



# Strengthening Montana's Early Childhood System Project

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Grant

Strategic Plan & Renewal Grant

Discussion with Best Beginnings Advisory Council

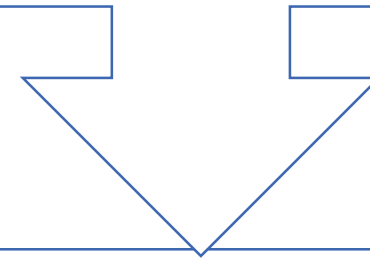
November 14, 2019

# Strategic Plan

Vision, Mission, Goals,  
Objectives, Strategies

# Montana's early childhood system

**Mission:** Strengthen Montana's comprehensive early childhood system to enhance early learning and development, health, and family support and engagement



**Vision:** Children from birth to age five have the skills and knowledge they need to achieve their full potential in life

# Early childhood system goals

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1. Increase access to and participation in high quality ECE across a mixed delivery system

2. Montana has a confident and effective early childhood workforce

3. The early childhood system is coordinated to support effective family assessment, system navigation, care coordination, and use of data

4. Families are engaged and valued as partners in the early childhood system

5. Communities make early childhood a priority, and act to support children's health, learning, and well-being

6. Montana's early childhood system is structured to support policy alignment, strategic financing, continuous improvement, and accountability

# Goal 1: Increase access to and participation in high quality early care and education (ECE) across a mixed delivery system

Objective 1.1	Increase ECE provider capacity statewide, with specific focus on underserved cohorts and regions
Objective 1.2	Increase family access to high quality, affordable ECE, with specific focus on underserved cohorts and regions
Objective 1.3	Increase number of licensed providers
Objective 1.4	Continue to improve STARS to Quality QRIS infrastructure and increase provider participation
Objective 1.5	Increase access to and quality of facilities for ECE provider

## Goal 2: Montana has a confident and effective early childhood workforce

Objective 2.1

Enhance ECE professional development

Goal 3: The early childhood system is coordinated to support effective family assessment, system navigation, care coordination, and use of data

Objective 3.1	Increase developmental screening of children using ASQ/ASQ-SE
Objective 3.2	Improve system navigation and coordination of early childhood services and supports
Objective 3.3	Improve transitions to kindergarten for children, families, and educators
Objective 3.4	Improve data systems to support effective decision-making

## Goal 4: Families are engaged and valued as partners in the early childhood system

Objective 4.1	Increase family awareness of early childhood learning, development, and health
Objective 4.2	Enhance and extend family engagement throughout early childhood system



# Goal 5: Communities make early childhood a priority, and act to support children's health, learning, and well-being

Objective 5.1

Increase public understanding of and commitment to early childhood

Goal 6: Montana's early childhood system is structured to support policy alignment, strategic financing, continuous improvement, and accountability

Objective 6.1

Enhance early childhood system governance structure at state and local levels

# Prioritize objectives (results)

Objective	High Priority	Medium	Low
1.1 Increase ECE provider capacity statewide, with specific focus on underserved cohorts and regions (n=48)	36 (75.0%)	11 (29%)	1 (2.1%)
1.2 Increase family access to high quality, affordable ECE, with specific focus on underserved cohorts and regions (n=48)	40 (83.3%)	7 (14.6%)	1 (2.1%)
1.3 Increase number of licensed providers (n=48)	35 (72.9%)	11 (29%)	2 (4.2%)
1.4 Continue to improve STARS to Quality QRIS infrastructure and increase provider participation (n=48)	15 (31.3%)	27 (56.3%)	6 (12.5%)
1.5 Increase access to and quality of facilities for ECE provider	27 (56.3%)	20 (41.7%)	1 (2.1%)
2.1 Enhance ECE professional development (n=47)	31 (66.0%)	15 (31.9%)	1 (2.1%)
3.1 Increase developmental screening of children using ASQ/ASQ-SE (n=47)	18 (38.3%)	23 (48.9%)	6 (12.8%)
3.2 Improve system navigation and coordination of early childhood services and supports (n=47)	27 (57.4%)	15 (31.9%)	5 (10.6%)

# Prioritize objectives (results cont'd)

Objective	High Priority	Medium	Low
3.3 Improve transitions to kindergarten for children, families, and educators (n=48)	28 (58.3%)	15 (31.3%)	5 (10.4%)
3.4 Improve data systems to support effective decision-making (n=47)	25 (53.2%)	20 (42.6%)	2 (4.3%)
4.1 Increase family awareness of early childhood learning, development, and health (n=47)	36 (76.6%)	8 (17.0%)	3 (6.4%)
4.2 Enhance and extend family engagement throughout early childhood system (n=47)	27 (57.4%)	17 (36.2%)	3 (6.4%)
5.1 Increase public understanding of and commitment to early childhood (n=47)	36 (76.6%)	8 (17.0%)	3 (6.4%)
6.1 Enhance early childhood system governance structure at state and local levels (n=47)	17 (36.2%)	23 (48.9%)	7 (14.9%)

# Preschool Development Birth through Five

Renewal Grant

# Renewal grant project overview



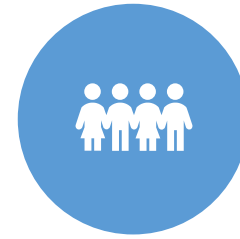
3-YEAR GRANT  
(CALENDAR  
YEARS 2020-  
2022)



ESTIMATE 23  
STATES TO BE  
FUNDED



FEDERAL SHARE  
MAXIMUM :  
\$10 MILLION  
STATE MATCH:  
\$3 MILLION



FOCUS ON  
STRENGTHENING  
EARLY  
CHILDHOOD  
SYSTEMS



SIX ACTIVITIES:

- 1) NEEDS ASSESSMENT
- 2) STRATEGIC PLANNING
- 3) FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
- 4) EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE PD
- 5) ACCESS, QUALITY, SERVICE INTEGRATION
- 6) MONITORING, EVALUATION, DATA USE FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

# Expected outcomes

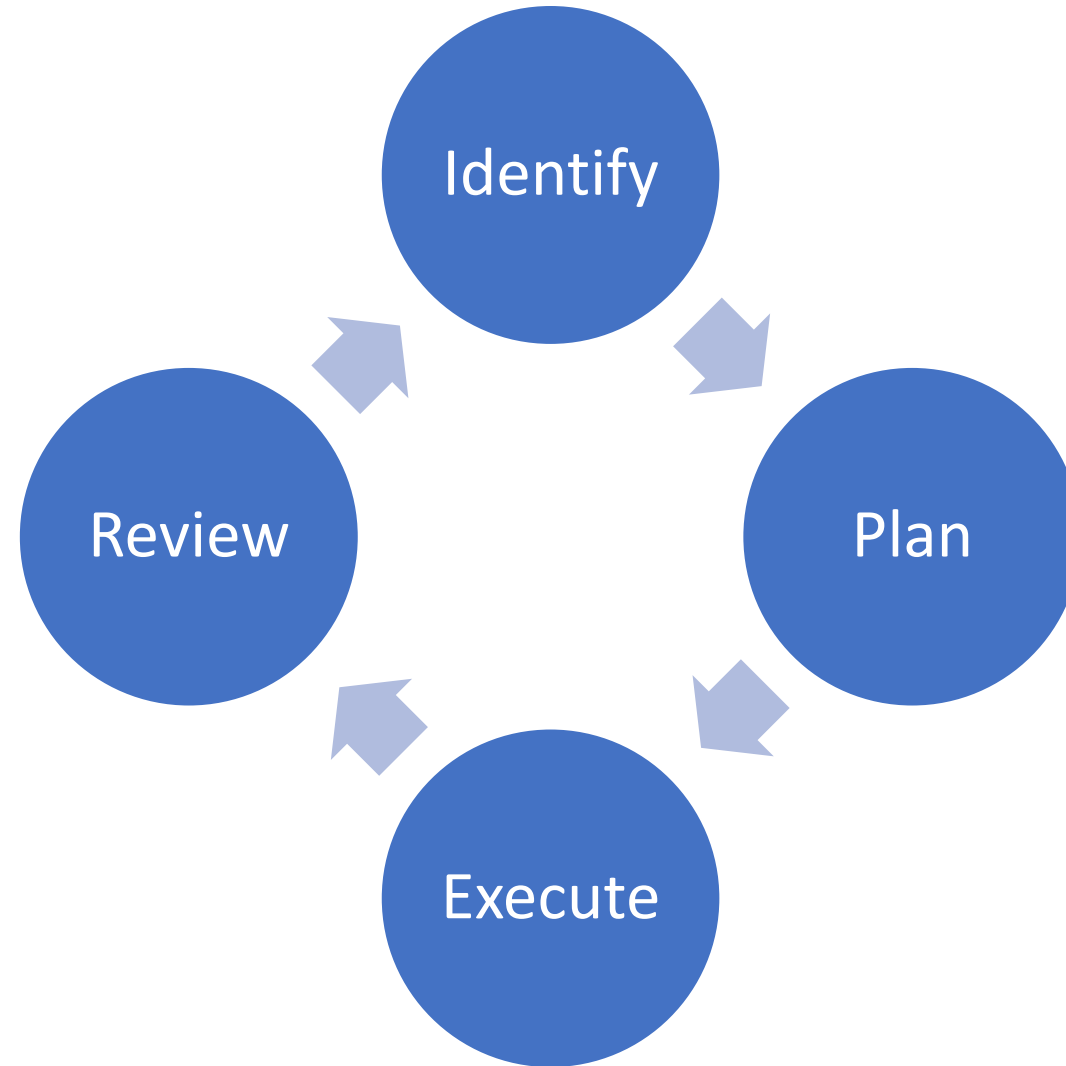
1. Montana's families with young children have increased access to, and participation in high quality early care and education across a mixed delivery system
2. Montana's early childhood workforce is confident and effective, due to enhanced ECE professional development
3. The early childhood system is coordinated to support effective family assessment, system navigation, care coordination, and use of data
4. Montana's families are engaged and valued as partners in the early childhood system
5. Montana's communities make early childhood a priority, and act to support children's health, learning, and well-being
6. Montana's early childhood system is structured to support policy alignment, strategic financing, continuous improvement, and accountability

# Needs Assessment & Strategic Plan

Activities 1 & 2



# Needs assessment & strategic plan



# Maximizing Parent and Family Knowledge, Choice, and Engagement in their Child's Early Learning and Development

## Activity 3

# Family engagement – continuing tasks

- Family engagement framework implementation
- Local early childhood coalition support
- Parentingmontana.org
- Virtual one-stop-shop development and implementation
- Marketing campaign
- Developmental screening
- Family advocacy training and summits (MTHSA)
- Kindergarten transition and readiness

# Family engagement – new tasks

- Parent Partner Program expansion
- Home visiting continuum development
- First Years Initiative expansion
- CCRR family engagement specialists
- Child Find screening expansion
- Mobile resource center pilot

# Sharing Best Practices and PD for the Early Childhood Workforce

Activity 4

# Professional development – continuing tasks

- Coaching competency and certification development
- Continued PD for home-based ECE providers (i.e. learning communities)
- Knowledge base revisions
- Practitioner registry expansion
- Cultural competency PD
- Family Forward Montana support
- Annual business-ECE summit
- Business support for ECE providers

# Professional development – new tasks

- Infant early childhood mental health consultation expansion
- Implementation of IDEA Part C support with ECE providers
- STARS to Quality expansion
- Apprenticeship/pre-apprenticeship expansion
- PD content creation and approval process changes
- Micro-center hub model pilot
- ECE cooperative toolkit
- Specialized PD content development

Improving Overall  
Quality and Service  
Integration, Expanding  
Access, and Developing  
New Programs

Activity 5



# Access, coordination, quality – continuing tasks

- Local early childhood coalition support

# Access, coordination, quality – new tasks

- Increased/new direct support to ECE programs and families
  - Start up, expansion, and emergency grants
  - Part C collaboration model stipend
  - EHS-CC Partnership model stipend
  - STARS to Quality incentives
  - Co-pay assistance

# Monitoring, Evaluation, and Data Use for Continuous Improvement

Activity 6

# Monitoring, evaluation, and data use – continuing tasks

- Montana Program for Automating and Transforming Healthcare (MPATH) infrastructure expansion
  - Unique identifiers
  - Unduplicated count of children

# Monitoring, evaluation, and data use – new tasks

- Program performance evaluation plan implementation

Questions

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