



USDHHS and USED have just released the [Notice of Funding Available for the new BIRTH TO FIVE Preschool Development Grant \(PDG\)](#). In the interest of capitalizing on this tremendous opportunity, the BUILD Initiative, the Alliance for Early Success, EducationCounsel, CEELO and the Ounce of Prevention are coordinating the provision of consultation and technical assistance to state administrators and advocates.

PLEASE PLACE OCTOBER 9-10 ON YOUR CALENDARS

We are collaboratively planning a 2-day in-person meeting for state planning teams of 2-4 key leaders to work as a team, with peers, and with national experts. Based on prior experience, we think the best timeframe for the meeting is **TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, October 9-10** – mid-way between the FOA release and its due date. State teams will have had time to begin tackling the preparation of proposals and this working meeting will be designed to leverage those efforts and support next steps toward successful completion.

WHAT TYPES OF SUPPORT DO YOU NEED?

We would like your feedback on how best to design and organize this meeting/work session. We would greatly appreciate it if you could communicate with other state leaders and submit one survey per state.

[Here is a link to a brief survey of consultation topics](#). We want to know the consultation topics your team believes are most relevant as it considers how to best use the alignment and coordination of systems and services to improve equal access for young children and their families, especially those with young children—infants, toddlers, and preschool age children who are furthest from opportunity now. Survey responses will guide the topics of consultation that will be available to your team at the meeting.

These might include:

- **Alignment and System Coordination** (cross-sector/cross-system)
 - Defining equivalent standards for early learning programs of all types, considering vertical alignment of birth to three with three to five standards
 - Program standards and regulations for child care licensing in the context of diverse delivery for early learning
 - Unified eligibility determination and enrollment for multiple types of early learning programs (i.e. child care assistance, state pre-k, Head Start),
 - Shared recruitment, eligibility determination and service referral across multiple home visiting programs, particularly focused on services to prenatal to three population
 - Coordinated eligibility determination for essential services such as SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, WIC, etc.
 - Collaboration, communication, and cross-sector/systems work across agencies/ departments to support a birth to five delivery approach, focusing on the birth to three age as a core part of this continuum when starting from a preschool lens
 - Data coordination/sharing across state-level entities
 - Governance reform to enable coordination and alignment
 - Incorporating sustainability from the start

- **Development of needs assessments and strategic planning**
 - Consider various publicly available data sets and how to use them
 - Explore needs assessments and other tools to help with short- and long-term planning for early childhood systems reform
 - Analyze how these tools and data sets address the birth to three population and pull in resources from other sectors, such as maternal and child health, which may not be typically utilized as part of education focused efforts
- **Financing**
 - Braided/blending funding approaches to best meet needs of working families, understanding funding sources for birth to three and three to five and their differences, including the cost of quality variances across the age groups
 - Shared services networks/platforms to improve economy of scale and increase quality of services
 - Revenue generation and financing strategies to increase resources for quality and compensation of providers as well as family access,
 - Financing strategies to address compensation disparities by race and ethnicity of teachers and age of children
 - Removing burdens to providers in payment methodologies and practices
 - Communication and processes to better serve specific populations such as infants and toddlers, children with special needs, children who are homeless, and children who are English language learners
- **Workforce**
 - Common competencies and language and alternative pathways
 - Shared professional development
 - Credit for job embedded learning
 - Compensation, compensation parity
 - Addressing the absence of quality and depth of training for birth to three practitioners focusing the professional development beyond the entry level for these professionals

We hope you are already developing and perhaps meeting with a comprehensive team in preparation for the proposal release. Between now and the week before submission, we will produce issue-specific resources and materials, and topic specific webinars with peers and national experts. We also can offer recommendations on consultants, facilitators or specific content experts to assist with in-state writing and planning.

Over the next few days, we will provide you a draft travel agenda with location (Chicago most likely) and to confirm timing. Please stay tuned for additional information from us, and as we stated at the beginning, we welcome your ideas and feedback through a response to this email regarding your state specific needs.