



New Hampshire's

Preschool Development Grant Birth to 5

Quarterly Newsletter

This newsletter highlights progress from **April to June, 2021** (Quarter 2 in Year 2 of the PDG B-5 grant) and summarizes upcoming activities for **July to September, 2021** (Quarter 3 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) analyzed data from ten focus groups with caregivers following the **NH Family Survey**. They also conducted interviews with **Family Resource Center (FRC)** staff and analyzed the interview data.
- NCCP completed and submitted the **Year 1 Needs Assessment Report**. This report was compiled using data from the Family Survey and focus groups, FRC Staff Survey and interviews, and reviews of relevant non-PDG-specific data collection efforts in NH.

PDG CONNECTIONS

The Parent Information Center (PIC) and NH Family Voices (NHFV) recruited 45 total participants and facilitated 10 caregiver focus groups, one for each of NH's counties. PIC/NHFV provided NCCP with session notes and transcripts for analysis of themes related to families' experiences.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- NCCP will incorporate feedback from DHHS and DOE in the Year 1 Needs Assessment Report for public release.
- NH PDG staff will identify the focus of needs assessment activities for Quarters 3 and 4.



STRATEGIC PLAN SUPPORT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- The **Council for Thriving Children** publicly released the [2020 Year in Review report](#) with a virtual celebration including remarks from the First Lady of NH. This report summarizes state and local accomplishments towards the goals of [NH's Strategic Plan for Early Childhood](#).
- **Pear Associates** hosted multiple meetings with representatives from the Council for Thriving Children to continue updating the Strategic Plan.

PDG CONNECTIONS

The Year in Review Report, a significant collaboration between NH PDG leadership, Pear Associates, the Director of the Council for Thriving Children, and P'unk Avenue, will serve as the Council's annual report to the Governor per Executive Order 2020-03.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- Pear Associates will continue working with the Council subcommittee to finalize the Strategic Plan Update.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Positive Learning Experiences

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- The **Pyramid Model Consortium** worked closely with the iSocial and Pyramid Model State Leadership Teams to merge the two groups. They also selected seven applicants to join the Master Cadre of trainers and began to identify child care programs to join a second cohort of Pyramid Model implementation sites.
- Southern NH Services (SNHS) supported DHHS efforts to roll out a revised **Quality Recognition & Improvement System (QRIS)** by hosting information sessions for child care programs and creating readiness documents to support training and technical assistance.
- UNH's practice-based coaches concluded **Play Based Learning** coaching for spring cohorts of infant/toddler, preschool, and Kindergarten educators, culminating in a celebration at the NH Governor's Mansion (the Bridges House). They also recruited Kindergarten educators for the 2021-2022 cohort of coaching, holding information sessions and meeting with district administrators.
- Abt Associates finalized [interactive maps](#) to support the state's understanding of child care deserts and inform efforts to build Early Childhood Regional Partnerships. They continued drafting a brief to summarize the mapping work.

PDG CONNECTIONS

- Abt Associates collaborated with NH DHHS staff to share information and identify common goals around other mapping efforts related to child welfare.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- The Pyramid Model Consortium will train new members of the Master Cadre for a total of 14 trainers and provide support to existing implementation sites
- The UNH coaches will finalize their coaching curriculum in preparation for the play-based coaching evaluation. They will work with Abt Associates to begin scheduling classroom observations.
- Abt Associates will release a brief summarizing the mapping work.
- UNH will issue a request for proposals (RFP) to select a consultant to support a needs assessment and strategic planning for the Early Childhood Institute for Excellence at UNH.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2: Healthy Children & Families

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- NHFV continued facilitating the **Centralized Access Point** for developmental screening in NH. The Developmental Screening Care Coordinator developed relationships with community partners and updated their directory to serve as a referral resource for families and community partners.
- The DHHS **Watch Me Grow (WMG) Steering Committee** continued to offer Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) online training and technical assistance to FRCs.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- NHFV will continue holding the Centralized Access Point planning group meetings and conducting trainings on using the ASQ Online. NHFV will also finalize MOUs for FRC pilot participants and confirm the template for data capture and reporting structures within the NHFV system.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 3: Strong Families

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- NH Children's Trust (NHCT) finalized **subcontracts with FRCs** for specific activities, including capacity/ infrastructure building, community engagement, opening new sites or satellite offices, new or expanded programming, or work towards achieving the FRC of Quality Designation.
- PIC/NHFV continued to collaborate with the Alliance of Regional Early Childhood Coalitions (RECC Alliance) and support NHCT in facilitating an FRC Communications Community of Practice on authentic family engagement and leadership. They also continued efforts to develop **universal tools for family engagement**.
- The **Play Based Learning Task Force**, a group of cross-sector stakeholders committed to establishing a sustainable network of Play Based Learning throughout NH, met to discuss opportunities for sharing of resources, information, and experiences.

PDG CONNECTIONS

- PIC/NHFV met with RECCs and FRCs implementing Parent Cafes to collect ideas and needs to inform content for a family café toolkit.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- PIC/NHFV will continue working with the RECC Alliance and NHCT, creating universal tools for family engagement.
- NHCT will review a proposal from one FRC submitted at the end of Quarter 2 and continue the evaluation of the Kinship Navigators Program.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 4: Statewide Coordination

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER

- The NH PDG Council Business Analyst drafted and presented a visual overview of the proposed **Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)** and data governance.
- Staff of the DHHS and DOE **Early Childhood Integration Teams (ECITs)** are operationalizing the concept of "family engagement" at the state level and within department programs, and conducting an environmental scan of current activities at the departments.
- The Council collaborated with P'unk Ave to launch a **Council-specific website** and coordinate social media.

PDG CONNECTIONS

- NH PDG leadership and staff, DOE, DHHS, and the Council, with significant input from state partners, collaborated to draft an RFP to fund seven Early Childhood Regional Partnerships to enhance early childhood care-school-family support collaborations and build infrastructure for cross-sector collaboration.

UPCOMING NEXT QUARTER

- The first of the 2020 Community Grantees will conclude their projects and submit final reports.
- The RFP Review Committee will release the Early Childhood Regional Partnership RFP and review applications in Quarter 3.

