

The First Five Things To Know

Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5)

Due to limited budgets and capacity, many states struggle to support the important activities – like data collection, research, infrastructure development, and other quality initiatives – that can make their child care and early learning programs operate more effectively.

A federal program known as **Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)** plays an essential role in making sure child care programs are as effective and efficient as possible. Among other things, federal PDG B-5 dollars are used by states to:

- Help states improve quality and safety across child care programs.
- Improve state collaboration across multiple child care and early learning programs, systems, and agencies to identify what's working, what's not, and what to do about it.
- Assist states in collecting data, so they can make programs work more effectively and efficiently.

The end goal: A system that brings high-quality early education to more working families and helps millions of children have access to safe, quality child care and early learning that can help set them on a strong path.

Here are the First Five Things to Know about the PDG B-5 program.

1

PDG B-5 grants help maximize parental choice. While all parents want their young children cared for in a safe and caring environment, they have varied needs and preferences. PDG B-5 grants help states build out these choices.

- **Michigan** is expanding the state's existing Pre-K For All program to include home-based child care providers, offering working families an option with more flexible hours, individualized support, and community relationships.
- **Oregon** is using their current funding to develop a cohesive early education system that maximizes family choice, using data gained through a needs assessment originally funded by a 2020-23 PDG B-5 grant. The consistency and longevity of PDG B-5 enabled the state's ability to renew funding and build long-term infrastructure.

2

PDG B-5 grants help states collect data, so they can make programs work more effectively and efficiently. Strong data collection allows states to identify what's working, what's not, and what to do about it.

- PDG B-5 is supporting **Alabama's** efforts to design strong analytical systems that would inform policy and services across agencies.
- **Oklahoma** is using their funds to develop a better data collection system that would guide programming related to system alignment, efficacy, and expansion.
- A 2022 PDG B-5 grant helped **Kansas** develop their All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan, including a comprehensive dashboard to publicize data and collaborate across providers.



PDG B-5 grants help states collaborate across multiple programs, systems, and agencies.

Within a state, child care and early learning systems may work with different state agencies, nonprofits, or private systems. PDG B-5 allows these systems to coordinate efficiently.

- **Delaware** is employing the funds to improve program coordination across the state in collaboration with educational and economic advisors.
- **Hawaii** is using PDG B-5 to support coordination across agencies and service providers, bolstering statewide program quality.
- A [2022-2024](#) PDG B-5 grant supported **New York** in improving their [New York Family Guide](#) to New York State Early Childhood Services, aiming to increase parents' awareness of the mixed-delivery system and ease of access to services.



PDG B-5 grants help states improve quality and safety across child care programs.

High-quality child care has wide-ranging benefits for children socially, emotionally, and academically.

- PDG B-5 funds are helping **Ohio** launch a technology and research initiative that will improve curriculum development and professional learning opportunities, resulting in a more informed workforce.
- **Vermont** is using its newest grant to collect data across its recently expanded child care workforce, including a more efficient background-check system and professional development opportunities.



Continued federal funding for PDG B-5 grants is essential. Forty-nine of the 50 states as well as Washington, DC and four territories have benefitted from PDG B-5 funding, which has given them the ability to support the data collection, research, infrastructure development, and quality initiatives that can make their child care and early learning programs operate more effectively. Most states have applied for multiple rounds of funding to continue to meet ongoing needs.

The Bottom Line

PDG B-5 provides a unique opportunity for the federal government to support state child care and early learning investments. This funding helps maximize parental choice, open doors for children who are most in need, and optimize the reach of state and federal investments. Sustained federal funding is necessary for states and territories to continue to build and improve effective mixed-delivery systems.

Learn More

- [Capsule Collection](#): A handy list of resources about how and where PDG B-5 works.
- [Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five \(PDG B-5\) overview](#): This overview provides a deeper look at PDG B-5 – what it is, how it works, what it does.
- [The National PDG Map](#): This map highlights PDG B-5 funding for each state and how states used it to help child care and early learning programs work more effectively.
- [Through the Years: Preschool Development Grants Birth Through Five](#): This handy chart shows the PDG funding received by each state since the program began in 2018.
- [Governors show support for Federal Preschool Development Grant B-5 Funding](#): This report quotes state governors on the opportunities presented by PDG B-5 in their own state.

Contact Us

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