

SEPTEMBER 2018

Every Student Succeeds Act- Preschool Development Grants Program Statutory Overview and Funding Opportunity Announcement Highlights

This resource describes the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five program's major statutory provisions and key Funding Opportunity Announcement requirements so that applicants have access to easy-to-understand information necessary for the application process.

On September 7, 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) – in partnership with the Department of Education – invited states and other eligible jurisdictions to submit applications for the fiscal year 2018 Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five program (FY18 PDG B-5). The grants will fund state-level strategic planning to facilitate early learning and care collaboration aimed at preparing more low-income and disadvantaged children to succeed in elementary school. ACF's FY18 PDG B-5 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) launches the program's first implementation since Congress used the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to formally authorize the grants and transfer the program's primary leadership to ACF, from the Department of Education. This table describes the PDG B-5 program's major statutory provisions and key FOA requirements, so that applicants have ready access to the materials during the application process. Applicants should, however, refer to the FOA for the comprehensive application requirements, including specified policy focus areas, formatting guidelines, and planning and implementation timelines. Applicants must submit their applications to ACF no later than November 6, with the exception of North Carolina and South Carolina, which have until November 20 to file their plans, based on disruptions associated with Hurricane Florence.



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Purpose:

1. **Implementing** a strategic plan for high quality early learning.
2. **Encouraging** partnerships with Head Start, states, local agencies.
3. **Maximizing** parental choice with delivery system (meant to be an opportunity to use funds for slots) – better braiding within a system of multiple funding sources.

Eligible Applicants:

States. Grantee may make subgrants to programs in a mixed delivery system.

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Purpose:

1. **Develop, update, or implement** a strategic plan that facilitates collaboration and coordination among existing early childhood care and education programs in a mixed delivery system across a state or territory that are designed to prepare low-income and disadvantaged children to enter kindergarten and to improve transitions from such systems into a local educational agency or an elementary school.
2. **More efficiently use** existing federal, state, local, and nongovernmental resources to align and strengthen the delivery of existing programs; coordinate the existing delivery models and funding streams within the state's or territory's mixed delivery system; and develop recommendations to better use existing resources.
3. **Encourage partnerships** among Head Start providers, state and local governments, Native American tribes and tribal organizations, private entities (including faith- and community-based entities), and local educational agencies.
4. **Maximize parental choice** and knowledge about a state's or territory's mixed delivery system of early childhood care and education program providers.

Eligible Applicants:

States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands. The Governor must designate a "State Entity" to be responsible for executing the grant; the "State entity" can either be a State government agency or a non-profit, nongovernmental entity.



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Duration of Grants:

Initial Grants:

1-year initial grant.

Renewal grants:

Up to 3 years.

Matching Requirement:

Each State that receives a grant under this section shall provide funds from non-Federal sources (which may be provided in cash or in kind) to carry out the activities supported by the grant, in an amount equal to not less than 30 percent of the amount of such grant.

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Duration of Grants:

Initial Grants:

12-month project period and budget period.

Renewal Grants:

States that are awarded a PDG B-5 Initial Grant, as well as existing PDG Development and Expansion Grantees, will be eligible to apply for PDG B-5 Renewal Grants for years 2-4 if funds are appropriated.

Matching Requirement:

- 1. Grantees must provide** funds from non-Federal sources (which may be provided in cash or in kind) to carry out the activities supported by the grant in an amount equal to not less than 30 percent of the amount of the grant.
- 2. To meet** the match requirement, states can use non-Federal sources that are not being claimed as matching sources for another Federal award. States are expected to meet their match requirement by the end of this 12-month project period.
- 3. Recipients will** be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards, even if the projected commitment exceeds the amount required by the statutory match. A recipient's failure to provide the statutorily required matching amount may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.
- 4. Matching requirements** (including in-kind contributions) of less than \$200,000 (up to \$199,999) are waived under grants made to the governments of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (other than those consolidated under other provisions of 48 U.S.C. 1469) pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d). This waiver applies whether the matching required under the grant equals or exceeds \$200,000.



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Application Requirements:

The application shall contain—

1. an identification of the State entity that the Governor of the State has appointed to be responsible for duties under this section;
2. a description of how such State entity proposes to accomplish the activities described in subsection (f) and meet the purposes of this section described in subsection (a), including— (A) a timeline for strategic planning activities; and (B) a description of how the strategic planning activities and the proposed activities described in subsection (f) will increase participation of children from low-income and disadvantaged families in high-quality early childhood education and preschool programs as a result of the grant;
3. description of the Federal, State, and local existing programs in the State for which such State entity proposes to facilitate activities described in subsection (f), including— (A) programs carried out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9801 et seq.), including the Early Head Start programs carried out under such Act; (B) child care programs carried out under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.) or section 418 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 618); and (C) other Federal, State, and local programs of early learning and development, early childhood education, and child care, operating in the State (including programs operated by Indian tribes and tribal organizations and private entities, including faith- and community based entities), as of the date of the application for the grant;
4. description of how the State entity, in collaboration with Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood, if appropriate, will provide technical assistance and disseminate best practices;
5. a description of how the State plans to sustain the activities described in, and carried out in accordance with, subsection (f) with non-Federal sources after grant funds under this section are no longer available, if the State plans to continue such activities after such time; and
6. a description of how the State entity will work with the State Advisory Council and Head Start collaboration offices.

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Application Requirements:

1. **Applicant must submit** a letter on the Governor’s letterhead designating the State Entity that will have responsibility for execution of this grant.
2. **Identify the outcomes** to be derived from the project. Outcomes should relate to the overall goals of the project.
3. **Outline a plan** of action that describes the scope and detail of how the proposed project will be accomplished. Applicants must account for all functions or activities identified in the application. (See five specified activity areas below in “State Use of Funds” section.)
4. **Describe any design** or technological innovations, reductions in cost or time, or extraordinary social and/or community involvement in the project. Provide a list of organizations, cooperating entities, consultants, or other key individuals that will work on the project, along with a short description of the nature of their effort or contribution.
5. **The applicant must** discuss how the administration and management of this grant will be supported by the organizational capacity of the designated State entity (the FOA requests specific information in three areas).
6. **The applicant must** describe the progress and successes, as well as hurdles and challenges, that are shaping the development and implementation of a robust mixed delivery and state early childhood care and education system (the FOA requests specific information in six areas).
7. **A description** of how the State plans to sustain the activities with non-Federal sources after grant funds under this section are no longer available.
8. **A description** of how the State entity will work with the State Advisory Council and Head Start collaboration offices.



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State Use of Funds:

A state, acting through the state entity appointed under subsection (d)(1), that receives a grant under subsection (c)(1) shall use the grant funds for all of the following activities:

1. **Needs Assessment**
2. **Develop Strategic Plan**
3. **Maximizing parental choice** and knowledge about the State's mixed delivery system of existing programs and providers
4. **Sharing best practices** among early childhood education program providers in the State to increase collaboration and efficiency of services, including to improve transitions from such programs to elementary school.
5. **After activities** described in paragraphs (1) and (2) have been completed, improving the overall quality of early childhood education programs in the State, including by developing and implementing evidence-based practices that meet the requirements of section 8101(21)(A)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, to improve professional development for early childhood education providers and educational opportunities for children.

Renewal Grants:

6. **IN GENERAL:** The Secretary, jointly with the Secretary of Education, may use funds available under subsection (k) to award renewal grants to States described in paragraph (2) to enable such States to continue activities described in subsection (f) and to carry out additional activities described in paragraph (6).
7. **ELIGIBLE STATES:** A State shall be eligible for a grant under paragraph (1) if— (A) the State has received a grant under subsection (c)(1) and the grant period has concluded; or (B)(i) the State has received a preschool development grant for development or expansion under such program as it existed on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, and the grant period for such grant has concluded; and (ii) the Secretary allows such State to apply directly for a renewal grant under this subsection, rather than an initial grant under subsection

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State Use of Funds:

All applicants must apply to use PDG B-5 grant funds for each of the following **five required activities**:

1. **Activity One:** Conduct or update a periodic, statewide birth through five **needs assessment** of the availability and quality of existing programs in the State, including such programs serving the most vulnerable or underserved populations and children in rural areas, and, to the extent practicable, the unduplicated number of children being served in existing programs and, to the extent practicable, the unduplicated number of children awaiting service in such programs.
2. **Activity Two:** Develop or update a **strategic plan** that recommends collaboration, coordination, and quality improvement activities (including activities to improve children's transition from early childhood care and education programs into elementary schools) among existing programs in the State and local educational agencies. Such a plan shall include information that identifies opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among existing programs in the State, including among State, local, and tribal (if applicable) agencies responsible for administering such programs. The strategic plan shall recommend partnership opportunities among Head Start providers, local educational agencies, State and local governments, Indian tribes and tribal organizations, and private entities (including faith and community-based entities) that would improve coordination, program quality, and delivery of services. The strategic plan shall build on existing plans and goals with respect to early childhood care and education programs, including improving coordination and collaboration among such programs, of the State Advisory Council while incorporating new or updated Federal, State, and local statutory requirements including the requirements of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.) and, when appropriate, information found in the report required under section 13 of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-186; 128 Stat. 2002). Finally, the strategic plan describes



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(c)(1), and the State submits with its application the needs assessment completed under the preschool development grant (updated as necessary to reflect the needs of the State as of the time of the application) in place of the activity described in subsection (f)(1).

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how accomplishing each of these previously mentioned requirements will better serve children and families in existing programs and how such activities will increase the overall participation of children in the State.

- 3. Activity Three:** Maximize parental choice and knowledge about the State's mixed delivery system of existing programs and providers by ensuring that parents are provided information about the variety of early childhood care and education programs for children from birth to kindergarten entry in the State's mixed delivery system, and promoting and increasing involvement by parents and family members, including families of low-income and disadvantaged children, in the development of their children and the transition of those children from an early childhood care and education program into an elementary school.
- 3. Activity Four:** Share best practices among early childhood care and education program providers in the State to increase collaboration and efficiency of services, including to improve transitions from such programs to elementary school.
- 3. Activity Five:** After activities one and two are completed, improve the overall quality of early childhood care and education programs in the State, including, but not limited to, developing and implementing evidence-based practices (as defined in this notice), improving professional development for early childhood care and education providers, and enhancing learning opportunities for children.

Renewal Grants:

States that are awarded a PDG B-5 Initial Grant, as well as existing PDG Development and Expansion Grantees, will be eligible to apply for PDG B-5 Renewal Grants for years 2- 4. Contingent upon the appropriation of funds by Congress in 2019, the Departments will issue a new FOA for PDG B-5 Renewal Grants.



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State Reporting:

- 1. Initial Grants** - A State that receives an initial grant under subsection (c)(1) shall submit a final report to the Secretary not later than 6 months after the end of the grant period. The report shall include a description of— (A) how, and to what extent, the grant funds were utilized for activities described in subsection (f), and any other activities through which funds were used to meet the purposes of this section, as described in subsection (a); (B) strategies undertaken at the State level and, if applicable, local or program level, to implement recommendations in the strategic plan developed under subsection (f)(2); (C)(i) any new partnerships among Head Start providers, State and local governments, Indian tribes and tribal organizations, and private entities (including faith- and community based entities); and (ii) how these partnerships improve coordination and delivery of services;(D) if applicable, the degree to which the State used information from the report required under section 13 of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 to inform activities under this section, and how this information was useful in coordinating, and collaborating among, programs and funding sources; (E) the extent to which activities funded by the initial grant led to the blending or braiding of other public and private funding; (F) how information about available existing programs for children from birth to kindergarten entry was disseminated to parents and families, and how involvement by parents and family was improved; and (G) other State-determined and voluntarily provided information to share best practices regarding early childhood education programs and the coordination of such programs.
- 2. Renewal Grants** - A State receiving a renewal grant under subsection (g) shall submit a follow-up report to the Secretary not later than 6 months after the end of the grant period that includes— (A) information described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of paragraph (1), as applicable and updated for the period covered by the renewal grant; and (B) if applicable, information on how the State was better able to serve children through

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State Use of Funds:

- 1. Initial Grants** - Recipients will be required to submit quarterly performance progress and financial reports throughout the project.
The OCC will be seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for information collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) on the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Initiative data indicators for post-award reporting. Data indicators to be collected from PDG B-5 grantees, as part of a final report to the Secretary not later than 6 months after the end of the grant period, include, but are not limited to: (A) how, and to what extent, the grant funds were utilized for activities described in subsection (f), and any other activities through which funds were used to meet the purposes of this section, as described in subsection (a); (B) strategies undertaken at the State level and, if applicable, local or program level, to implement recommendations in the strategic plan developed under subsection (f)(2); (C)(i) any new partnerships among Head Start providers, State and local governments, Indian tribes and tribal organizations, and private entities (including faith and community-based entities); and (ii) how these partnerships improve coordination and delivery of services; (D) if applicable, the degree to which the State used information from the report required under section 13 of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 to inform activities under this section, and how this information was useful in coordinating, and collaborating among, programs and funding sources; (E) the extent to which activities funded by the initial grant led to the blending or braiding of other public and private funding; (F) how information about available existing programs for children from birth to kindergarten entry was disseminated to parents and families, and how involvement by parents and family was improved; and (G) other State-determined and voluntarily provided information to share best practices regarding early childhood education



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the distribution of funds in accordance with subsection (g)(5), through—

- (i) a description of the activities conducted through the use of subgrant funds, including, where appropriate, measurable areas of program improvement and better use of existing resources; and
- (ii) best practices from the use of subgrant funds, including how to better serve the most vulnerable, underserved, and rural populations.

Future Eligibility for Renewal Grants:

1. **The Secretary**, jointly with the Secretary of Education, may use funds available under subsection (k) to award renewal grants to States described in paragraph (2) to enable such States to continue activities described in subsection (f) and to carry out additional activities described in paragraph (6). (2)
2. **Eligible States** - A State shall be eligible for a grant under paragraph (1) if— (A) the State has received a grant under subsection (c)(1) and the grant period has concluded; or (B)(i) the State has received a preschool development grant for development or expansion under such program as it existed on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, and the grant period for such grant has concluded; and (ii) the Secretary allows such State to apply directly for a renewal grant under this subsection, rather than an initial grant under subsection (c)(1), and the State submits with its application the needs assessment completed under the preschool development grant (updated as necessary to reflect the needs of the State as of the time of the application) in place of the activity described in subsection (f)(1).
3. **Duration of Grants** - A grant awarded under this subsection shall be for a period of not more than 3 years and shall not be renewed.
4. **Matching Requirement** - Each State that receives a grant under this subsection shall provide funds from

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programs and the coordination of such programs.

2. **Renewal Grants** - TBD in future Renewal Grants FOA.

Future Eligibility for Renewal Grants:

1. **States that are** awarded a PDG B-5 Initial Grant, as well as existing PDG Development and Expansion Grantees, will be eligible to apply for PDG B-5 Renewal Grants for years 2-4.
2. **States deemed** eligible will have the option to apply for Renewal Grants to expand upon activities described in their initial application and to carry out new activities, including awarding subgrants to programs in a mixed delivery system across the State designed to benefit low-income and disadvantaged children, including children living in rural areas, prior to entering kindergarten to:
 - **expand** or improve access to existing programs and to the full range of services that support the development, growth and school readiness of infants, toddlers and young children; and
 - **enable** programs to implement other activities addressing areas in need of improvement; as determined by the State, and
 - **develop** new programs to address the needs of children and families eligible for, but not served by, such programs, if the state ensures that (1) the distribution of subgrants under this subparagraph supports a mixed delivery system; and (2) the funds will be used to supplement, and not supplant, any other Federal, State, or local funds that would otherwise be available to carry out related activities.



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non-Federal sources (which may be provided in cash or in kind) to carry out the activities supported by the grant, in an amount equal to not less than 30 percent of the amount of the grant.

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- 3. A State** will be eligible for a Renewal Grant if the State received a PDG B-5 Grant or a Development or Expansion Grant under the previous Preschool Development Grant program authorization - and the grant project period for such grants has concluded.
- 4. A State** that did not receive a PDG B-5 Initial Grant but had a Development or Expansion Grant under the previous Preschool Development Grant program, will be eligible to apply for a PDG B-5 Renewal Grant. If awarded a Renewal Grant, such grantees must first address the requirement for a periodic, statewide B-5 needs assessment and related strategic plan before proceeding to spend funds on improving the quality and availability of early childhood care and education programs in the State.
- 5. A State** that did not receive 2018 PDG B-5 funds and did not have a Development or Expansion Grant under the previous Preschool Development Grant program, will not be eligible to apply for a PDG B-5 Renewal Grant and, presently, the Departments do not intend to issue another round of Initial Grants after this competition.
- 6. As with funding** for the Initial PDG B-5 Grant, there is a requirement for a minimum of a 30 percent match each year of Renewal Grant funding.
- 7. In the event** that an eligible State receives a PDG B-5 Renewal Grant, the grantee will be required to refine and implement their finalized strategic plan and proposed plan for State data collection and evaluation.
- 8. It is intended** that States or territories will use a percentage of the total amount of their grant award during years 2 through 4 to conduct the proposed process, cost, and outcome evaluations, and to implement a data collection system that will allow them to collect, house, and use data on the populations served, the implementation of services, the cost of providing services, and coordination across service partners. Evaluation plans will be expected to describe activities appropriate for the funding level and timeline of the Renewal Grants.



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Funding:

\$250,000,000 authorized for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020.

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Funding:

Congress appropriated \$250 million for fiscal year 2018.

Estimated Total Funding:

\$242,500,000

Expected Number of Awards:

40

Award Ceiling:

\$15,000,000 (Per Budget Period Award)

Award Floor:

\$500,000 (Per Budget Period Average)

Projected Average Award Amount:

\$5,000,000 (Per Budget Period)