Florida Preschool Development Grant Birth – Five Early Childhood Care and Education

Florida Grade Level Reading Campaign
June 19, 2019
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• Award amount: $8.52 million
• Grant Period: December 31, 2018 – December 30, 2019
• Potential for future renewal grants
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Overview

Designed to support states in coordinating and aligning early childhood care and education (ECE) programs, resources, and services that already exist, thereby:

• Improving program quality
• Facilitating better partnerships between programs
• Improving transitions from ECE programs into elementary school
• Increasing program operating and cost efficiencies
• Expanding parental choices and involvement
• Ensuring families are linked to the full range of services they need
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Expected Outcomes:

• Improve Data-Driven System Coordination
• Increase Family Access and Engagement
• Create High-Quality Comprehensive System of Early Childhood Care and Education
• Equitable Access to Quality
• Quality Improvement/Professional Development
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Statewide Needs Assessment

• Develop and conduct analysis of statewide access and quality of ECE programs and services across sectors
• Create ongoing ability to document ECE capacity and quality within communities throughout the state and expand understanding of access and underserved communities and populations
• Develop system to calculate unduplicated count of children accessing publicly funded programs
• Facilitate data sharing agreements to integrate and analyze each entity’s data
- Unduplicated number of children *being served* in existing programs
- Unduplicated number of children *awaiting service* in existing programs
- Report strengths and weaknesses of the *data* on children being served
Strategic Plan

- Reconvene State Advisory Council consisting of early childhood care and education partners across sectors
- Group will work to identify opportunities and barriers to various levels of collaboration and coordination

**GOAL:** one unified strategic plan for Florida’s system of early childhood services to guide work that
- improves coordination
- creates policy alignment where possible
- enhances program quality/service delivery
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Coordinated Child Assessment Plan

• Develop plan for creating a unified system of child assessment for all children birth to kindergarten entry who are enrolled in publicly funded programs

• Identify supports needed for providers to be able to expand assessment to ALL children enrolled in the program, not just children with public funding

• Goal is for plan to be in alignment with Committee for Early Grade Success report recommendations
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Enhanced Provider Profiles

• Link ECE online systems to identify quality and specialized training achieved by staff (CARES, PD Registry and EFS Mod)
• Display enhanced quality information on provider profiles to help inform parental choice:
  - CLASS scores
  - Provider Badges (based on violation history, CLASS score, specialized staff training)

Joint Professional Development (PD) Catalog

• Enhance PD Registry to host interactive catalog of PD offerings for professionals working with children
• Includes comprehensive list of PD offered by:
  - DCF, OEL, DOE (Part B), DOH, Early Steps (Part C)
Single Point of Entry Feasibility Study

• Conduct feasibility study for creating single point of entry for ECE programs and services
• How can we align, eliminate duplication and streamline requirements for families?
• Identify recommendations for policy implementation that will simplify requirements for social services
• Allow family to make more informed choices about the array of social services available/eligible for, that will best meet the needs of their child and family
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Child Care Resource & Referral PD

- CCR&R state network office will work to create foundational and enhanced PD for referral specialists
- Built from national and identified best practices in FL within CCR&R, Help Me Grow, Head Start and other models
- Available across systems and disciplines to develop consistent, rigorous and responsive enhanced referrals

Equity Training

- Statewide training to build/guide understanding of equitable practices, how to meet the needs of underserved populations, and increase equitable access to quality ECE
Enhanced Consumer Education & Resources

- Increase translation of current CCR&R, VPK, SR resources
- Printing of updated family guide widely distributed for use during outreach activities
- Conduct family focus groups across state to inform current and future resources, feasibility study, mobile app design, vignettes and more!

Parent-Friendly Mobile App Design

- Conceptual design of mobile app/website that allows parents to easily access consumer education, quality information about selecting child care, provider profiles
Video Vignettes for Families

- Develop a series of short (~30-60 seconds) video vignettes on child development information for families
- Will be made available on Parent Portal, community websites, and shared broadly with partners that work with vulnerable children and families
- Filmed in multiple languages, culturally responsive
- Include topics such as promoting optimal child development, understanding child assessment and screening, father engagement, etc.
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Transition to Kindergarten

- Continuation of Transition to Kindergarten Workgroup
- Host regional Transition to Kindergarten Summits to promote local partnerships between early education and k-12 and to gather additional best practices that support successful transitions to kindergarten
- Expand Transition to Kindergarten website to host additional resources for families and providers
Mental Health Consultation

• Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH) has adopted an endorsement program to address gaps in the mental health workforce
• Office identified coaches to get endorsement to support the ECE workforce; however, gap was identified in capacity of reflective supervisors available to help coaches complete endorsement requirements
• Develop and implement plan to expand statewide capacity for mental health consultation reflective supervisors
• Plan will include considerations for long-term sustainability
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Professional Development Task Force

- Convene task force to improve best practices across PD opportunities for B-5 in FL’s mixed delivery system by:
  1. Improving coordination across existing PD opportunities
  2. Aligning PD with Early Learning Standards
  3. Identifying and implementing new designations
  4. Addressing articulation agreements
  5. Aligning credentials with wage supports
- Look at the “big picture” of PD
Early/Emergent Literacy

• Create additional PD and resources regarding early/emergent literacy that targets specific needs/gaps identified through kindergarten readiness screener

• Identify and procure for a train-the-trainer model tool for early literacy to build capacity statewide and support long-term sustainability
Core Competencies/Coaching and Mentoring

- Revise and align the FL Core Competencies for Early Care and Education to the national pathway established through NAEYC’s Power to the Profession campaign
- Strengthen competencies to incorporate evidence-based practices that translate into implementation
- Create statewide standards and best practices for coaches and mentors
- Align standards and best practices with existing recommendations across sectors of early childhood
- Will support articulation of FL’s PD into nationally recognized credentials and degrees
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ELPFP Cumulative Evaluation

• Evaluate progress achieved over the five-year investment in the Early Learning Performance Funding Project
• Identify most impactful interventions related to teacher growth and child progress
• Identify additional best practices for implementing child assessments
• Evaluate the gaps in program assessment scoring system
• Provide recommendations for strengthening School Readiness quality/accountability (HB 1091) initiatives
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Early Learning Coalition (ELC) Grants/Stipends

• ELCs will have opportunity to apply for local funding to support providers implementing child assessments

• Goal is to target best practices:
  - Technology supports (touch screen devices)
  - Provider training
  - Peer mentoring

• Provide stipends to practitioners for completing identified trainings that promote enhanced program quality aligned to CLASS and child assessment
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Early Care and Education Needs Assessment (ECENA) Expansion

• Develop and conduct an ongoing integration and analysis of statewide access and quality of early childhood care and education programs and services across sectors

• Develop and integrate an interactive cost-modeling tool that will allow providers to plan for costs associated with higher quality
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Key Dates:

• State Advisory Council
  • First meeting: May 13, 2019
  • Second meeting: June 3, 2019
• Complete Strategic Plan: July 31, 2019
• Complete Needs Assessment: July 31, 2019

*Potential for Renewal Grant – FOA anticipated August 2019