

# Preschool Development Birth to Five Renewal Grant

## Preschool Development B-5 Renewal Grant (PGD B-5) Overview:

The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (ND HHS) has been awarded the Preschool Development Birth to Five Renewal Grant. The grant awards \$6.85 million in the first year with an additional amount each of the subsequent years, and builds on the work begun with the original 2018 Preschool Development B-5 Grant, awarded to the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. PDG B-5 Renewal Grant activities will be coordinated by the Early Childhood section of ND HHS (HHS-EC). The vision driving the grant activities is that *every direct care provider in every setting in every area of the state is well prepared to support every child in their care*. North Dakota's goal is for all children and families to have access to quality early care in all programs settings, supported by a well-aligned state system that is responsive to and supportive of both families and the early childhood workforce.

PDG B-5 Renewal grant activities were written and designed to align with Governor Doug Burgum's 2023 legislative proposal focused on making a meaningful impact for children, parents, and businesses over the 2023-25 biennium, with a focus on three pillars for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE): affordability, availability, and quality of child care services. The grant places special emphasis on the ECCE workforce, recognizing that a competent and stable workforce is the foundation that makes all other strategies work. Grant activities will include the following:

- Update and revise the state's Early Childhood needs assessment and Early Childhood Strategic Plan to reflect current realities and to establish shared vision and goals
- Update and revise the Family Engagement Study, and establish an easily accessible "hub" for families seeking resources, support, and referrals for their children to include an expanded child care referral system that is inclusive of all mixed delivery child care as well as supports for families with children transitioning to kindergarten
- Revise and update standards that define and guide the ECCE workforce, to include practitioner, licenser, and coach competencies, and align these standards with nationally recognized ECCE standards and North Dakota higher education Early Childhood degree requirements
- Establish progressive ECCE Career Pathways leading to demonstrated competency and recognized professional qualifications
- Expand professional development opportunities and support for the ECCE workforce, to include evidence-based training and training specific to supporting children's health and well-being, and to work with North Dakota higher education institutions to develop badges and stackable credentials leading to degrees in Early Childhood
- Establish a comprehensive network of well-training coaches available to support Early Childhood programs and practitioners
- Implement a Universal Quality Improvement System (QIS) across all state sponsored initiatives to ensure consistency and alignment of service delivery
- Develop a system of data analysis and reporting to inform policy and decision making

To read the full PDG B-5 Renewal Grant, please visit <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/cfs/early-childhood-services/pdgb5>.