

The Preschool Development Grant Birth-Five (PDG B-5) Offers A New Opportunity to Support Babies and Toddlers



ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

Resource List

The new version of the Preschool Development Grant program, PDG B-5, for the first time allows states to include infants and toddlers. PDG B-5 offers states an opportunity to strengthen coordination of existing early childhood care and education (ECCE) services and funding streams to provide equal access to more children birth through age five. At ZERO TO THREE, an organization dedicated to promoting the health and development of infants and toddlers, we urge that as you develop and implement your state's strategic plan, you focus intentionally on the settings and programs where babies are served, including Early Head Start (EHS); child care centers; family child care homes; and family, friend, and neighbor care – all critical partners in the birth to five ECCE mixed delivery system. It is equally important that states consider how they can strengthen connections between ECCE settings and the broader early childhood system, including Part C early intervention, home visiting, health, mental health, nutrition, and family support services.

We know from science that brains are built from the bottom up. During the first three years of life, the brain undergoes its most dramatic development, and children acquire the ability to think, speak, learn, and reason. The early experiences of young children will shape the architecture of their brains in enduring ways and build the foundation – whether strong or weak – for their future development. For that reason, we strongly urge you to emphasize the importance of supporting early learning beginning from birth as you plan and implement your PDG B-5 strategic plan.

This list of resources has been compiled to help states think through some of the strategies they could pursue through the PDG B-5 opportunity to better support infants, toddlers, and their families. It is organized into the following areas:

- 1) Needs assessment and strategic planning (PDG B-5 activities 1 and 2)
- 2) Maximizing parental choice and involvement in the ECCE mixed delivery system (PDG B-5 activity 3)
- 3) Strengthening collaboration and coordination of existing B-5 ECCE programs (PDG B-5 activities 4 and 5)
- 4) Expanding access to and improving quality of B-5 ECCE programs (PDG B-5 activity 5)
- 5) Strengthening the B-5 ECCE workforce (PDG B-5 activity 5)

1) Strategies for Including an Intentional Focus on Infants and Toddlers in Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning (PDG B-5 activities 1 and 2)

- [***Infants and Toddlers in the Policy Picture: A Self-Assessment Toolkit For States***](#), ZERO TO THREE, February 2019 – This toolkit is intended to help state policy leaders and advocates assess the current status of services for infants, toddlers, and their families, and to set priorities for improving policies, funding, and systems. It is organized by the goal areas of good health, strong families, positive early learning experiences, and collaboration and systems. The toolkit includes a family survey (available in English and Spanish).
- [***State of Babies Yearbook 2019***](#), ZERO TO THREE, February 2019 – This yearbook compares national and state-by-state data on the well-being of America's babies to help policymakers and advocates advance policies and budgets that put babies and families first. It includes [state profiles](#), a [national landscape](#), a [communications toolkit](#), a [companion paper](#) describing states' promising approaches, and a [State Profile Navigator](#) to support use of state profiles to make policy decisions.

- [*Advancing State Policies for Infants and Toddlers: Lessons Learned From Three States*](#), ZERO TO THREE, July 2017 – This brief describes the experiences of three states (Indiana, Oregon and Vermont) that participated in a technical assistance project with ZERO TO THREE to develop and take action toward cross-sector infant-toddler policy priorities.

2) Strategies for Including an Intentional Focus on Infants and Toddlers in Maximizing Parental Choice and Involvement in ECCE Mixed Delivery System (PDG B-5 activity 3)

- [*Meeting the Challenge: Engaging and Supporting Families*](#), ZERO TO THREE, February 2014 – This excerpt from *Meeting the Challenge: How the Newest Early Learning Challenge Grantees Can Meet the Needs of Infants and Toddlers* discusses grantees' plans to engage and support families.
- [*Family Partnerships and Engagement in Early Childhood Systems*](#), ZERO TO THREE, November 2016 – This excerpt from *Integrating Home Visiting in State and Tribal Early Childhood Systems* describes strategies for engaging families in the design and implementation of early childhood programs and systems. It also offers several state and tribal examples.

3) Strategies for Including an Intentional Focus on Infants and Toddlers in Strengthening Collaboration and Coordination of Existing ECCE Programs (PDG B-5 activities 4 and 5)

- [*Putting the Pieces Together for Infants and Toddlers: Comprehensive, Coordinated Systems*](#), ZERO TO THREE, April 2012 – This policy brief outlines the need for a comprehensive birth-to-five system made up of high-quality, affordable health; early learning and development; and family leadership and support services for young children and their families. It describes the core functions of an effective early childhood system and offers policy recommendations for system-building.
- [*What About the Babies? A Focus on Infants and Toddlers in State Advisory Councils*](#), ZERO TO THREE, April 2011 – This paper offers guidance to states on including a focus on infants and toddlers when developing and carrying out the activities of state early childhood advisory councils and related governance bodies.

4) Strategies for Including an Intentional Focus on Infants and Toddlers in Expanding Access to and Improving Quality of ECCE Programs (PDG B-5 activity 5)

- [*Supporting Babies through QRIS*](#), ZERO TO THREE, February 2015 – This series of tools helps state leaders consider how to develop or revise QRIS standards and supports to better support quality improvement for infant-toddler child care programs. It includes: a self-assessment of current QRIS systems, recommended infant-toddler child care quality standards, and a national scan of existing systems.
- [*Child Care Assistance: A Critical Support for Infants, Toddlers, and Families*](#), ZERO TO THREE and CLASP, October 2017 – This paper is part of a series describing 13 policies core to advancing infant-toddler well-being in four essential areas: high quality early care and education opportunities; strong parents; economically stable families; and healthy bodies, healthy minds, and healthy parents. It discusses the importance of affordable, high-quality child care to children's development and family economic security.
- [*Early Head Start: A Critical Support for Infants, Toddlers, and Families*](#), ZERO TO THREE and CLASP, October 2017 – This paper is part of a series describing 13 policies core to advancing infant-toddler well-being in four essential areas: high quality early care and education

opportunities; strong parents; economically stable families; and healthy bodies, healthy minds, and healthy parents. It discusses the need to expand access to comprehensive early childhood services through EHS.

- [**Expanding Access to Early Head Start: State Initiatives for Infants and Toddlers at Risk**](#), ZERO TO THREE and CLASP, April 2012 – This report describes the diverse strategies states are using to build upon Early Head Start and offers recommendations for states interested in expanding this proven program.
- [**Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation: Policies and Practices to Foster the Social-Emotional Development of Young Children**](#), ZERO TO THREE, January 2017 – This publication provides an overview of early childhood mental health consultation (ECMHC), a snapshot of current programs across the nation, and some of the challenges and innovations that are shaping the field. Thirteen states are profiled, underscoring the variability of how ECMHC programs are funded, managed, implemented, and staffed. A list of guiding questions is also provided for states to consider in designing and creating their ECMHC program.
- [**Preventing Expulsion from Preschool and Child Care**](#), ZERO TO THREE, March 2017 – This series of resources, including videos from ZERO TO THREE events, describes strategies to address implicit bias and to prevent expulsion from preschool and child care.
- [**Staffed Family Child Care Networks: A Strategy to Enhance Quality Care for Infants and Toddlers**](#), ZERO TO THREE, February 2012 – This paper defines staffed Family Child Care (FCC) networks and examines how they are uniquely positioned to improve the quality of care that infants and toddlers receive in FCC settings.
- [**Achieving the Promise of a Bright Future: Developmental Screening of Infants and Toddlers**](#), ZERO TO THREE, February 2012 – This policy brief discusses the need for comprehensive and coordinated developmental screening programs that are connected to follow-up services providing more detailed evaluation and treatment. It outlines relevant research and offers policy recommendations for building an effective screening system.
- [**State Initiative Article Collection**](#) – ZERO TO THREE’s State Initiatives is a collection of articles highlighting innovative actions states have taken to improve well-being for infants and toddlers. It can be searched by [topic](#) (such as child care, Early Head Start, social and emotional development) or by [state](#).

5) Strategies for Including an Intentional Focus on Infants and Toddlers in Strengthening the B-5 ECCE Workforce (PDG B-5 activity 5)

- [**How to Build a Strong Infant-Toddler Workforce**](#), ZERO TO THREE, February 2012 – This policy brief discusses the need to build a strong infant-toddler workforce in child care and other settings and provides a list of key policy recommendations.
- [**Meeting the Challenge: Professional Development for the Infant-Toddler Workforce**](#), ZERO TO THREE, July 2014 – This excerpt from *Meeting the Challenge: How the Newest Early Learning Challenge Grantees Can Meet the Needs of Infants and Toddlers* discusses grantees’ plans to develop professional development opportunities for the infant-toddler workforce.
- [**ZERO TO THREE Competencies for Prenatal to Age 5 Professionals**](#), ZERO TO THREE – This document provides a universal set of competencies necessary for all prenatal to five service providers, supervisors, and managers. They are meant to strengthen professional competence on shared fundamental concepts and to facilitate interdisciplinary partnerships and coordinated

service delivery. The P-5 Competencies provide a foundation for the *ZERO TO THREE Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators™*. They will be re-released in fall 2018.

- [*ZERO TO THREE Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators™*](#), ZERO TO THREE, 2016 – This competency model defines the specific evidence-based teaching methods and practices that support and nurture young children’s social-emotional, cognitive, and language and literacy development, and learning. An accompanying suite of professional development products and services is available.

Additional PDG B-5 Resources and Support from ZERO TO THREE

In addition to PDG B-5 resource list, ZERO TO THREE has created the following resources to support states:

- *Making the Case for Babies – Why Infants and Toddlers Should Be A Critical Focus of PDG B-5* – this PowerPoint presentation discusses the science of brain development, what happens when babies don’t get a strong start in life, and how the early childhood care and education system can promote babies’ healthy development.
- *The Preschool Development Grant Birth-Five (PDG B-5) Offers A New Opportunity to Support Babies and Toddlers: A Tool to Intentionally Include Infants and Toddlers in PDG B-5* – this document explains how the PDG B-5 can be used to address early childhood care and education system challenges specific to infants and toddlers and offers recommendations for specific strategies that states can include in PDG B-5 grants to improve outcomes for babies.

All PDG B-5 resources can be found on the ZERO TO THREE website at www.zerotothree.org/pdg. If you are interested in consulting with ZERO TO THREE Policy Center staff about your PDG B-5 grant, please reach out to Barbara Gebhard, Assistant Director of Public Policy at bgebhard@zerotothree.org.