

## FLORIDA PRESCHOOL DEVELOP GRANT B-5 PROJECT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

Through the PDG B-5 grant, Florida will move towards increasing the quality, alignment and efficiency of Florida's early childhood care and education programs and services to support families' needs, children's readiness and early grade success, particularly vulnerable and underserved children.

**Needs to address:** (1) Families do not have equitable access to quality early childhood care and education programs statewide; (2) Families have difficulty navigating multiple social services, being informed consumers, and fully engaging as partners with early childhood care and education programs in children's development; (3) There is significant local variance in the percentage of children served and subsidy rates. Limited funding, unmet need, and local delivery create widely different local priorities and, therefore, widely different levels of quality for families; (4) With increased accountability and use of program assessment statewide, there is inconsistent access to effective quality supports for providers; and (5) Transitions into kindergarten are uneven, and collaboration between the early childhood care and education system and local school systems is inconsistent.

**Proposed services.** Florida's PDG B-5 proposes the following:

- To build on our statewide needs assessment portal to enable better assessment needs, access, and quality for informed data-driven policy solutions;
- Create comprehensive statewide early childhood care and education mixed delivery system strategic plan;
- To streamline policies and enrollment processes, improve access and availability of high quality early childhood care and education programs and services for families, increase family engagement, and provide high quality consumer education for families across funding streams, programs, and services; and
- To increase access to effective early childhood care and education quality improvement strategies by developing standards for and expanded access to professional development, coaching and related supports that improve kindergarten readiness and early grade success.

**Population groups to be served.** Florida's children B – 5, particularly children who are vulnerable or underserved.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

**Improve Data-Driven System Coordination:** to be responsive to the needs of children, families, early childhood care and education providers, and community and state family service partners, Florida will build on the existing needs assessment data portal and *Index to Child Care Access* and to align data systems and develop enhanced tools that will provide interactive, vital information on capacity, affordability, quality, and financing for early childhood care and education to inform data-driven decision-making. Florida will also conduct a feasibility study for creating a single point of entry to streamline requirements for families and will identify and implement policies to simplify requirements for social services.

**Increase Family Access and Engagement:** to better serve all families with high quality early childhood care and education programs and services, particularly vulnerable and underserved populations. The crosscutting concept throughout all priorities is to focus on families in their current situation. The goal is to create a system that encourages culturally sensitive, trauma-responsive family engagement and care. Florida will build out online resources that will increase consumer education on early childhood care and education programs, privatized access to child screening and assessment data that will provide important information on children's development, and other resources that support increased family engagement.

**Create a High-quality Comprehensive System of Early Childhood Care and Education:** to balance the diverse mixed-delivery system with maximizing resources and leveraging funding, Florida will increase education and credentialing for early childhood care and education professionals and align and increase availability of current best practices statewide. This will include cross system, cross discipline opportunities for shared professional development, communities of practice, and supports for existing networks to strengthen quality, particularly for vulnerable children. Florida will place specialized emphasis on family engagement, supporting the needs of unique learning populations, including dual language learners and children with disabilities, and increasing school readiness for all children. Development of a comprehensive strategic plan will result in streamlined policies, budgets, and alignment of systems, creating efficiencies to maximize funding and resources and improve opportunities.

**Vision:** Florida’s vision is to increase the quality, alignment, and efficiency of Florida’s early childhood care and education programs and services to support families’ needs, children’s readiness and early grade success, particularly vulnerable and underserved children.

**Goal:** 1. Improve data-driven system coordination 2. Increase family access and engagement 3. Create a high-quality comprehensive system of early childhood care and education

