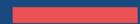




RI's Preschool Development Grant: Implementation Efforts



February 23, 2021

RHODE
ISLAND

PDG Update - Agenda

Objective: Provide an update of RI's work on Preschool Development Grant activities.

Brief Overview of PDG

Year 1: Highlights

Year 2 Activities: Continuations and Areas to Define

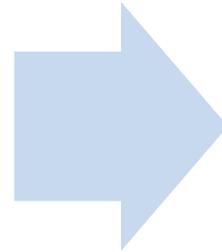
- Identify key projects continuing in Year 2
- Identify key projects that still need to be defined in Year 2

Preschool Development Grant Overview

PDG is a competitive federal grant that empowers states to holistically evaluate and improve their systems supporting young children and families.

Initial Grant (2019):

Supported a needs assessment and development of our ECCE Strategic Plan



Renewal Grant (20-22):

Funding over a 3-year period, supports the implementation of the ECCE Strategic Plan

- Year 1 – 2020
- Year 2 – 2021
- Year 3 – 2022

PDG Funds a Variety of Activities Aligned to Strategic Plan

ECCE Strategic Plan Objective Area	Number of PDG Activities
Objective 1: High Quality Programs	5
Objective 2: Equitable Access and Targeted Supports	9
Objective 3: Universal Pre-K	4
Objective 4: Sustainable Operations and Funding	3
Objective 5: Data Systems and Performance Evaluation	4

Activities Supporting Objective 1

RI's early childhood programs meet high-quality standards for care and education as defined by our Quality Rating and Improvement System

- **Registered Apprenticeships Pilot** supports workforce pathways to increase availability of highly-qualified infant/toddler teachers. 10 applicants in the fourth quarter and 8 matriculated in January
- DHS has partnered with Children's Friend to develop a scaled version of the evidence-based **Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS/CCP)** model to expand access & increase high-quality infant/toddler slots (I/T). With a particular focus on our urban core & in communities identified in the Facilities Needs Assessment as lacking I/T capacity
- DHS is working with LISC on **Facilities Planning Grants** and, in Year 1, made 6 awards

Activities Supporting Objective 2

Children and families can equitably access and participate in the early childhood care, services and supports that will help them reach out potential and enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

- PDG is supporting various projects in **Health Equity Zones (HEZs)** to support parents and caregivers based on community needs. In Year 1, more than 900 individuals were impacted by programming
- **Family Navigators (FNs)** were piloted in many HEZs to increase enrollment in, and awareness of, programming that is available to families. In Year 1, FN's have supported about 100 families in connecting with services
- **Parent / Caregiver Advisory Council** provided regular input, guidance, and feedback on early childhood programs and participated in the Public Awareness campaign
- As part of the **Parent as Teachers (PAT)** home visiting expansion, 165 of 300 slots have been filled by the end of December

Activities Supporting Objective 3

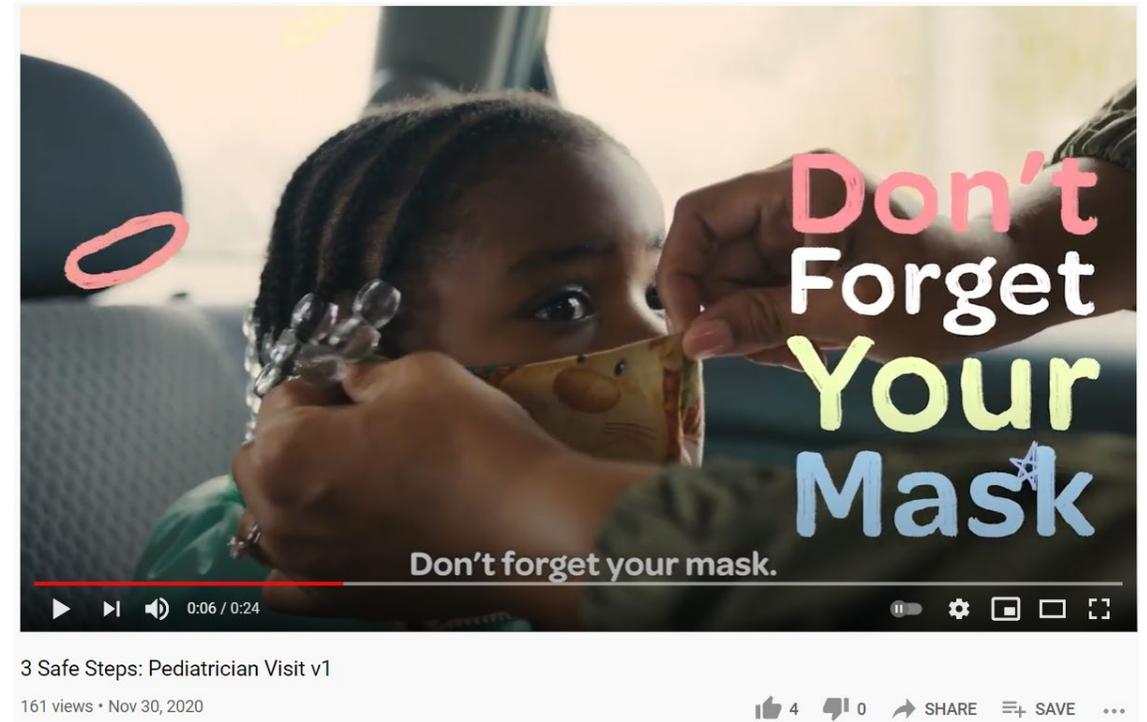
All four-year-olds in Rhode Island have access to high-quality Pre-K, inclusive of parental choice and student need.

- To expand RI Pre-K, while maintaining high-quality, RIDE developed several pilots for mixed-delivery service models
- All **100 Pre-K classrooms** remained open for in-person learning throughout the state, including the 300+ seats funded by PDG. RIDE staff was able to continue to support and monitor classrooms despite the pandemic
- A second cohort of communities worked on **Kindergarten Transitions** planning. RIDE hosted their annual summit virtually.

Activities Supporting Objective 4

Secure the quality and delivery of early childhood care and education through increased and sustainable funding and operational improvements.

- The public awareness campaign encouraging pediatric well-visits had more than 1,500,000 impression on Facebook
- The ads included families from the Parent / Caregiver Advisory Council
- Produced in both English and Spanish



Activities Supporting Objective 5

Expand the depth and quality of family and child-level data accessible to and used by agencies, programs, and partners to drive decisions.

- Completed a **population-level survey**, with a smaller than anticipated sample size
- Enhanced **data system** efforts:
 - **Consumer Website** updates based on needs from the pandemic
 - Staff team working on **system planning**
 - Finalizing **data sharing agreements** between agencies to strengthen our understanding of early childhood programming



Activity Updates: Focuses for Year 2

Most activities, 21 of 25, will continue their current trajectory.

Ongoing activities that we are particularly focused this year include

- Expanding access to RI Pre-K by piloting new service delivery models, while maintaining quality
- Enhancing, modernizing, and integrating **data systems** to develop a long-term vision for the operational data systems in Rhode Island that informs policy decisions
- Responding to family needs' assessments, RI is **supporting access to programming** like Health Equity Zones and Family Navigators to ensure families connect to needed services

Activity Updates: Activities to Define

4 of 25 activities need to be further defined as we execute Year 2.

Activity	Status	Outstanding Need
Public Awareness Campaign	In-progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Determine current needs
Performance Evaluation	In-progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discuss process for collecting data on a regular basis and how to communicate our findings
Data Systems	In-progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop a long-term vision for the operational data systems in RI that informs policy decisions
Population Survey	To begin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Determine best methods to get representative information about family experience