



Illinois State Board of Education

Illinois Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five -- Planning Grant

May 2023

Equity • Quality • Collaboration • Community

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)

Illinois was awarded \$4 million from the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in February to implement the PDG B-5 -- Planning Grant.

This is a one-year Planning Grant that will end on December 30, 2023.

ISBE will serve as the lead agency and the program administrator for this grant.

PDG B-5 Activities

- ❑ Activity I -- Comprehensive Statewide B-5 Needs Assessment
- ❑ Activity II -- Update the Comprehensive Statewide B-5 Strategic Plan
- ❑ Activity III -- Maximize Parent and Family Engagement in the B-5 System
- ❑ Activity IV-- Support the B-5 Workforce and Disseminate Best Practices
- ❑ Activity V -- Support Program Quality Improvement

Activity I -- Comprehensive Statewide B-5 Needs Assessment

- ❑ **1.1: Home Visitor Needs Assessment - Project Lead, Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (INCCRRA)** : The home visiting needs assessment will build upon the previous PDG B-5 projects led by INCCRRA to inform how to best support the field and reduce staff turnover. INCCRRA will analyze home visiting salaries across program models and funding streams and hold focus groups with rural home visitors and Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) home visitors to collect their thoughts and recommendations about salary increases, incentives, and credentials, pathways to home visiting as well as any related barriers. This important data from programs and professionals will inform how state agencies can work together to stem the Home Visitor workforce shortage. **Contract signed on 4/10/2023.**
- ❑ **1.2: Linking ECCE Workforce Data - Project Lead, Northern Illinois University (Illinois Longitudinal Data Set-ILDS) and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map-IECAM)**: Integrate data systems – Employment Information System (EIS), Educator Licensure Information System-(ELIS), and Gateways Registry (development of architecture for data sharing; align system to establish single interface). **Contract pending.**
- ❑ **1.3: Workforce Portrait Assessment - Project Lead, University of Illinois Chicago**: Establish an Early Childhood Educator Workforce Dataset. **Contract is pending.**
- ❑ **1.4: Expanded Use of Early Childhood Participation Data System (ECPDS) and Chicago Early Childhood Integrated Data System (CECIDS) by Local Communities - Project Lead, NIU-ILDS and UIUC-IECAM**: ILDS and IECAM have partnered to develop a set of tools that can support communities as they plan early childhood services. **Contract is pending.**



Activity II: Update the Comprehensive Statewide B-5 Strategic Plan

- The strategic plan was updated in October 2022.
- Activity II will be facilitated by the project director in conjunction with the Governor's Office and Inter-Agency Team.
- The processes, milestones, and timeline for completion of the update will center on reviewing and revising current objectives to reflect data and recommendations from the needs assessment.
- The annual needs assessment update will incorporate the HV Needs Assessment and the Workforce Portrait Assessments as well as new data trends emerging over the year as data becomes available.

Activity III: Maximize Parent and Family Engagement in the B-5 System

- ❑ **3.1: Staff the Family Advisory Committee of the Early Learning Council - Project Lead, Illinois Action for Children:** Hire and orient staff, support FAC links to local communities and stakeholder engagement in project activities. **Contract signed 4/10/2023.**
- ❑ **3.2 Assess and Align Capacity of Intermediary Structures - Project Lead, Wendy McCullough:** Complete infrastructure mapping tasks; develop recommendations for engagement and outreach to families, communities and service providers. **Contract signed 4/10/2023.**
- ❑ **3.3 Developing framework for how the State will integrate family voice in policy-making - Project Lead, University of Chicago-NORC:** Develop and implement a stakeholder engagement process (including focus groups and interviews) to authentically engage and elevate the voice of parents, providers, and communities in developing recommendations that prioritize equity as foundational to ECEC systems-building within Illinois. **Contract pending.**

Activity IV: Support the B-5 Workforce and Disseminate Best Practices

- **4.1: *Implementation of the Prior Learning Assessment - Project Lead***, INCCRRA: Continue to implement the Mursion-based Prior Learning Assessment system through the first six months of 2023, after which funding from other sources will be used sustain implementation of the system. **Contract Signed 4/10/2023.**
- **4.2 *Shared Best Practices for Preventing Suspension and Expulsion - Project Lead***, Pyramid Model Consortium: Expand Pyramid Model implementation sites to community-based childcare programs, provide professional development on PM, and establish communities of practice for PM sites. **Contract Signed 4/10/2023.**



Activity V: Support Program Quality Improvement

5.1: ***Pilot Strategies for Inclusive Community-Based Early Childhood Special Education - Project Lead, Early CHOICES:*** Create public awareness materials, select appropriate models for testing, convene six community team conversions and test models, disseminate grants to three communities to pilot models, and provide consultation and training. **Contract signed 4/3/2023.**

5.2 ***Multi-State Research on Early Intervention Models - Project Lead, Illinois Department of Human Services:*** IDHS will engage a contractor that will begin by surveying other states that have attempted changing program and/or financing models to better and more equitably serve children through their state's Early Intervention Program. The contractor will use surveys and conversation to glean lessons from these states that will assist Illinois as it moves forward to improve the early intervention funding system. **Contract pending.**

5.3 ***Developing a Common Process to Identify English Language Learners -Project Lead, The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning:*** Implement a common identification process across the mixed delivery system that will lead to the full integration of English learners into the B-5 ECCE system and equity improvements. **Contract signed 4/10/2023.**

Next Steps

Execute signed contracts for the remaining projects

ISBE will conduct monthly check-in meetings with selected vendors

PDG B-5 Q2 Report due July 2023