



Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five \$538,000, One-time from Federal Office of Child Care

Background:

In fall 2018, the federal Office of Child Care released a funding opportunity with the U.S. Department of Education. The funding is used for specific activities to develop a coordinated early childhood system.

Currently the early care and education infrastructure in Utah consists of a multifaceted system of parallel processes that are administered through six offices within four state agencies and several community-based organizations. As a result of the system's current complexities, families face challenges navigating the system and connecting to important resources. The grant provides the opportunity to develop the foundation for a coordinated early childhood system

Award:

In December 2018, the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) and Office of Child Care (OCC) was awarded the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B5) to perform the following activities:

(1) Qualitative and Quantitative Needs Assessment

- Partnership with Sorenson Impact Center and the Gardner Policy Institute
- 10 deliberative sessions (five urban, four rural) with parents and local early childhood providers focusing on the needs of Utah families and their experiences in the early childhood system
- Quantitative analysis evaluating programmatic needs of the system
- DUE: September 1, 2019

(2) Strategic Plan

- Stakeholder meetings held in the fall utilizing the needs assessment to develop strategic plan
- Strategic plan will be presented to the Governor's Early Childhood Commission
- Plan will identify opportunities for system coordination
- DUE: November 22, 2019

(3) Maximizing Parent Knowledge and Choice

- Partnership with the Department of Technology Services to develop a universal website to access services and resources
- Stakeholder input in the design of the website

(4) Sharing Best Practices Among State Early Care and Education Providers

- Promotion of best practices in supporting kindergarten transitions from child care Head Start and public preschool programs
- Office of Child Care, Utah State Board of Education and the Utah Head Start Collaboration Office are hosting regional kindergarten transition summits

Next Grant Opportunity:

- September 2019 grant application to pursue funding to implement components of the strategic plan.