

Children's Cabinet

January 24, 2023

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Vote on adoption of December meeting minutes
- FY24 Children's Budget
- Children's Cabinet Meeting topics
- New PDG Grant Overview
- Public Comment
- Adjournment

FY24 Children's Budget Overview

January 24, 2023

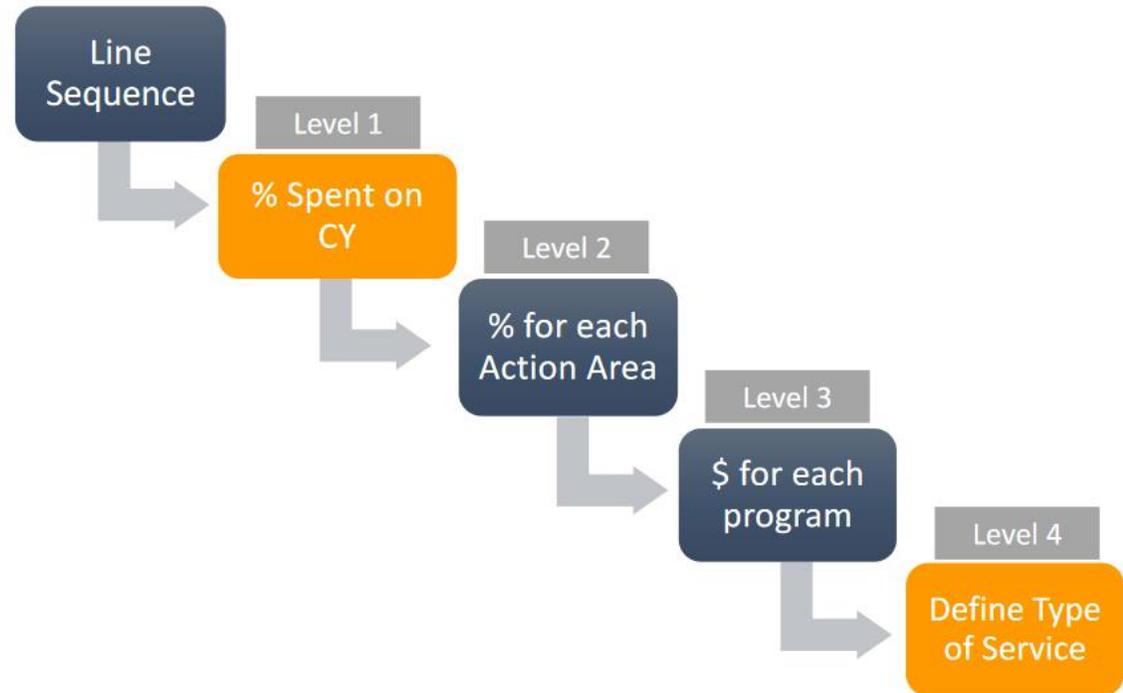
**RHODE
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Children's Budget Overview

Overview

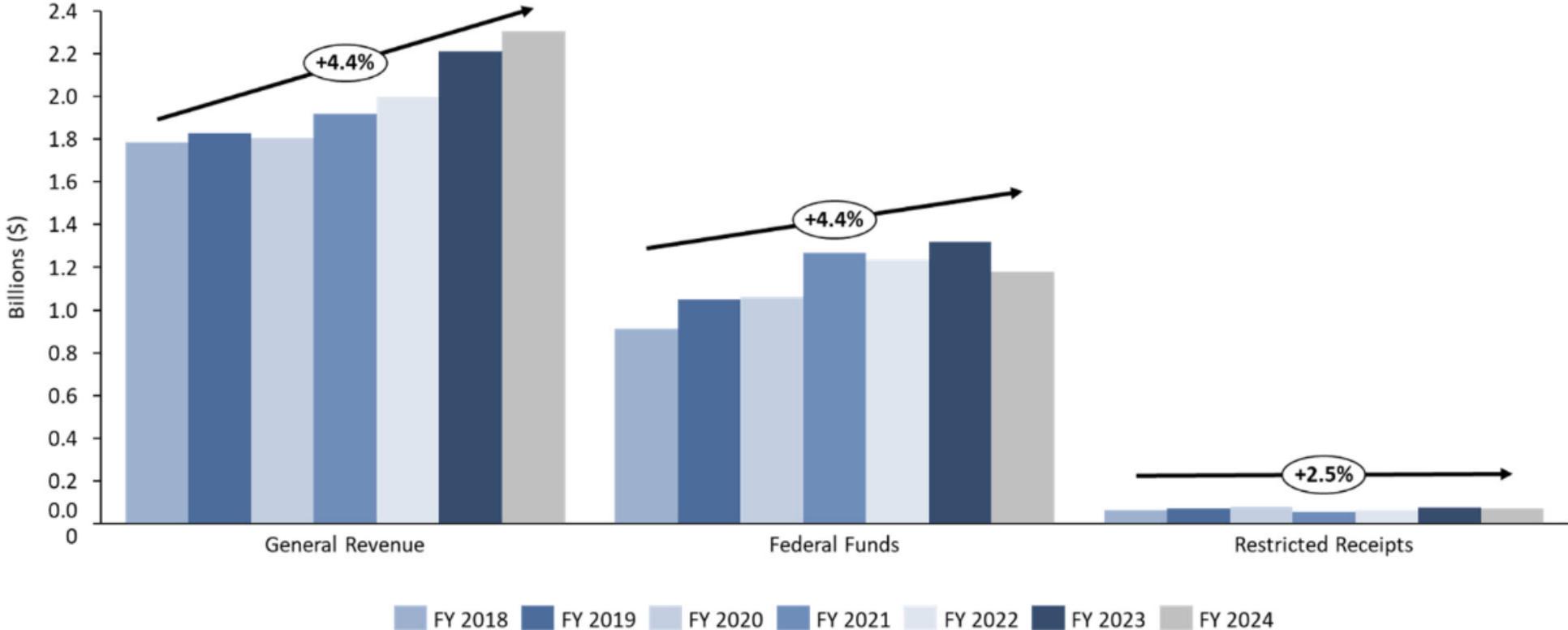
- The Children's Cabinet is charged to develop an annual children's budget across Cabinet agencies
- Since 2018, the Cabinet has conducted a scan of all investments across agencies to identify investments in the key desired outcome areas for the Children's Cabinet
- This scan has allowed us to understand trends in investment year over year for children
- Of note, the scan is based on best estimates from agencies – it should be considered directional to allow for further discussion and consideration

Analysis Approach



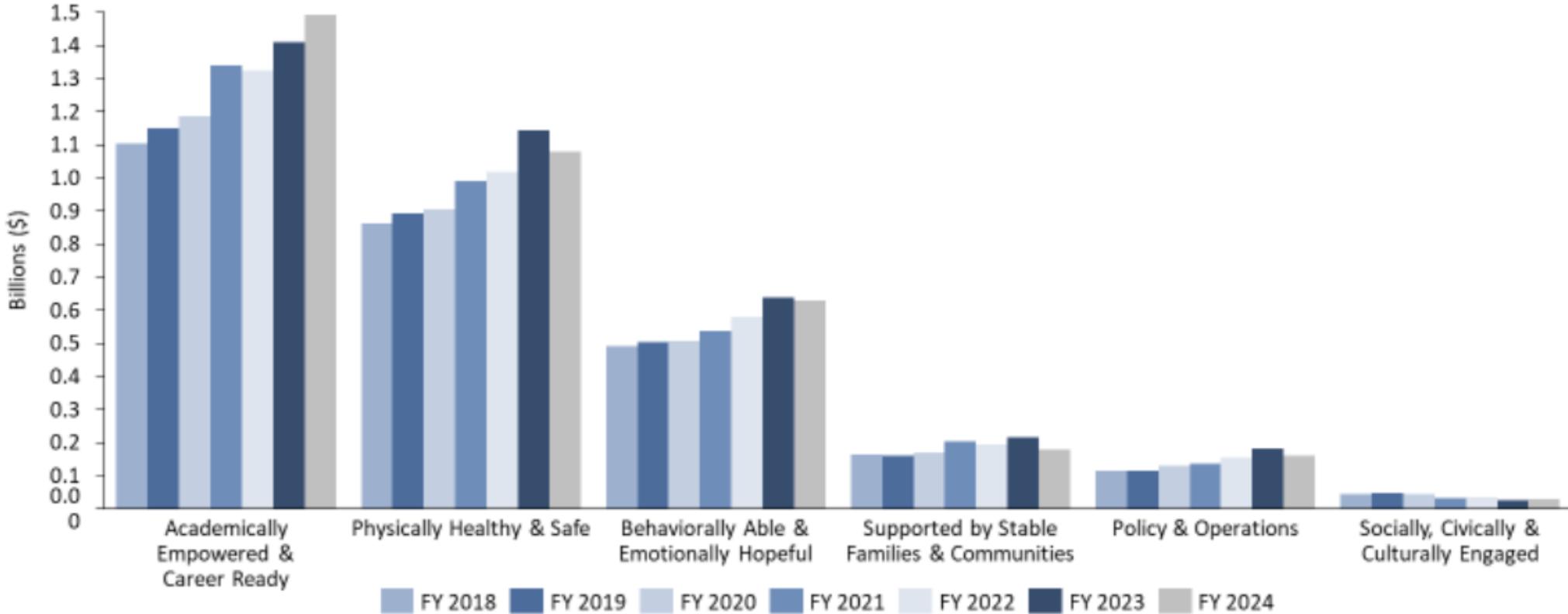
Investments by Fund Source

Graph A: Children and Youth Investments by Fund Source, FY 2018 – FY 2024



Investments by Desired Outcome Area

Graph B: Investments in Children and Youth by Desired Outcome Area, FY 2018 – FY 2024



Discussion

- Highlights in the FY24 Budget
- Areas for ongoing exploration in the Children's Budget

Children's Cabinet Meeting Agendas

Discussion: Children's Cabinet meetings in 2023

We want Children's Cabinet meetings to be meaningful time for engaging on issues that cross agency lines related to children and families. In addition to continuing to focus on our core projects of Early Childhood and the Children's Behavioral Health System of Care:

- What discussion items or topics would you like to see Cabinet meetings focused on in 2023?
- How can the format of the Children's Cabinet better support interagency collaboration and addressing issues that cross agency lines?



RI's Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Planning Grant

January 24, 2023

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Agenda

Objective: *provide an overview of the newly awarded Preschool Development Grant–Planning (PDG-Planning) funds.*

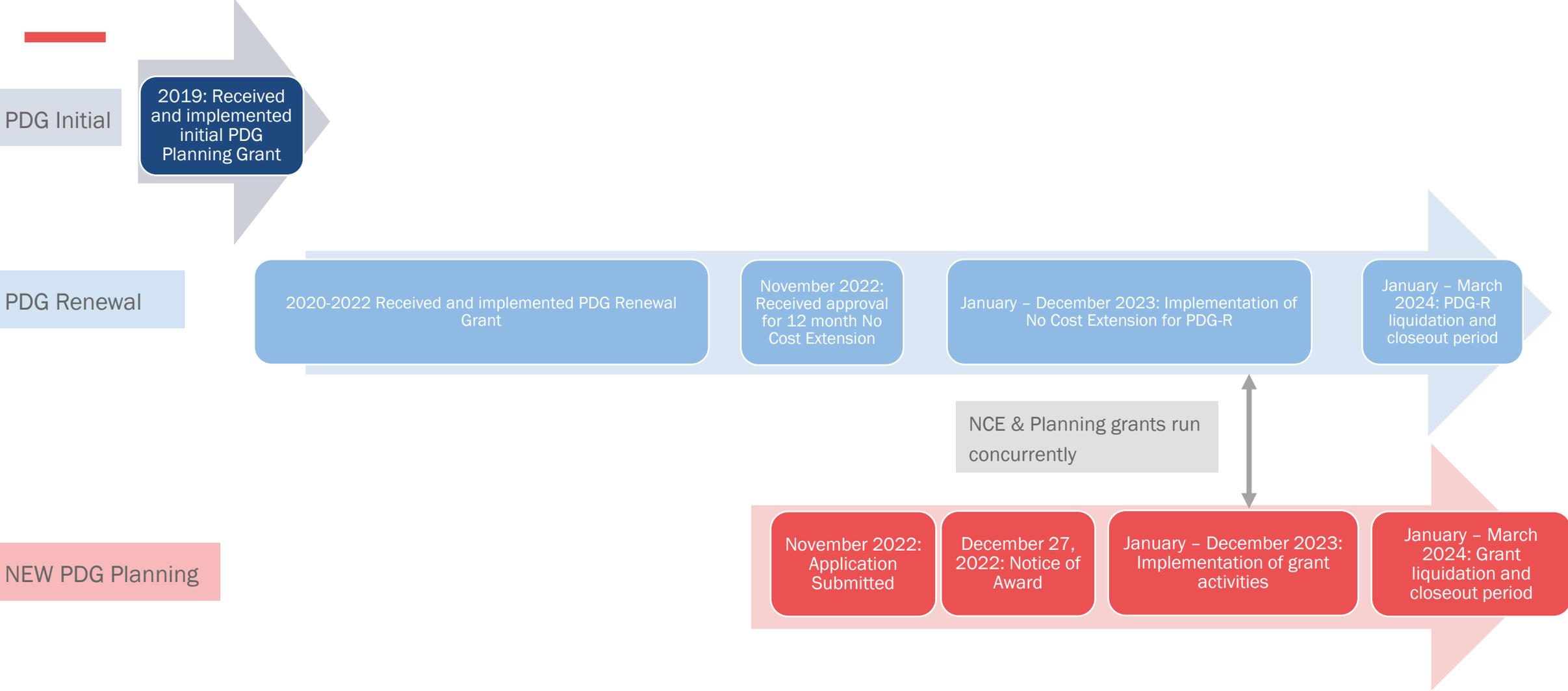
1. Overview of the grant
2. Recap of RI's approved activities
3. Next Steps

RI received funding from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) as part of the PDG Planning Grant opportunity. Grant funds will support activities that complement – but are distinct from – the current PDG-Renewal Grant.

PDG opportunities follow RI’s successful implementation of other federal grant opportunities, including Race to the Top, as well as continued and dedicated state and community partnerships.

Goals of PDG-Planning, as outlined in ACF’s notice of grant	Allowable Uses of PDG-Planning	Differences from Current PDG-Renewal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance coordination of state early learning systems • Ensure families have knowledge and choice within the system • With the realities of Covid, encourage states to continue strategic planning efforts B-5 system • Emphasis on supporting the ECCE workforce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing and planning to advance our state early childhood system • Encouraged states to consider meaningful workforce supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot pay for certain kinds of direct services, including seats • One year grant • Focus on needs assessment and strategic planning
<p>Pending continued funding from ACF, we anticipate this PDG Planning Grant will allow us to be eligible to apply for future renewal grants</p>		

PDG-Planning activities will run concurrently with PDG-Renewal No Cost Extension Year



RI's application includes funding for 14 activities that responded to ACF's funding opportunity, which had six key categories.

The PDG-Planning opportunity activities are closely aligned to the previous PDG opportunities, with a focus on responding to Covid and the workforce.

1. Conduct or update comprehensive statewide birth – five needs assessment
2. Develop or update comprehensive statewide birth – five strategic plan
3. Maximize parent and family engagement in the birth – five system
4. Support the birth – five workforce and disseminate best practices
5. Support program quality improvement
6. Program performance evaluation

The RI state team is working collaboratively to scope each project and determine appropriate next steps for implementation.

Activity	Agency	Item
1.1	RIDE	MLL Needs Assessment
1.2	DHS	Wage study + recommendations
2.1	EOHHS	Infant/toddler Mental Health Planning
2.2	RIDOH/DHS/ RIDE	Infant/toddler strategic planning + transitions
2.3	RIDE/EOHHS	Developmental supports alignment
2.4	RIDE/DHS	Pre-K Expansion planning
3.1	DHS/ RIDOH/DCYF	Funds for Parent Engagement Groups
3.2	RIDE	Pre-K Family Liaison
3.3	RIDE	Pre-K Lottery Design Review
4.1	DHS	Pilot tiered supplemental compensation
4.2	OPC	Higher Education articulation support
4.3	DHS	Expert review of QRIS
5.1	EOHHS	Infant/toddler Mental Health Initial Implementation
6.1	EOHHS	Grant Manager
6.2	EOHHS	Performance Evaluation (required)
6.3	EOHHS	Travel (required)

Activity 1 focuses on conducting or updating needs assessments. RI prioritized activities to support both children and educators.

Activity	Agency	Item	Activity Explanation
1.1	RIDE	MLL Needs Assessment	Collaboration between MLL team and early childhood team to ensure young children have needed MLL supports.
1.2	DHS	Wage study + recommendations	Understand the impact of the pandemic on early educators' wages to create updated recommendations, which can inform future practice.

Activity 2 asks states to revise and update state strategic plans. The focus of RI’s activities will be on areas where stakeholders repeatedly highlighted a need for dedicated planning efforts.

Activity	Agency	Item	Activity Explanation
2.1	EOHHS	Infant/toddler Mental Health Planning	This will support existing work at EOHHS on children’s behavioral health system of care work and the infant/toddler mental health task force to engage families in the strategic planning process.
2.2	RIDOH/DHS/ RIDE	Infant/toddler strategic planning + transitions	The RI Pre-K Expansion Report identified a need for dedicated resources to support infant and toddler strategic planning, this provides resources to support the work.
2.3	RIDE/EOHHS	Developmental supports alignment	RI has various supports for young children with developmental support needs (Kids Connect, Early Intervention, Early Childhood Special Education, etc.) – this activity will support a review and alignment of these services to serve children and families more effectively.
2.4	RIDE/DHS	Pre-K Expansion planning	The RI Pre-K Expansion Report identified multiple areas that need additional planning which this funding can support.

Activity 3 focused on engaging families in the birth through five system. Building on prior successful strategies, RI will engage additional families across the system.

Activity	Agency	Item	Activity Explanation
3.1	DHS/ RIDOH/DCYF	Funds for Parent Engagement Groups	Will provide funding to agencies to support parent groups. Each agency may have a different model for these funds such as funding a facilitator, providing resources to participants (gift card honorariums, child care during meetings, etc.). The aim is to ensure robust engagement and empowerment from families across our system.
3.2	RIDE	Pre-K Family Liaison	Provide small grants to support awareness of Pre-K lottery and support to complete applications. By embedding resources within communities, these efforts will encourage families from a variety of backgrounds to apply.
3.3	RIDE	Pre-K Lottery Design Review	The RI Pre-K Expansion Report identified the need to review the technology that supports and runs the RI Pre-K lottery. This includes understanding what future needs for the lottery might be if Pre-K expands and what best practices are in other places.

Activity 4 focuses on the workforce and dissemination of best practices. As a state, we know that quality is grounded in the strength of our workforce.

Activity	Agency	Item	Activity Explanation
4.1	DHS	Pilot tiered supplemental compensation	To support RI's early childhood workforce, the PDG planning grant will pilot a supplemental compensation model. The primary focus will be infant/toddler educators. Given the logistics of the grant, there's still various elements of program design to be determined.
4.2	OPC	Higher Education articulation support	As part of stimulus GEER funding, RI has been supporting the early childhood workforce in various career pathway opportunities. This would provide OPC with additional capacity to review and support prior learning articulation so that students are matched to programs that meet their current needs.
4.3	DHS	Expert review of RI's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS / BrightStars)	RI has created a robust QRIS, which was last expertly reviewed in 2014. Given the creation of various competencies, standards, and evolving best practices, RI will use funds for another review of QRIS.

Activity 5 is an implementation activity for quality improvements. This work will happen after the implementation of Activity 2 and will focus on continuing to support infant and toddler mental health.

Activity	Agency	Item	Activity Explanation
5.1	EOHHS	Infant/toddler Mental Health Initial Implementation	TBD – pending findings from Activity 2.1

Activity 6 is meant to ensure that states are continuing to monitor program performance. RI will continue to build a data scorecard related to early childhood to monitor progress on our strategic plan and child outcomes.

Activity	Agency	Item	Activity Explanation
6.1	EOHHS	Grant Manager	Continued support to administer the grant.
6.2	EOHHS	Performance Evaluation (required)	Continued support from the EOHHS Ecosystem, which integrates data to provide the state will metrics on strategic plan outcomes.
6.3	EOHHS	Travel (required)	Funds to participate in ACF's annual convening for grantees

Public Comment

