

Department of Job and Family Services

Ohio received a 3-year Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Renewal Grant in December 2022. The following is a snapshot of this grant.

Summary of Planned Activities¹

► Maximize Parent and Family Engagement in the B-5 System

Ohio will expand upon existing vehicles to ensure parents receive information about available programs via the BOLD Beginning! website, using a two-generation approach to training and resources for families (Child Mind's Healthy Minds, Thriving Kids Preschool Project, Positive Parenting Program) and promoting nurturing parent-child interactions and protective factors. A cross-sector awareness training will be piloted with providers to expand use of the Ages & Stages Questionnaires into preschool. A special needs micro-credential will be launched for early childhood professionals with accompanying supports to connect families with programs that demonstrate high-quality care for kids with special needs. Finally, Ohio will conduct a feasibility study to include the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children into its combined eligibility system.

► Support the B-5 Workforce and Disseminate Best Practices

Ohio will establish an early childhood provider-business partnership to increase wages and improve recruitment and retention. Investments will be expanded for retention bonuses and Child Development Associate (CDA) and T.E.A.C.H. scholarships. Career pathways will be supported through practice-based coaching and mentoring and interdisciplinary professional development. Best practices for early childhood care and education (ECCE) professionals serving infants and toddlers will be created to enable mentoring opportunities, professional growth, and to meet certificate requirements. Strategies will be employed to improve recruitment and retention and apply trauma-informed approaches to reduce suspension and expulsion. ECCE professionals will continue to be able to pursue a three-tiered trauma-informed credential and a new inclusion micro-credential. Ohio will also launch a shared services pilot.

► Support Program Quality Improvement

Ohio will create grants to expand inclusive settings by increasing the capacity of therapeutic childcare programs for children with social and emotional development needs, using a data match to target placement. Both the LUNA and LENA Grow projects will be expanded.

Additionally, the early childhood quality standards will be cross walked with Early Head Start and Head Start programs and a continuous quality improvement approach will be implemented. Administrative burden will be reduced by ensuring the quality standards are relevant, necessary, and have demonstrated impact for preparing children for kindergarten. A fund will be created to reward providers with high licensing compliance with incentives like capital investments and retention bonuses, facility updates and improvements, and ongoing maintenance.

Data sharing will be strengthened by expanding unique identifier use to Head Start programs and by establishing a priority analytics dashboard to identify factors that signal increased risk of not being kindergarten ready to provide supports.

► Subgrants to Enhance Quality and Expand Access to Existing and New Programs

Option A – Grants will be targeted to areas in need of new programs or expanded capacity (focusing on rural, low-income children, and infants/toddlers).

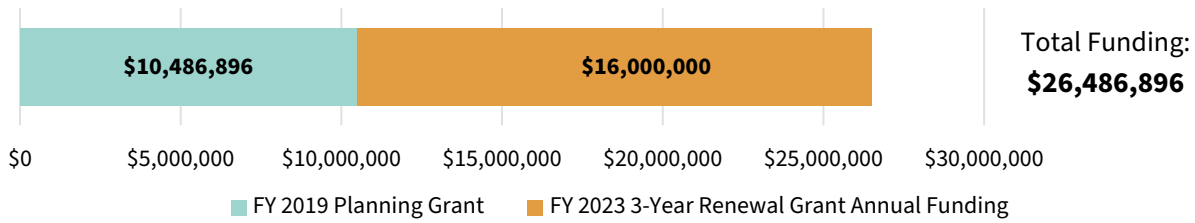
Option B – New programs will be created to serve underserved populations via facility accommodations, training, and lower ratios.

PDG B-5 Partners

- Ohio Head Start Association
- Groundwork Ohio

¹ These activities are in addition to Ohio updating its Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan.

Total Federal PDG B-5 Grant Funding Through December 2022



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