

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

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). PDG B-5 affirms the importance of early learning in ensuring all children have the strongest possible start in life and represents a unique opportunity for the federal government to leverage the central role of states in leading early childhood coordination and quality efforts.

## EMPOWERING STATES

Administered through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and in consultation with the Department of Education (ED), the goal of PDG B-5 is to empower states to increase the quality and efficiency of existing early learning programs and systems, while also reducing fragmentation and overlap of program supports. 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.

## AT A GLANCE

### CREATED:

2015

### WHO THIS PROGRAM SERVES:

Grants are available to states and territories to support early childhood services for children 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 3-year renewal grants, grantees focus on implementing their strategic plan.

### GRANTEES IN STATES/TERRITORIES:

Since the program's inception in 2018, **54** jurisdictions have received initial planning grants.

**48** jurisdictions have received renewal grants. The renewal grantees have designed their implementation models with the promise of three years of federal funding.

A summary of funding amounts for both the initial and renewal grants are available below.

### FY2024 FEDERAL FUNDING:

\$315 million

# OVERWHELMING INTEREST

There has been overwhelming broad interest in the PDG B-5 program since initial planning grants first became available in 2018. In December 2018, 46 states received initial one-year grants to conduct a state-level needs assessment and create a strategic plan that optimizes existing early childhood education (ECE) resources. In December 2019, six more states and territories were awarded initial planning grants.

Governors have shown tremendous commitment to the program by designating a state agency to administer the grant and by putting forward a state match of 30% to federal funding. To read what governors from across the country said about these critical federal investments, click [here](#).<sup>1</sup>

## TIMELINE OF PDG B-5 GRANTS

2015	2018	2019	2020	2023
PDG B-5 established through the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)	46 states/territories received initial planning grants	Six additional states/territories received initial planning grants and 20 states were awarded three-year renewal grants	Eight of the states/territories that received an initial grant in 2019 were awarded a renewal grant	21 states received new planning grants and 21 states received renewal grants through another round of grant awards

## IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC PLANS

In December 2019, all of the initial applicants chose to continue this work by applying for an extremely competitive second round of implementation grants. Due to limited funding, ACF was unable to award funding to all interested applicants and therefore only 20 states received federal funding in the second year of the grants to implement the strategic plans. Recognizing the potential impact and overwhelming interest from states and territories, Congress appropriated an additional \$25 million for PDG B-5 in FY2020, allowing ACF to award three additional renewal grants in April 2020. And in December 2020, five of the six states and territories that received an initial grant in 2019.

## FY2023 GRANT CYCLE

In January 2023, 21 states received planning grants and 21 states received renewal grants. In a Notice of Funding Opportunity, ACF encouraged the use of these grants to consider the changing needs of children and families created by the COVID-19 pandemic and invest in strategies that address those needs, including supporting and strengthening the early care and education workforce.

## 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 continue to build and improve effective mixed-delivery systems. **To learn more about how states are using PDG B-5 check out FFYF's blog series [here](#).**<sup>2</sup>

References:

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](#)"

