



New Hampshire's

Preschool Development Grant Birth to 5

Quarterly Newsletter

This newsletter highlights progress from **January to March, 2021** (Quarter 1 in Year 2 of the PDG B-5 grant) and summarizes upcoming activities for **April to June, 2021** (Quarter 2 in Year 2 of the PDG B-5 grant).

The PDG B-5 grant is intended to provide infrastructure support for the implementation of [NH's Strategic Plan for Early Childhood](#). To that end, this newsletter begins with a review of the needs assessment and strategic planning activities for PDG B-5. It is then organized by the goals and objectives of the state's Strategic Plan.



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) administered the **NH Family Survey**, a statewide survey of families with young children, with a particular focus on vulnerable families. The survey yielded a total of 849 responses with representation from all counties in the state.
- NCCP also administered the **Family Resource Center (FRC) Staff Survey**. This survey will help the state better understand the full range of services that FRCs provide and what additional supports may be needed. Staff from each of the FRCs responded to the survey.

PDG CONNECTIONS

Parent Information Center/ New Hampshire Family Voices (PIC/NHFV) and NCCP collaborated closely on outreach plans and the dissemination of the Family Survey. PIC/NHFV conducted targeted outreach to diverse families to ensure their perspectives were represented in the survey responses.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- NCCP and PIC/NHFV will conduct 10 focus groups with caregivers to learn more about families' experiences and needs.
- NCCP will analyze data from both the Family Survey and FRC Staff Survey. NCCP will also engage in drafting the needs assessment report.



STRATEGIC PLAN SUPPORT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- Pear Associates released the [2020 Year in Review report](#). This report summarizes state and local accomplishments towards the goals of [NH's Strategic Plan for Early Childhood](#).
- A subcommittee of the **Council for Thriving Children** was formed and tasked with updating the Strategic Plan metrics.

PDG CONNECTIONS

The Year in Review Report represents a significant collaboration between NH PDG leadership, Pear Associates, the Director of the Council for Thriving Children, PIC/NHFV, and P'unk Avenue. In the report, Pear highlighted the NH PDG Community Grants as demonstrating the state's commitment to share grant resources with local early childhood workgroups representing diverse stakeholders, to ensure alignment among state, regional, and community-based initiatives.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- Pear Associates will continue working with the Council subcommittee to update Strategic Plan metrics.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Positive Learning Experiences

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- The **Pyramid Model Consortium** continued efforts to integrate the Pyramid Model into iSocial and other state programs and systems. They also worked closely with the iSocial State Leadership Team and the Pyramid Model Leadership Team and continued efforts to merge the two groups.
- UNH's practice-based coaches continued providing **Play Based Learning** coaching to cohorts of infant/toddler, preschool, and Kindergarten educators.
- **Southern NH Services (SNHS)** is supporting DHHS efforts to roll out a revised Quality Recognition & Improvement System (QRIS) with Environment Rating Scale (ERS) trainers and assessors.
- Abt Associate continued efforts to create **descriptive interactive maps** that support the state's understanding of child care deserts. They incorporated population-based data about young children with administrative provider data.

PDG CONNECTIONS

- NH PDG leadership, Abt Associates, the play-based learning coaches, and representatives from Temple University began collaborating on the evaluation of the Play- Based Learning coaching program.
- NH BCDHSC and PDG staff utilized technical assistance from the PDG B-5 National TA Center to finalize decisions regarding the revised QRIS and plan for a Fall 2021 implementation.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- The Pyramid Model Consortium will field an application for new members of the Master Cadre.
- The UNH coaches will continue collaborating with the Children's Museum of NH and external partners on the Play-Based Learning Taskforce.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2: Healthy Children & Families

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- NHFV began facilitating the **Centralized Access Point** for developmental screening in NH, including forming the Centralized Access Point planning group and initiating discussions with FRCs for launch.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- NHFV will continue holding the Centralized Access Point Planning group meetings, working with a database consultant, and developing MOUs for pilot participants.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 3: Strong Families

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- **PIC/NHFV** continued to develop universal tools for family engagement, including a Family Voice infographic, training webinars, and a [webpage](#) of family engagement resources.
- **NH Children's Trust (NHCT)** began processing new subcontracts with the FRCs for specific activities identified by each FRC. NHCT also began their evaluation of the Kinship Navigator Program (KNP).

PDG CONNECTIONS

PIC/NHFV collaborates with both the Alliance of Regional Early Childhood Coalitions (RECC Alliance) and NHCT's Communicators Community of Practice for FRCs on authentic family engagement and leadership.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- The Early Childhood Integration Teams (ECITs) will discuss how family engagement is defined and implemented statewide, with explicit connections to the future Family-Community quadrant of the Council.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 4: Statewide Coordination

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- The **RECC Alliance** has assumed responsibility for the capacity building TA for the NH PDG Community Grantees. They also support the network of RECCs, particularly by updating the Promising Practices Guide on RECC best practices and instructions on how to effectively operate.
- NH PDG staff initiated efforts to obtain a **distinct count of children** served by NH's early childhood care and education system. Staff are engaged in discussions with DHHS and DOE staff on data needs and data sharing abilities or concerns.
- NH PDG Staff continued supporting the joint DHHS and DOE **Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) and Transitions Taskforce**. Abt Associates presented findings from a literature review of the assessments' psychometrics to the Taskforce and conducted a state scan to help NH better understand how KEA tools are implemented in other states.
- Early Learning NH continued facilitating the **Welcome Families Leadership Team** and Rebel Interactive Group continued to maintain and update the **Welcome Families Web Tool**. This quarter, over 16,000 users accessed the site.

PDG CONNECTIONS

NH PDG staff worked with multiple partners related to data interoperability: NHCT and the Family Support Data System, NHFV and developmental screening, Pear Associates and Strategic Plan metrics, and DHHS and QRIS roll-out efforts.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- PDG staff will move forward with identifying a distinct count of children served by NH's early childhood care and education system.
- Abt will finalize the state scan of KEA practices and present their findings to the Taskforce.

