
Preschool Development Grant 2024 Renewal

Workforce and Curriculum
Projects

December 3, 2024



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES





Agenda

- Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Background
- 2024 PDG Renewal Grant Overview
- Workforce Supports Projects
 - Overview
 - Initial Planning
- Curriculum Project



PDG is a federal grant available to states and territories to support early childhood services for children birth to age five. Funds support a needs assessment, strategic planning, family engagement, quality improvement, workforce compensation and supports, and direct services for young children.

PDG Overview



PDG is

- Competitive federal grant to states designed to improve their early childhood systems
- Funds to help states coordinate ECE programs and services that already exist according to the identified needs of the state

PDG is NOT a grant to providers.





Grant History in Washington

\$51.7 million over four iterations:


- 2018 Initial Grant of \$5.3 million
- 2019 Renewal Grant of \$33.5 million (over three years)
- 2022 Planning Grant of \$4.9 million
- 2024 Renewal Grant of \$8 million
 - Year 1 is locked in
 - Years 2 and 3 grants of \$8 million each require Federal approval

2024 Renewal Grant Purpose and Priorities



Building on the prior Planning grant...

Invest in the ECE workforce and expanding access to high-quality ECE programs through a mixed delivery system to address ongoing needs in preparing children to enter kindergarten. Ensure that underserved children and their families—including those in high-poverty and rural communities—can access ECE services and support.



- Maximize family participation and engagement in the state's mixed delivery system
- Support the early childhood workforce
- Support ECE program alignment and quality improvements

PDG-R 2024 Projects

Activity #1: Update Comprehensive Statewide B-5 Needs Assessment

- **Already completed in 2024**
- **Findings on racial inequity in key success indicators**

Activity #2: Update Comprehensive Statewide B-5 Strategic Plan

- **Work with ELCP Impact Network on their priorities for update, based on NA findings**
- **Impact for Families through ELCP Network**

Activity #3: Maximize Family Engagement in B-5 System

- **Help Me Grow: Bidirectional Resource Pathway with CCA, integrate PFML, Tribal pathway**
- **Play and Learn: Deepen role of Play and Learn groups to serve families in rural and Tribal communities**

Activity #4: Support the B-5 Workforce

- **Integrate a comprehensive pre-service training suite into Shared Services Hub**
- **Develop streamlined resource on qualifications**
- **New Professional Development and Workforce Systems Navigator role**
- **Phased delivery of health and well-being supports for providers**
- **Add a coach to Statewide Infant Toddler Specialist Network**

Activity #5: Support Program Quality Improvements

- **Integrate WA Pyramid Model in Professional Pathways**
- **Develop and disseminate free, Open Source Curriculum**
- **Data Integration**

Activity #6: Enhance Quality and Expand Access

- **Expand B-3 ECEAP by 75 slots**

Bonus Activities

- **Improve Workforce Pay in Contracted Slot Pilot**
- **Trauma Informed Care/Social Emotional Learning (TIC/SEL) Pathway**

Workforce Supports

PDG-Renewal Activity #4: Support the B-5 Workforce



- Comprehensive pre-service training suite
- Streamline resource and technical assistance on staff qualifications
- Professional development and workforce systems navigator
- Health and well-being supports for providers
- Increased support to serve infants and toddlers



Pre-service Cohort Training Suite



- Cohort model for requirement completion
- Support in accessing and hiring qualified staff
- Reimbursement for completion
- Peer connections
- Options for level of support



Assistance for Staff Qualifications

DCYF will:

- Clearly communicate required training and other qualifications
- Create a streamlined resource about requirements
- Technical Assistance at workforce entry to navigate all staff requirements



Expand Career Navigation



- Coordinate consistent and accessible support
- Create greater visibility of early learning career pathways
- Individualized consultation
- Self-guided resources and tools to meet staff qualifications and access benefits

Health and Well-being Supports for Providers



**Co-design, analyze, and
test feasibility**

Identify supports
Navigation to access
benefits, including
memberships

Employee Assistance

Shared Cost Options



Initial Planning

- ✔ **Contracts**
- ✔ **Community Engagement**
- ✔ **Recommendations from PDG Planning Grant**

Workforce Supports – Infants and Toddlers

Support the infant-toddler workforce with on-the-job training and coaching:

- Filming Interactions to Nurture Development (FIND)
- Developmental Screening



Questions for Your Feedback

- What ideas do you have for supports when professional enter the field?
- How can we engage a diverse group of providers, representative of all perspectives?
- What ongoing information would position you best to provide feedback?

Questions for Your Feedback – Cont'd



Increased Support to Serve Infants and Toddlers

- What information would you like to see shared out about the success of this expansion of services?
- How can we promote this opportunity for expanded services to rural workforce members in Central WA?



Curriculum Project

Goals of Open Source Curriculum

- A freely available curriculum that provides engaging and culturally relevant activities for children across all areas of child development
- A design-based approach with opportunities for educators to try things out in partnership with content designers and provide real-time feedback
- Multi-lingual simultaneous design

Need in Washington State

- In a sample of 3700 programs, 63% of programs report using a curriculum that does not meet national standards and/or report not using a curriculum at all
- In a sample of 3154 directors, 1700 said they would like to attend professional development around curriculum.
- Costs for curriculum kits plus training can be more than many providers have the budget to support



Curriculum Development Plan

- Over the next three years, use a multi-lingual simultaneous design to develop and test out an open-source curriculum for all WA state early learning programs
- Develop engaging activities that can be adapted for each programs' priorities while supporting all domains of child development
- The resources needed to implement curriculum will be carefully curated to ensure that costs are realistic for all program types

Questions for Your Feedback



- What ideas do you have for recruiting educator design circles to ensure representation across the state?
- What on-going information will be most helpful for this team to ensure you can provide meaningful feedback?
- What existing channels across the state (community groups, organizations, social media, etc.) can be used to highlight progress, share ideas and build state momentum?

**Look for information on the design-based model coming soon including ways for educators to get involved*