PDG B-5 SMART (Strategic Measurement, Analytics, and Results Using Technology)

Early Childhood Advisory Council

Office of Early Learning and Development
Nevada Department of Education

Agenda –

- Agenda Item Considerations
- Current Progress
- PDG B-5 SMART Overview
- NOFO Overview
- Federal TA to Keep in Mind
- Discussion

Current Progress

Master Grant Development Plan → Request for Information → Project Development, Ideas & Connections → PDG B-5 Online Platform → ECAC Subcommittees & Agendized Items → Community Idea Exchanges

Our Next Opportunity: PDG B-5 SMART

The Federal PDG B-5 SMART (Strategic Measurement, Analytics, and Results using Technology) Notice of Funding Opportunity is live and applications are due November 20, 2026! Please engage using the buttons below.

Grant at a Glance

Engagement Opportunities

Share Your Ideas

Resources

- https://bit.ly/nevadaPDGB-5

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Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five SMART Overview

Administration for Children and Families

Office of Early Childhood Development

US DHHS

Federal Grant

$15 Million Ceiling

12 Months

December 31, 2026 -- December 30, 2027

Options

2

1. Technology infrastructure investment
2. Innovation testing investment

Goal & Focus

1

One specific, state-defined ECE goal or objective

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Program Description:

ACF Priority Alignment

Purpose:

- Technical infrastructure
- Established, data-informed perspective
- Support strategies that
    - increase participation in the mixed-delivery system
    - Improve program quality while maintaining availability of services
    - Strengthen and expand parental choice among available programs
    - Improve school readiness, particularly for children from low-income and middle-income families, including by supporting successful transitions to elementary school

PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT BIRTH THROUGH FIVE
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Program Description:

Meaningful use of results beyond grant period:

- Bolstering supply
- Building capacity
- Generating efficiencies
- Strengthening linkages
- Addressing access and affordability

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Option 1: Technology Infrastructure Investment

Support focused, achievable investments in technology infrastructure, specifically systems that support program oversight and operations or tools that can be used to analyze aggregated data.

Example Systems: Data systems, data linkages, dashboards, reporting tools, analytic tools, and related technology infrastructure.

One defined, data informed state goal: Build or strengthen technology infrastructure that advance data collection or utilization towards a specific state-defined ECE goal or objective.

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Option 1: Technology Infrastructure Investment

Intention:

- Operate more effectively
- Improve access for parents to choose providers
- Collect & use high-quality data
- Improve coordination across programs & funding streams
- Generate information to advance state's goal

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Option 1: Technology Infrastructure Investment

Investment:

- Purpose
- Selection
- Cross-system connection
- Design

Performance Measures:

- Measurable outputs
- Findings and use of results

Federal TA to Keep in Mind

ONE OPTION

- Select one investment option.
- Choose the Grants.gov package or competition title that reflects that priority area.
- Use the selected option consistently across the application.

ONE STATE GOAL

- State one broader, data-informed system goal.
- Describe the specific need, gap, or opportunity within that goal.
- Connect every activity, measure, and cost back to it.

ONE-YEAR SCOPE

- Propose focused work feasible in 12 months.
- Show implementation, measurable progress, and usable findings.
- SMART is not a strategic planning grant.

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Narrative:
One State Goal - Four Cross-System Expectations

The state goal organizes the project. The application must also explain the project's connection to each cross-system expectation.

THE STATE GOAL

- A broader, data-informed system-level result the investment will advance.
- Grounded in state plans, needs assessments, data, evidence, and leadership priorities.
- Examples: improve coordination or decision-making; identify service gaps; inform funding; improve access or outcomes.
- State the goal once, then describe the specific need or gap within it.

HEAD START INTEGRATION

Deepen integration of Head Start and Early Head Start with child care and other ECE programs.

PROGRAM INTEGRITY

Prevent, detect, monitor, or respond to risks and support effective administration of funds.

UNDUPLICATED COUNTS

Identify unique children served and understand movement through the mixed-delivery system.

CHILD WELFARE COORDINATION

Identify, reach, and coordinate services for children and families involved with child welfare system, including children in foster care and families experiencing homelessness

If an expectation is not directly applicable to a specific activity, explain how the overall project will support or strengthen that area.

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Use Measurement Terms Consistently

ACF does not prescribe a standard measure set. Applicants must propose project-specific measures that fit the option, activities, and one-year scope.

OUTPUTS	DATA POINTS / MEASURES	TARGETS	OUTCOMES / FINDINGS
Products and implementation accomplishments completed during the project period.	The information used to track implementation, progress, and results.	The amount, percentage, quality threshold, or completion date the project intends to achieve.	The short-term change or insight generated and how decision-makers will use it.

OPTION 1 Examples

- Infrastructure outputs and targets
- Expected outcomes and tangible progress toward the state goal
- Feasible findings or insights that support future decisions

OPTION 2 Examples

- Implementation outputs, participation, and fidelity
- Short-term outcomes and data points from the learning design
- Findings used to sustain, scale, modify, or discontinue

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Option 1 at a Glance

A responsive Option 1 project names the specific infrastructure gap, the intended users, and the usable result that will exist by the end of the year.

QUALIFYING SCOPE

- Operational or data systems; data linkages; dashboards; reporting or analytic tools; interoperability; related infrastructure.
- Capacity-building that is directly tied to maximizing use of the new or strengthened technology.

REQUIRED DESIGN

- Build or strengthen statewide infrastructure.
- Build state-level capacity to use it effectively.
- Identify intended users and how the information will support decisions.

IDENTIFY WHO MAY USE IT

- State or agency staff, program leaders, partner agencies, providers, families, educators, or other defined users.
- Wide and effective use means use by the intended users; expanding the user base may be optional.

WHAT IS NOT ENOUGH

- A general IT modernization request.
- A full inventory of every state system.
- A tool without a defined purpose, users, data-quality plan, adoption strategy, and decision use.

For Discussion:

Proposed Investment & Usable Results (NOFO pp. 14–15, 31–32)

User Adoption & Capacity Building: Who are the primary intended users of the technology or data findings, and what training, technical assistance, or governance structures are required to ensure meaningful use rather than mere system availability?

For Discussion:

Cross-System Program Alignment (NOFO pp. 14–15, 31–32)

Cross-System Expectations: How does the proposed infrastructure investment support or contribute to:

- Head Start / Early Head Start integration?
- Program integrity, risk monitoring, and effective administration of early childhood funds?
- Unique and unduplicated counts of children served across programs?
- Coordination for children and families involved with child welfare or foster care?

For Discussion:

Performance Evaluation & CQI (NOFO pp. 15–16, 33–34)

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI): How, when, and by whom will performance data and preliminary analytic findings be reviewed to drive continuous improvement during the award period and inform future state policy or budget decisions?