



Preschool Development Grant 2020-2022 Strategic Plan Summary



“There are so many hoops. You have to tell them about your entire life before you can access just a little bit of help. I only go for help when I really, really need it.”

Parents, Minneapolis

“Look at employment strategies holistically, taking mental health, addiction, and living situations into account and providing assistance where needed.”

Providers, Duluth

“Create the system to work for individuals, families, and communities; not making the individuals, families, and communities bend to the system.”

Participant from Leech Lake Tribal Nation

“Trauma informed care is missing. [We] need more people trained in trauma informed care.”

Community Needs Assessment Respondent

“Again, it comes to trust – there is not trust for communities of color and indigenous communities.”

Public Meeting, New Hope

“Strengthen relationships between Somali community and school with lessons from the Somali community who speaks the language and can be a strong language and cultural translator.”

Somali Parents, St. Paul

“I hear so many people who connect with a job, but the hours do not work for their child care, their vehicle is not reliable, they do not have the right clothes.”

Providers, Otter Tail County

“A lot of these intersect, and you can’t have one without the other.”

Child Care Providers, Minneapolis



Preschool Development Goals and Strategies

GOALS

STRATEGIES



Develop systems across state agencies that make it easier for children and families to access what they need to thrive

1. Implement the Help Me Connect model to connect families and frontline staff to resources and direct referrals to services using a family-centered approach
2. Facilitate data-sharing across state agencies and local governments while protecting the privacy of individuals
3. Invest in geographically diverse and culturally responsive community hubs where families naturally go to connect with resources
4. Improve transition experiences of children from early care and education programs into elementary schools
5. Explore the consolidation of outreach, eligibility verification and applications



Cultivate authentic community engagement practices and partnership across state agency initiatives

1. Coordinate community engagement initiatives across the departments of Health, Human Services and Education
2. Increase opportunities for community to inform state policy, practice and programs
3. Deepen trust between community and state agencies through relationship building, transparent communication and accountability
4. Prioritize diverse community membership on agency task forces, councils and advisory groups



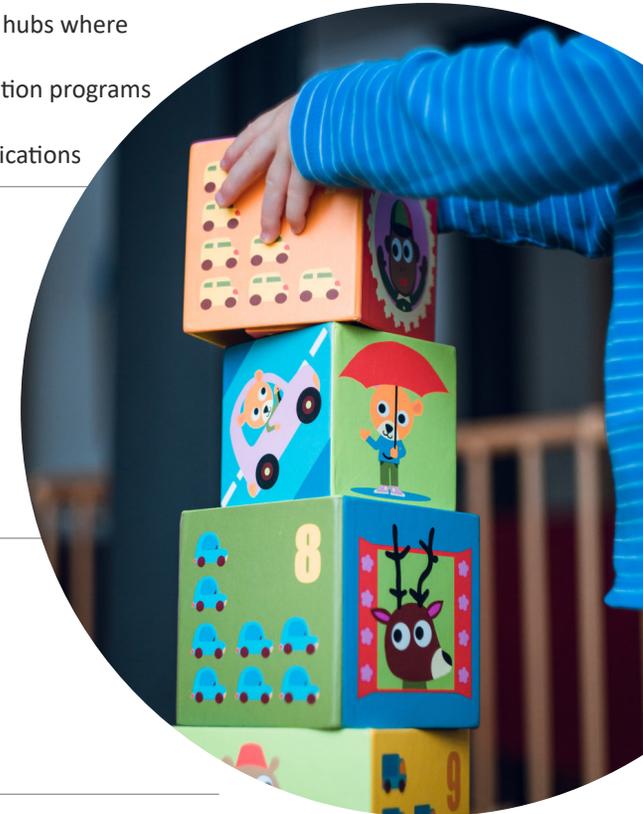
Leverage community developed solutions

1. Invest in community-based solutions to community-identified challenges
2. Leverage networks to share promising local efforts
3. Convene local community partners to promote collective efforts



Increase availability of and access to early childhood well-being supports and services

1. Recruit, retain and support a diverse and experienced early childhood workforce
2. Continue to invest in early childhood care and education facilities
3. Engage and support legally non-licensed (Family, Friend and Neighbor) caregivers and their integral role in the early care and education system
4. Make measurable progress in addressing the early care and education shortage



Preschool Development Goals and Strategies (cont'd)

GOALS

STRATEGIES



Increase quality of early childhood well-being supports and services

1. Support early childhood professionals to deliver instruction and care that is culturally-responsive and whole-family oriented
2. Embed racial equity, culturally responsive practices and whole-family approaches within state program policy and guidance
3. Ensure state-led supports and trainings are reasonably accessible to all geographies
4. Increase supports for multilingual learners
5. Integrate mental health awareness and trauma-informed practices into state services and programs



Monitor and evaluate for continuous improvement

1. Conduct systems-level evaluation that is participatory, equity-focused and family-centered
2. Utilize collaboratively agreed upon indicators and definitions of success to evaluate early childhood programs and services
3. Coordinate needs assessment and evaluation efforts across early childhood at the departments of Health, Human Services and Education



Leverage the oversight of the Children's Cabinet to advance principles of a child-centered government

1. Collaborate across state government to make measurable progress in addressing homelessness and unstable housing for children and families
2. Utilize the Children's Cabinet to prioritize transportation challenges experienced by Minnesota families
3. Utilize the Children's Cabinet to prioritize state strategies to improve the health and well-being challenges experienced by Minnesota families
4. Utilize the Children's Cabinet and its agencies to prioritize state strategies to promote economic stability for Minnesota families
5. Provide insight and expertise into Children's Cabinet priority areas in healthy beginnings, child care, mental health, housing, and education opportunity related to birth—5 and whole families



This product is made possible using federal funding, 93.434—ESSA Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Office of Child Care, the Administration for Children and Families, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Learn more at <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/early/preschgr/>