



Oregon's Preschool Development Grant

Preschool Development Grant

The federal Preschool Development Grant is a 12-month grant opportunity to build state and local infrastructure to deliver quality early childhood programs and establish stronger coordination and collaboration across program and sectors, including strong tribal partnerships.

The Grant required states to propose projects under five activities:

- Conducting a statewide needs assessment;
- Developing or refining a statewide strategic plan;
- Maximizing parental choice and knowledge;
- Sharing best practices among early childhood providers; and
- Improving the overall quality of early childhood education services.

The federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced awardees, with 45 states receiving this grant. ACF awarded all states amounts that represent 71% of their original requests. This includes an award of \$4.2 million to Oregon.

Oregon's Preschool Development Grant Proposal

Oregon applied for approximately \$6 million. ELD's application accelerates goals within the Governor's Children's Agenda and the Early Learning Council's recently adopted strategic plan, *Raise Up Oregon: A Statewide Early Learning System Plan*, and includes 1.5 FTE for grant coordination, data collection and contract administration.

The state goals for each of the five activities, and proposed projects under these goals are outlined on the next page. Projects center on work that is both critical and feasible within a one-year period to build the capacity of state and local partners integral to expansion of high-quality programming and successful transitions to kindergarten.

ELD's approach relies upon a strong network of partnerships throughout the Oregon early learning system. Key partners are noted for each project but may not represent the full range of partnerships required in order to complete the project. **In addition, the following proposed projects represent the revised award of \$4.2 million, which required reductions to the Oregon's application.**

Oregon's Preschool Development Grant Activities and Projects

Conducting a statewide needs assessment

Determine the reach of current programs in Oregon to the most historically underserved populations and the capacity of facilities to expand the reach of early care and education programs.

Convene a State Needs Assessment Advisory Committee with representatives from the ELC, Hubs, CCR&Rs, Tribal Nations, and state agency staff to advise on and refine research questions and provide feedback to contractor.

Contract with experts to work to assess research questions such as current reach of early learning programs, practices around blending, braiding, and stacking Federal, State, and Local early care and education funding, and status of facilities to identify necessary investments for expansion or programming improvement.

Developing or refining a statewide strategic plan

Incorporate data from needs assessment into Early Learning System Strategic Plan implementation.

Resources to develop work plans to implement the Strategic Plan.

Maximizing parental choice and knowledge

Maximize family choice and knowledge about Oregon's mixed delivery B-5 system and increase family involvement in transitions to school.

Pilot coordinated enrollment systems for publicly-funded programs and services with Hubs and Tribal communities by first providing resources to actively engage with families on their needs.

Accelerate OHA implementation of home visiting model by offering training and TA to communities.

Amend contract to expedite improvements to the Child Care Safety Portal to provide relevant and timely information.

Enhance family engagement in school transition by piloting a survey on prior ECE experiences and by supplementing the OKA to include a home language survey for families of Dual Language Learners.

Sharing best practices among early childhood providers

Share best practice among early childhood professionals – including teachers, administrators, and trainers/technical assistance providers – to increase collaboration and efficiency of services, including to improve transitions to school.

Host regional expert roundtables of program administrators who have successfully blended, braided or stacked funding. Documented findings will be developed into resources for administrators and provided along with TA in the future.

Fund Tribal partner(s) to develop a coaching model for culturally-responsive teaching and appropriate transitions for children and families, to be shared through Tribal partners with educator cohorts and eventually more districts.

Improving the overall quality of early childhood education services

Improve the Overall Quality of Early Care and Education for Children Birth-to-Five.

Provide small quality improvement grants to providers participating in new or existing FCCNs through CCR&Rs.

Pilot community plan development approach with a few Hubs to create toolkit for use in TA for all Hubs to create community plans for expansion of programming that meets the needs of families within their community. PDG funding will support dissemination of the toolkit and community plans.