

Department of Human Services

Oklahoma 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

Oklahoma will develop coordinated messaging to build families' knowledge, embed supports, and pilot activities to enhance coordination and efficiency. A public awareness and engagement plan will identify touchpoints with families to learn about their experiences, which includes local-level campaigns to implement the engagement plan through training and technical assistance. Oklahoma will have family support specialists embedded in eight regional Child Care Resource & Referral centers (CCR&Rs) to work with early childhood care and education (ECCE) programs, service providers, and other organizations to connect families to services. A Local-State Partnership Program will be developed to advance local-level early childhood systems collaboration. It will include coordination of services, coordinated enrollment, transition support, and family outreach and engagement and will be piloted in three communities (one tribal). Funding will also be allocated to the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Innovation Pilot in four counties to integrate administrative data measuring social and structural determinants of health into home visiting data to better assess existing disparities, measure progress toward health equity, and connect home visiting clients with resources and referrals to critical social supports. Finally, Oklahoma will implement a coordinated Application, Eligibility, and Enrollment for Families Pilot with three communities in an effort to include a single eligibility platform, an individual-focused data model, and an interagency data-sharing platform.

► Support the B-5 Workforce and Disseminate Best Practices

Oklahoma supports a qualified, well-compensated, and trained ECCE workforce, particularly around trauma-informed care, which includes Pyramid Model implementation at 30 Oklahoma Early Childhood Program sites and 50 center-/home-based programs, adding 25–30 high-quality Pyramid Model trainers and coaches and partnering with families to enhance skills and strategies. To plan for early childhood transitions, Oklahoma will implement the Second Annual Early Childhood Transition Summit to ensure that all families, along with the ECCE and elementary education workforces, are prepared to support children's transitions, expanding to rural communities. Funding will also expand developmental monitoring resources and support for early care and learning providers to childcare providers and tribal communities to receive training and support on developmental monitoring. This increased awareness and knowledge regarding the importance of screening and referrals includes an informational campaign.

Oklahoma will also expand Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation for seamless, high-quality, cost-effective services that address urgent health and mental health needs with eight full-time regional consultants and a fee-for-service delivery structure tied to centralized training hubs. To support recruitment, compensation, and retention of the ECCE workforce, Oklahoma will begin offering childcare provider benefits of categorical eligibility for subsidized childcare in three local pilot communities. Telemedicine and telehealth will extend pandemic categorical eligibility for subsidized childcare in local partnership program sites.

► Support Program Quality Improvement

The Expansion Project Inventory (ELI) will allow Oklahoma to collect data on kindergarten readiness and better inform local and state policies regarding early childhood education. ELI will also provide kindergarten and first-grade teachers access to an online training module that covers best practices in observational formative assessments and guidance on how to use the Oklahoma ELI rubric and data dashboard to plan for instruction and communicate student progress with families. Training and support, including teacher coaching, will extend to school districts willing to implement pre-K and kindergarten ELIs.

Part C Data Equity Specialization will be supported through a partnership with SoonerStart, the state's early intervention provider. This will allow SoonerStart to conduct new data analysis, with an intentional focus on equity to ensure that the children who will benefit from SoonerStart are identified and receive services.

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

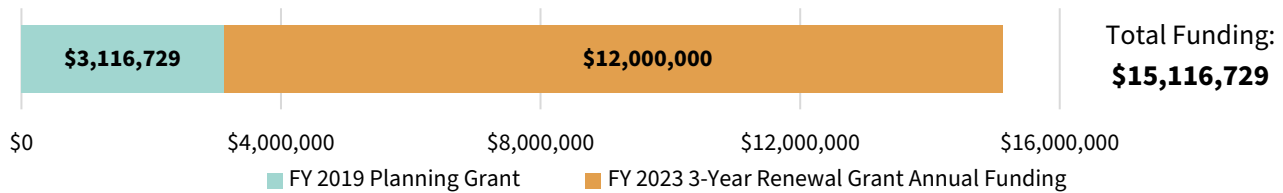
Oklahoma will administer two types of subgrants to enhance quality and expand access through the Childcare Desert Grants and Exceptional Needs Reimbursement Grants. For existing programs to receive the Childcare Desert Grants they must exist in an identified childcare desert and be interested in expanding their capacity.

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

PDG B-5 Partners

- ▶ Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness
- ▶ Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth
- ▶ Oklahoma State Department of Education
- ▶ Oklahoma Head Start Collaboration Office

Total Federal PDG B-5 Grant Funding Through December 2022



Funded by the US Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families' Office of Early Childhood Development with joint administration of PDG B-5 by this Office and by the Office of Innovation and Early Learning, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education. GSA Contract Number: 47QTCA1800KV.