



New Hampshire's

Preschool Development Grant Birth to 5

Quarterly Newsletter

APRIL–JUNE, 2020

This newsletter highlights progress from **Quarter 2 (April to June, 2020)** and summarizes upcoming activities for **Quarter 3 (July to September, 2020)**.



ACTIVITY 1: Needs Assessment

QUARTER 2 HIGHLIGHTS

- The PDG team officially welcomed the **National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP)** to the team! NCCP will be responsible for updating the statewide needs assessment and supporting the local needs assessments conducted by Community Grant recipients.
- The **Community Grants RFP** was finalized and released in June. The Community Grants are intended to build regional capacity for cross-sector collaboration, alignment, and coordination for existing early childhood resources and services. This solicitation includes funding for organizations that wish to conduct targeted **local needs assessments**. These needs assessments will integrate standardized evidence-informed tools to align with the statewide needs assessment.
- The [statewide needs assessment](#), developed in 2019 under the NH PDG B-5 planning grant, was released to the public in June.

PDG CONNECTIONS

Contractors kicked off a series of check-ins between NCCP, Pear Associates, and Abt Associates to facilitate coordination across the needs assessment, strategic planning, and Program Performance Evaluation.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 3

- A **cross-sector review team** will review and award Community Grants to support local needs assessments.
- NCCP will work with NH PDG leadership to develop standardized needs assessment **tools and protocols**. They will also provide **technical assistance** to Community Grantees conducting local Needs Assessments.



ACTIVITY 2: Strategic Planning

QUARTER 2 HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Community Grants RFP** was finalized and released in June. This solicitation includes funding for organizations to facilitate **local strategic planning**. Local strategic plans must align with the statewide strategic initiatives and must address one or more of the following goals: strong families, positive early learning experiences, healthy children and families, and coordination and alignment.
- Pear Associates helped advance the work of the Strategic Plan by engaging state stakeholders in the development of **work plans** that prioritize and clarify strategies, objectives, and action steps.
- Pear Associates began developing **technical assistance resources** for Community Grantees that will use grants to develop local Strategic Plans.
- The [statewide Strategic Plan](#), developed in 2019 under the NH PDG planning grant, was released to the public in June.

PDG CONNECTIONS

Pear Associates collaborated with Parent Information Center/ New Hampshire Family Voices (PIC/NHFV) to develop a webinar to explain the statewide Strategic Plan to NH families.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 3

- A **cross-sector review team** will review and award Community Grants to support local strategic planning.
- Pear Associates will meet with additional stakeholders to **finalize work plans** for executing the statewide Strategic Plan.
- Pear Associates will develop standardized tools, processes, and guidance for Community Grantees developing local strategic plans.



ACTIVITY 3: Maximizing Parental Choice and Knowledge (State-level activities)

QUARTER 2 HIGHLIGHTS

- The PDG team officially welcomed the **New Hampshire Children's Trust (NHCT)** to the team. NHCT serves as the facilitating organization for infrastructure building among NH Family Resource Centers (FRCs).
- NHCT developed **subcontracts with FRCs** to provide them with PDG B-5 funds to expand and enhance the services they provide for children and families, as well as continued efforts to build and implement the **QuickBase data platform** to provide a shared database for storing all data collected by FRCs.
- Rebel Interactive and Early Learning NH developed content for the **Welcome Families Web Tool**. Rebel Interactive also completed discovery work for branding, web tool design prototype, and implementation plan development.
- Early Learning NH **promoted the importance of early childhood development** with parents and caregivers. For example, they hosted Vroom/Mind in the Making (MITM) trainings/presentations, formed radio broadcasting partnerships, and distributed over 100,000 printed promotional materials.

PDG CONNECTIONS

- NHCT began collaborating with PIC/NHFV on the development of a **public relations campaign**. The campaign will promote the FRCs as NH communities' local hubs of resources and supports for families and community members.
- Early Learning NH, Rebel Interactive, and PIC/NHFV discussed plans for **soliciting family feedback** on the Welcome Families Web Tool, statewide public awareness campaign resources, and marketing materials.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 3

- NHCT will **finalize subcontracts** with all of the FRCs, continue developing the **QuickBase data platform**, and collaborate with PIC/NHFV.
- Rebel Interactive will continue developing the **Welcome Families web tool content**, finalize technical and functional specifications, and create trainings for Welcome Families web tool developers and administrators.
- Early Learning NH will continue hosting **Vroom/MITM presentations**. They will also work with PIC/NHFV to gather additional family input and refine all public awareness campaign materials and strategies.



ACTIVITY 4: Sharing Best Practices

QUARTER 2 HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Pyramid Model Consortium** trained a Master Cadre of trainers to support embedding the Pyramid Model into the revised Quality Recognition Improvement System (QRIS).
- Southern New Hampshire Services/ Child Care Aware of New Hampshire (SNHS/CCAoNH) identified an initial set of programs to participate in the **Better Practices in Action** initiative. This initiative focuses on incorporating the Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) assessments and observations into a Progressive Training and Technical Assistance model under NH's revised QRIS.
- UNH's practice-based coaches developed a **play-based coaching program**. They then hosted workshops and information sessions for early childhood teachers and administrators to learn about this program.

PDG CONNECTIONS

The Pyramid Model Consortium worked in collaboration with SNHS staff to develop the process for training the **Master Cadre of trainers**. They also provided funding to SNHS to hire a 50% full time staff person to support the statewide **Pyramid Model implementation** and systems development efforts.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 3

- The **Pyramid Model Consortium** will continue supporting the Master Cadre in collaboration with SNHS.
- SNHS will engage and select programs to participate in the **Better Practices in Action** initiative. They will also deliver the first wave of program-specific **trainings**.
- Abt Associates will finalize a literature review of evidence-based **kindergarten entry assessment and transition practices**.

Contact Information

Questions? Comments? Please contact Erin Bumgarner (Abt) at Erin_Bumgarner@abtassoc.com or Meredith O'Shea (UNH) at Meredith.O'Shea@unh.edu.





ACTIVITY 5: Improving Quality/ Subgrants

QUARTER 2 HIGHLIGHTS

The **Community Grants RFP** was finalized and released in June. This solicitation includes funding for organizations that wish to **implement new or expand existing evidence-informed programs** that align with statewide strategic initiatives.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 3

A **cross-sector review team** will review and award Implementation/Expansion Community Grants. Abt Associates will develop and implement evaluation technical assistance to enhance the evaluation capacity of Implementation/Expansion Community Grantees.



ACTIVITY 6: Governance/ Data Interoperability

QUARTER 2 HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Council for Thriving Children** convened for the first time in Quarter 2. The Council was [created by the Governor](#) to improve collaboration among early childhood initiatives and increase interoperability of early childhood data systems across government agencies.
- Staff at the **Bureau of Child Development and Heart Start Collaborative** (BCDHSC) at DHHS began discussions with a database developer to identify and cost out system adaptations necessary for integrating currently disparate program and learning modules into a shared data platform.
- NH PDG staff collaborated frequently with the **Early Childhood Integration Teams** at DOE and DHHS to promote collaboration, communication, and evaluation by state department staff.

PDG CONNECTIONS

PIC/NHFV worked closely with **B-8 Advisors**, a group within NH's early childhood governance system that advises the Council for Thriving Children. They discussed opportunities to partner and maximize family choice and knowledge, as well as jointly facilitated a B-8 stakeholder meeting with 75 attendees.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 3

- The NH PDG B-5 team will continue efforts to form a **cross-department data governance group**.
- DHHS will finalize a contract with the database developer to **integrate the BCDHSC program and learning modules**.
- The NH PDG B-5 team will hire a DOE/DHHS Senior Scientific Data Analyst to support both DHHS and DOE in their efforts to integrate data systems and operations.

Additional PDG Resources

Enclosed on the next page is the NH PDG Organizational Chart that Meredith O'Shea walked through at the start of the Continuous Quality Improvement Meeting on July 16th. The chart presents the key activities and efforts outlined in the NH PDG Logic Model, as well as identifies the organizations and stakeholders involved.

Contact Information

Questions? Comments? Please contact Erin Bumgarner (Abt) at Erin_Bumgarner@abtassoc.com or Meredith O'Shea (UNH) at Meredith.O'Shea@unh.edu.



Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

NH Department of Education and NH Department of Health and Human Services

University of New Hampshire
Fiscal Agent and Management Oversight for PDG B-5

Activity 1. Needs Assessment	Activity 2. Strategic Planning	Activity 3. Maximizing Parental Choice and Knowledge	Activity 4. Sharing Best Practices (BP)	Activity 5. Improving Quality/Subgrants	Activity 6. Governance & Data Interoperability
<p>National Center for Children in Poverty Update state-level needs assessment & support local needs assessment via community grants</p>	<p>Pear Associates Update state-level strategic planning & support local strategic planning via community grants</p>	<p>NH Children's Trust Strengthen Network of Family Resource Centers</p>	<p>University of New Hampshire Early Childhood Center of Excellence; practice-based coaching curriculum</p>	<p>Community Grants: Implementation/Expansion</p>	<p>Council for Thriving Children (Quadrants: 1. DHHS Early Childhood Integration Team, 2. DOE Early Childhood Integration Team, 3. Early Childhood Care & Education Experts, 4. B-8 Advisory Group)</p> <p>DHHS Interoperability; Extend BCDHSC Data System; Governance/Improve state agency capacity</p>
<p>Community Grants: Needs Assessment Conduct local Needs Assessment</p>	<p>Community Grants: Strategic Planning Conduct local Strategic Planning</p>	<p>Rebel Welcome Families Website</p>	<p>NH DHHS/DOE taskforce Align professional dev strategies for workforce pipeline</p>	<p>NH DHHS Increase child care seats</p>	
<p>PIC/NHFV Support parent involvement in needs assessment (Activity 1), strategic planning (Activity 2), family resource center strengthening (Activity 3)</p>		<p>Help Me Grow Strengthen Developmental Screening</p>	<p>Pyramid Model Support/Integration for Pyramid Model</p>		
		<p>Early Learning NH Welcome Families Marketing & Statewide Public Awareness Implementation</p>	<p>Child Care Aware of NH/Southern NH Services Enhance state capacity of QRIS</p>	<p>Abt Associates Conduct pilot of coaching</p>	
			<p>Kindergarten Transition Task Force Support for KEA Transition</p>		

Abt Associates

Independent evaluator monitoring progress across all tasks for the Program Performance Evaluation