and access to resources for supporting their young children’s healthy development.

- **Shared best practices and supports for the early childhood workforce** by launching multiple Play-Based Learning coaching initiatives, providing staff support to the Granite Steps for Quality system, and expanding access to Pyramid Model coaching and supports.

- **Supported NH’s Strategic Plan for Early Childhood** by funding staff positions and contractors to identify measures of success for the 2020-2022 Strategic Plan, as well as developing action plans for implementing the priority initiatives of the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

- **Implemented and expanded direct programs and services for young children and families** through funding initiatives to communities and regional partnerships. Examples of projects funded by NH PDG include Pyramid Model expansions, home visiting programs, and public awareness campaigns.

- **Expanded statewide resources and services for families with young children** through developing open-source, universal resources and supports for family engagement and providing critical infrastructure support for NH’s Family Resource Centers.

- **Enhanced NH’s early childhood governance and data systems** through funding staff positions and contractors to launch a new Regional Early Childhood System, contributing to data integration efforts, and facilitating the Council for Thriving Children.