

PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS BIRTH THROUGH FIVE (PDG B-5)

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Created as part of the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015, the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) program is a competitive federal grant that supports states and territories as they work to improve their existing early childhood systems and create effective mixed-delivery models. The inclusion of PDG B-5 in ESSA marked the first time that Congress dedicated specific funds to promote high-quality early childhood education in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Administered through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in consultation with the Department of Education (ED), PDG B-5 grants support state efforts to enhance program quality, expand access, and increase efficiency through better collaboration and coordination.

EMPOWERING STATES

PDG B-5 represents a unique opportunity for the federal government to leverage the central role of states in leading early childhood coordination and quality efforts. The goal of the program is to empower states to increase the quality and efficiency of existing early learning programs and systems, while also reducing fragmentation and overlap. PDG B-5 grantees are specifically asked to:

- Better align existing programs;
- Engage parents and families by maximizing parental choice;
- Build on the success of existing programs through the dissemination of best practices;
- Foster partnerships among key stakeholders and programs; and
- Consider how to use monitoring and data for continuous improvement of programs and systems.

OVERWHELMING INTEREST

There has been overwhelming interest in the PDG B-5 program, with 54 out of the 56 states and territories having participated, most applying for multiple rounds of funding as a way to meet targeted needs with this unique funding source. When the first wave of funding became available in December 2018, 46 states received one-year planning grants. Shortly after, in

AT-A-GLANCE

CREATED

2015

WHO THIS PROGRAM SERVES

Grants are available to all 56 states, commonwealths, and territories to support early childhood services for children from birth through age five.

HOW IT WORKS

There are two types of grants: planning grants and renewal grants.

- In the one-year planning grants, grantees conduct comprehensive needs assessments and draft strategic plans.
- In the three-year renewal grants, grantees focus on implementing their strategic plan.

GRANTEES IN STATES/TERRITORIES

Since the program's inception in 2018, **73** initial planning grants and **60** renewal grants have been awarded. The renewal grantees design their implementation models with the promise of three years of federal funding.



Click or scan for a state-by-state overview of PDG B-5 awards over time.

FY2025 FEDERAL FUNDING

\$315 million

December 2019, a second wave of funding allowed six more states and territories to receive planning grants. Each of the 46 original recipients sought to continue their PDG B-5 work and applied for renewal grants in 2019, but because of limited funding, HHS was only able to award funding to 20 states at that time. The subsequent rounds of competition have also been competitive, with tremendous interest in the program.

Governors across the country have shown bipartisan commitment to the program by committing to a 30% state match to federal funding. To read what governors from across the country have said about these critical federal investments, click [here](#).¹

TIMELINE OF PDG B-5 GRANTS

2015

PDG B-5 established through the Bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

2018

46 states/territories received planning grants

2019

6 additional states/territories received planning grants and 20 states were awarded 3-year renewal grants

2020

8 of the states that received planning grants in 2019 were awarded a renewal grant

2022

21 states received planning grants and 21 states received renewal grants

2024

10 states and DC received renewal grants

FY2024 GRANT CYCLE

In September 2024, ten states and Washington D.C. received three-year renewal grants. These grantees had received one-year planning grants in January 2023 (awarded with FY 2022 funding), which were used to conduct comprehensive statewide birth through five needs assessments and in-depth strategic planning. These new funds, which total approximately \$87 million, and are expected to go through FY2026, allow these grantees to carry out the activities in their strategic plans.

PROGRAM IMPACT

In 2024, ACF released a report to Congress highlighting PDG B-5 grant progress and accomplishments, demonstrating how states have used funding to enhance their early care and education systems. Many states reported the needs assessments conducted with their planning grants were the first comprehensive efforts of their kind. The process gave states the opportunity to work across agencies and programs, engage multiple partners, and bring in new perspectives. Additionally, states have leveraged PDG B-5 funding for a range of activities to meet their specific needs. Select examples from the report include:

- **Michigan:** Created a Rural Child Care Innovation Program cohort in six counties to address the identified service gaps in Michigan's rural communities. These counties then were able to develop a Community Solution Action Plan that included innovative strategies to increase high-quality and affordable early learning and care.
- **Utah:** Created the Governor's Early Childhood Commission to develop a coordinated and aligned B-5 system that, in addition to other activities, supports parents and families by sharing information, including comprehensive, accurate information about the availability of services for children age six and younger.
- **Louisiana:** Used funds to re-engage family child care providers through a pilot program that successfully led to policy changes to allow family child care providers to opt into the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).

THE FUTURE OF PDG B-5

PDG B-5 represents a unique opportunity for the federal government to support state investments and initiatives as they consider how to best align and continue to grow their early learning systems. Continued federal funding is necessary for states and territories to keep building and improving effective mixed-delivery systems. To learn more about how states are using PDG B-5, check out FFYF's blog series [here](#).²

¹ FFYF, "Governors Across the Country Celebrate Federal Preschool Development Grant B-5 Funding"

² FFYF, "Blog Series: How States are Using PDG B-5 Grants"

