

Federal Funding Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families awarded California a competitive three-year Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Renewal (PDG-R) in December 2019. California will receive \$13.4 million each year for three years for a total of \$40.2 million through December 2022. The governor appointed the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS) as the lead agency for the grant in collaboration with the California Department of Education (CDE).

Grant Vision

California envisions a future where the state's children age birth through five, their families and their communities thrive through an effective and impactful early learning and care (ELC) mixed delivery system that is efficiently connected to a range of child, family, and program supports.

California will use PDG-R funds to improve the current ELC system, building on the initial Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG-I) of \$10.6 million administered by the CDE through June 2020. PDG-R supports these essential goals:

- Build cross-system capacity and streamline governance at the state and local level;
- Maximize parent and family knowledge, elevate parent voices, and strengthen parent connections to ELC and other supportive services;
- Develop a unified system for workforce professional development that employs consistent standards and offers aligned, stackable, competency-based, credit bearing professional development; and
- Increase the supply and quality of ELC opportunities by redesigning and aligning quality standards, professional development systems and monitoring processes.

California Context

California is making historic strides in transforming its early childhood systems to ensure the state's three million children age birth through five and their families have increased access to high-quality services and supports. With 58 percent of young children income-eligible for state-subsidized ELC services (family income at or below 85 percent of state median income), the governor and state legislature have prioritized this goal.

The state's early childhood budget was increased by \$2.3 billion last year and development of a Master Plan for Early Learning and Care (MPELC) will be completed in fall of 2020. The investments made through PDG-I have also helped California to accelerate its progress, including establishing a baseline needs assessment of the state's children age birth through five.



The MPELC will build on the recommendations of the PDG Strategic Plan and deliver financing recommendations for expanding high-quality ELC and well-supported families. While building a system of support for all children and families, California will prioritize children farthest from opportunity, including *underserved children* (children not receiving services despite their eligibility), *vulnerable and high impact children* (children in need of special care, support, or protection because of age, disability or various risk factors, and children experiencing adverse childhood experiences or ACES), and *children and families living in rural areas*.

Renewal Grant Activities

Through a range of interagency agreements, contracts and competitive grants, California will utilize the PDG-R funds to advance foundational activities over three years that align with MPELC priorities and other policy and programmatic efforts underway in the state.

Build cross-system capacity at the state and local level

Align with the MPELC and adapt PDG-R implementation accordingly to support the plan's goals and actions.

Build state-level capacity for ongoing needs assessments and establish a user-friendly data dashboard to share data and conduct data literacy training.

Address data system development needs by conducting the state required business analysis through the Project Approval Lifecycle process for the following:

- Child Development Management Information System
- Early Childhood Integrated Data System
- California Department of Social Services Verification Hub
- Workforce Registry
- Quality Rating Improvement System data system

Articulate ELC data with the forthcoming eligibility and referral verification hub.

Implement cross-agency trainings for state professionals who provide services and supports to young children and their families.

Develop an early learning Transition Guide for ELC providers and elementary schools.

Build parental knowledge, elevate parental voices, and strengthen parent connections

Expand and articulate parent portal data system efforts to provide families with user-friendly consumer education and information.

Expand participation in Parent Cafés and utilization of Learn the Signs. Act Early curriculum to support children’s development.

Conduct an evaluation of Parent Cafés to better understand dosage and implementation considerations.

Facilitate a Virtual Parent Consortium and peer-to-peer leadership network that informs the Parent Advisory Committee of the Early Childhood Policy Council (ECPC).

Transform workforce development systems

Develop a competency-based Performance Assessment to strengthen preparation and development of the ELC workforce.

Support institutions of higher education accreditation pilot activities.

Develop innovative professional learning system content, expand coaching certification and virtual coaching, and align professional development standards.

Develop a unified professional learning system to manage, organize and deploy stackable credential content and college credits.

Build local quality and continuous improvement capacity

Redesign systems for quality improvement, quality assurance, and system equity to ensure opportunities for continuous improvement for all providers and programs.

Partner with the Tribal Child Care Association of California to address historical trauma and inequities facing tribal communities and support a quality improvement system that ensures high-quality ELC services for tribal families and their children.

Expand local Quality Counts California (QCC) Consortia allocations to enable increased support for family, friend and neighbor care providers and family child care, build home visiting capacity and quality care for high-impact populations, and strengthen family engagement.

Implement Early Childhood Cafés to convene groups of home visitors, family child care, and family, friend and neighbor care providers to build their capacity to support children and families.

Develop new California Inclusion and Behavior Consultation Network training and expand implementation in communities with high incidence of ACEs scores.

Strengthen resource and referral agencies’ capacity to address early childhood issues California families are currently experiencing.

Stakeholder Engagement and Governance

California's PDG-R application reflects the findings of the PDG Strategic Plan and Needs Assessment developed in collaboration with stakeholders and experts across the state and draws heavily from prior planning efforts such as the California Assembly's Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education. These reports will also inform the MPELC. The newly formed ECPC and its Workforce and Parent Advisory Committees will receive briefings and provide input to the MPELC, as well as PDG-R implementation and its alignment with the MPELC goals and recommended actions. Individual PDG-R activities will also engage experts and stakeholders as needed to assist with development and completion of deliverables.

The Core Team and State Stewardship Team that were established as part of PDG-I will also play a key role in the planning and implementation of PDG-R activities, particularly efforts to build cross-agency capacity and promote systems efficiencies.

Please direct any questions regarding the PDG-R grant to PDG@chhs.ca.gov.



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