



Early Childhood
IMPROVING SCHOOL READINESS

Louisiana's Preschool Development Grant Birth-to-Five Application

Objective and Agenda

This webinar will provide an overview of Louisiana's plan for its application for the newly released Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5).

- Overview of Opportunity
- Louisiana's Grant Application
- Next Steps and Opportunities for Involvement
- Q & A

Overview of Opportunity

Introduction

The Louisiana Department of Education is applying for the new PDG B-5 grant that is due November 6.

- ACF has released the new application for the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Birth through Five. The PDG grant will be awarded as four one-year opportunities, with the first year structured as a planning grant and with 3 subsequent renewal grants that include seats.
- The grant calls for the development or update of a B-5 Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan, with an emphasis on coordination of existing resources and delivery within a mixed delivery system, family choice, transitions to school, and a community of sharing best practices.
- For states like Louisiana that have an existing B-5 Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan, the grant allows for more time/funding dedicated to implementing the Strategic Plan activities.

Overview

In 2014, PDG was a funding opportunity that followed RTT-ELC. ESSA renewed the Preschool Development Grants but with several key differences.

PDG in 2014	PDG in 2018
Focused on four-year-old pre-K	Focused on building state birth to five infrastructure
Required adding seats for at-risk population	No seats in initial grant
Four year grant	One year grant with renewal grant opportunities
No prioritization related to previous winners	States that did not win RTT-ELC and PDG can earn bonus points with a minimum quality application
Funding was based on size of state, and match requirement differed in bonus points awarded	\$15MM ceiling with 30% match requirement, anticipated \$5MM awards to 40 grantees

Overview

The new grant envisions a B-5 needs assessment and strategic plan that is developed, updated, or implemented as part of Activities 1-4, before Activity 5. If awarded, Louisiana will update and implement its needs assessment and strategic plan.

Activity One	Conduct or update a periodic statewide birth to five needs assessment of availability and quality of existing programs, including underserved populations, service numbers, waitlists
Activity Two	Develop or update a strategic plan that recommends collaboration, coordination, and quality improvement activities for existing programs
Activity Three	Maximize parental choice and knowledge about the state's mixed delivery system and increasing involvement
Activity Four	Share best practices among providers including to increase program quality and improve transitions to elementary school
Activity Five	Improve the overall quality of ECCE programs through best practices, PD, and enhanced learning opportunities for children

Louisiana's Grant Application

Louisiana's Strategic Plan

Learnings from communities inform Louisiana's strategic approach to build infrastructure, increase access, and improve quality.

Since 2012, Louisiana has been actively engaged in assessing quality and access across its system of mixed delivery for birth-to-five programs, and has gained critical learnings from the work communities have led since 2012:

- Louisiana must find creative solutions and supports to increase access for its disadvantaged birth-to-three-year-old population
- Teachers must be well prepared to teach in early childhood classrooms so they can prepare children for school and beyond, which means teachers need to:
 - Receive foundational training that leads to certification;
 - Utilize high-quality instructional tools every day, including standards, curriculum, and assessment; and
 - Be supported to have high-quality and effective interactions with children.
- State infrastructure that shares responsibility for resources and quality with local communities is essential, because it empowers those closest to classrooms and children, who are best equipped to make improvements that will impact outcomes for children.

Louisiana's Grant Application

Louisiana's takeaways will guide planning and implementation of all grant-funded activities.

**Through the Louisiana PDG B-5 application,
Louisiana will seek ~10MM funding to support four key goals:**

Establish Formalized Local Infrastructure via Community Networks Pilots

Increase Alignment and Improve Quality of Early Childhood Care and Education

Improve State Systems that Inform Statewide Early Childhood Network

Incorporate Family Homes into Statewide Early Childhood Network

Activity One

Activity One: Conduct or update a statewide B-5 needs assessment of availability and quality of programs

Existing	Through its statewide early childhood network, Louisiana has established a quality rating system that assesses the quality of publicly-funded early childhood programs and locally-managed coordinated enrollment systems that track availability of and gaps for seats.
New	Through the grant, Louisiana will conduct a validation study that will inform improvements to the unified rating system. Through the grant, Louisiana will enhance its work on a birth-12th grade data collection system that will increase availability of information about birth-to-five programs for families. The state will begin assessing the landscape of family homes, which are not included in the state's early childhood network.

Activity Two

Activity Two: Develop or update a strategic plan that recommends collaboration, coordination, and quality improvement activities for existing programs

Existing	Louisiana’s current strategic plan addresses the three key levers of improving program quality: interactions, instructional tools, and teacher preparedness. Louisiana is currently working on the next phase of its plan: enable local communities to improve the birth-to-five pathway through increased responsibility.
New	The state will plan to pilot inclusion of family homes to the state’s early childhood network. Louisiana will also plan to pilot a shared services model to increase coordination across providers. Additionally, through stronger local infrastructure, Louisiana will promote increased coordination at the community level.

Activity Three

Activity Three: Maximize parental knowledge of options and involvement in the state's mixed delivery system.

Existing	Louisiana released the Louisiana School and Center Finder to help families to learn about the offerings and quality of their birth-12 grade options. This tool complements the work of early childhood networks with coordinated enrollment to engage and inform families.
New	Through the grant, Louisiana will increase its investments in building local governance pilots to create systems-level changes, through tool kits of resources, leadership professional development, and grants to promote readiness for cross-program mixed-delivery of seats.

Activity Four

Activity Four: Share best practices among providers including to improve transitions to elementary school.

Existing	Through quarterly regional collaborative trainings, the annual statewide Teacher Leader Summit, parish-level early childhood networks, and state-level guidance, Louisiana has created multiple opportunities for communities and providers to learn from each other. Louisiana also has developmental screening guidance created in collaboration with LDH, and is working on improving processes to support children in transition to school.
New	Through the grant, Louisiana will fund the creation of Louisiana Key Training Modules - a set of accessible high-quality trainings designed by Louisiana experts on best practices. The state will increase opportunities to access PD and high-quality instructional tools aligned to the quality rating system, especially for teachers in infant and toddler classrooms. The state will also increase opportunities for Pathways scholarships for child care teachers.

Activity Five

Activity Five: Improve the overall quality of ECCE programs through best practices, PD, and enhanced learning opportunities for children

Existing	Louisiana continues to invest resources in alignment with the results of the unified quality rating system to support high-quality interactions, access to key instructional resources, and strong preparation opportunities for B-5 teachers.
New	Louisiana will plan for pilots that gather information about how family homes can join the statewide early childhood network in order to access resources for improvement. Louisiana will also plan for how to implement regionalized shared services infrastructure.

Louisiana's Grant Application

Key Learning 1: Access	Louisiana must find creative solutions and supports to increase access for its economically disadvantaged birth to 3-year-old population.
Outcome of Grant	More young children access high-quality care through a mixed delivery system.
Key Learning 2: Quality	Teachers must be well prepared to teach in early childhood classrooms so they can prepare children for school and beyond, which means teachers need to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Receive foundational training that leads to certification;2. Utilize high-quality instructional tools every day, including standards, curriculum, and assessment; and3. Be supported to have high-quality and effective interactions with children.
Outcome of Grant	Children participate in active learning in their birth-to-five classrooms, led by teachers that are fully able to prepare them for Kindergarten and beyond.
Key Learning 3: Local Governance	State infrastructure that shares responsibility for resources and quality with local communities is essential, because it empowers those closest to classrooms and children, who are best equipped to make improvements that will impact outcomes for children.
Outcome of Grant	Communities drive faster rates of quality improvement and expanded access.

Next Steps and Opportunities for Involvement

Next Steps

The LDE is working to finalize its grant application in time for submission.

- The Governor has designated the LDOE as the agency to apply for the grant.
- Louisiana will incorporate feedback from stakeholders into its grant application and submit by November 6.
- Louisiana will learn whether its application is successful by the end of December.
- If successful, Louisiana's grant funded activities will begin January 2019 and run through December 2019.

Opportunities for Involvement

Please submit any thoughts or feedback on Louisiana's plan for the grant application. If successful, Louisiana will begin engagement with stakeholders to determine next steps to implement the grant.

- Please email any feedback to earlychildhood@la.gov, or submit via this survey link: <http://bit.do/2018PDG>
- If interested in co-signing a letter of support for the grant, please contact nasha.patel@la.gov
- If awarded the grant in December, Louisiana will begin the process of engaging stakeholders on updates to the state's needs assessment and strategic plan in January 2019. Please read the Early Childhood Newsletter to stay informed of any grant updates.

Q&A

