

Texas Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5) Year One Accomplishments

The PDG B-5 is overseen by the [Early Childhood Interagency Workgroup](#), which consists of the [Texas Workforce Commission \(TWC\)](#), the [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\)](#), the [Texas Department of Family and Protective Services \(DFPS\)](#), and the [Texas Health and Human Services Commission \(HHSC\)](#). The TWC serves as the lead fiscal agent for the grant.

To advance local systems building and family engagement efforts, grantees received subgrants for Early Childhood Systems Building (ECSB). Funding can be used to join the [Help Me Grow](#) network, implement local systems-building components, or enhance family engagement initiatives.

Funding Highlights

Building Local Systems

- Implementing four new Help Me Grow Texas affiliates
- Coordinating early childhood coalitions in 10 communities
- Establishing and enhancing centralized access navigation to family support services, including central intake and referral systems in seven communities
- Conducting child health care provider outreach and education in six communities

Connecting Families to Services and Engaging Them as Leaders

- Creating six new family resource centers and expanding four existing centers
- Developing and supporting parent advisory committees in eight communities
- Implementing Parent Cafés in five communities that hold events and meetings to bring parents and caregivers together to strengthen families and build protective factors
- Conducting family and community outreach and education in 13 communities

Additionally, the Early Childhood Interagency Workgroup created the Family Leadership Committee, which includes representatives from each member agency, who attended the [National Family Support Network \(NFSN\) Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support](#) training to inform the state-level approach to family engagement.

Increasing Access to High-Quality Programs

The Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) project, funded by the grant, is finalizing two reports:

- A landscape analysis of the current state of IECMHC in Texas and the country
- A report on best practices for implementing IECMHC programs

The reports will help develop a statewide IECMHC model and launch a pilot program in the project's second year. Final versions of the reports are expected in January 2024.

Support for young children with disabilities or developmental delays through assessments and early interventions was funded by the grant, to increase school readiness and reduce the need for expensive interventions later.

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Supporting Early Childhood Care and Education Workforce Development

A landscape analysis was completed for counties with:

- Early learning career and technical education (CTE) programs of study
- Institutes of higher education (IHEs) with early childhood degrees and certificates
- Early childhood Registered Apprenticeship programs

Additionally, a request for applications (RFA) is in development to expand scholarships that cover the cost of Childhood Development Associate (CDA) exam. An [Earning a CDA Through CTE guidance document \(PDF\)](#) for administrators at local educational agencies (LEAs) was also made available.

Building an Integrated Statewide Data System

The [Texas Early Childhood Integrated Data System Roadmap \(PDF\)](#) is now available, which outlines the ongoing data projects for young children and their families in Texas. The roadmap will support the development of an Early Childhood Integrated Data System in the project's second and third years.

Conducting Studies and Publishing Reports

An Early Childhood System Needs Assessment conducted in four phases is coming soon. The phases include:

- **Workforce:** evaluating early childhood workers' conditions and needs through a survey and interviews
- **Local coalitions:** measuring early childhood coalitions' development, engagement, collaboration, and network quality through a survey
- **Families:** asking families with young children about their opinions on early childhood services through a survey
- **Data systems:** synthesizing state and local integration efforts

The Texas Early Learning Council held three sessions for strategic planning covering the following topics: the scope of the strategic plan, the early learning workforce, data systems, coalition building, and families. [Updates to the Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan are coming soon.](#)