



Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

Office of Great Start
Michigan Department of
Education

November 18, 2014

Purpose

RTT-ELC focuses on improving early learning and development programs for young children by supporting states' efforts to:

- Increase the number/percentage of children with high needs enrolled in high-quality early learning and development programs
- Realize an integrated state system of early learning programs and supports

RTT-ELC in Michigan

Grant amount: \$51.7 million

Time frame:

- Awarded in December 2013
- Grant period – January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2017
- Partners – DCH, DHS, ECIC, DTMB (CEPI), MiAEYC

Michigan's RTT-ELC Goals

Goal #1

Increase Access for Children with High Needs

Increase access to high-quality early learning for children with high needs

Goal #2

Increase Opportunities for Home Providers to Improve Quality

Focused investment to improve quality across licensed and unlicensed home providers

Goal #3

Ensure Family Engagement & Understanding

Meaningful engagement of families in their children's early learning and development

Goal #4

Involve Families and Providers in Health Promotion

Promote children's physical, social and emotional health

Goal #5

Expand Educational and Professional Development

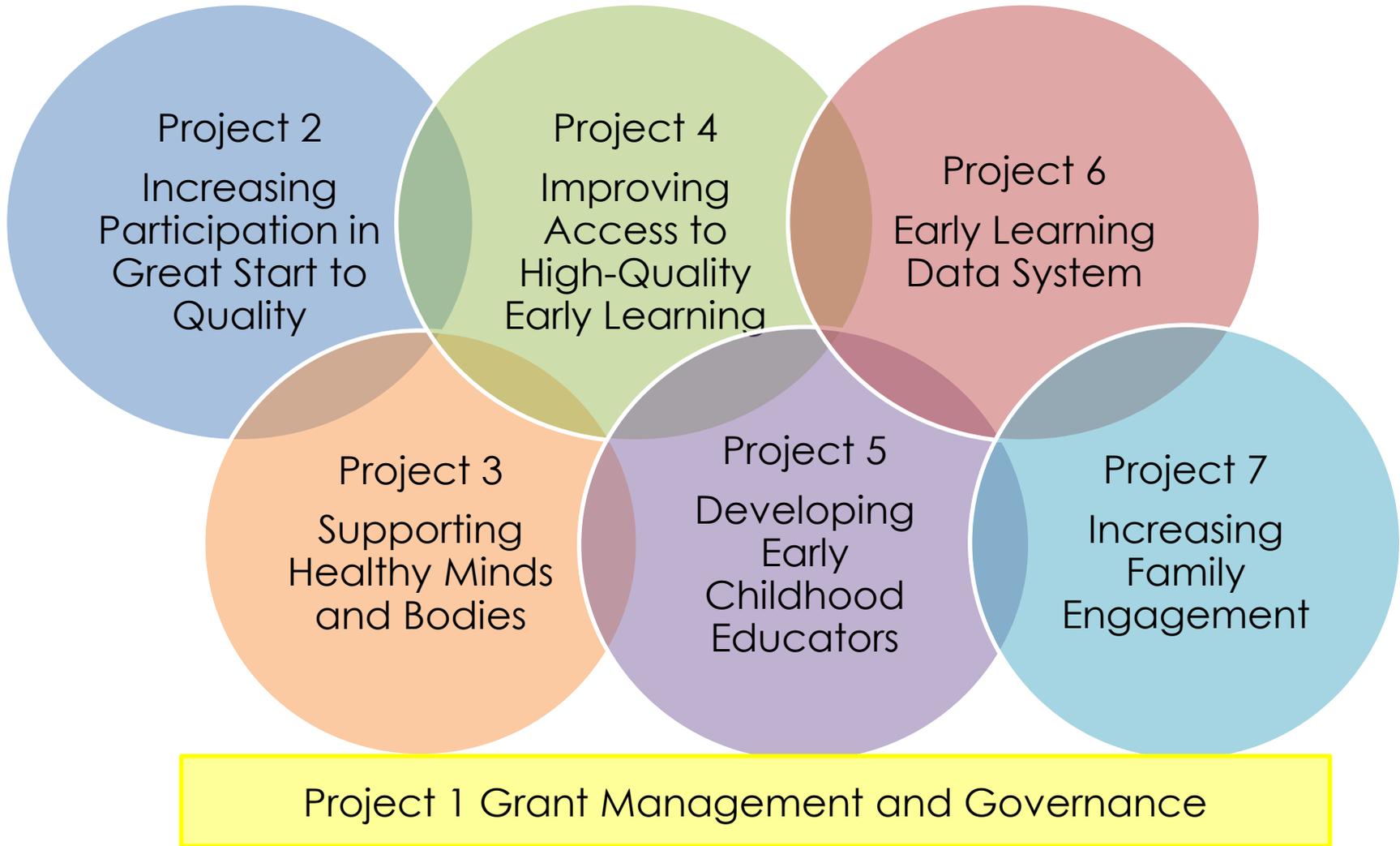
Particular focus for home care providers

Goal #6

Build an Early Learning Data System

Provide anonymous and aggregated information allowing us to assess program value

RTT-ELC Projects



RTT-ELC Projects

Project 1 Grant Management and Governance



Michigan RTT-ELC Project 1:

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Project 1 Description

Create a governance structure that will coordinate and streamline the early learning system in Michigan through strong leadership, stakeholder involvement, and a multi-agency coordination plan.

Project 1: Grant Management and Governance

How?

Establish and operationalize appropriate governance body for Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) work in Michigan

Develop a shared vision, strategy and protocols for managing RTT-ELC and integrating the grant activities into the larger early learning system

Develop and implement a broad communication and outreach plan, including individualized communication plans and materials for each RTT-ELC grant project

Develop necessary processes to ensure cross-agency coordination of staff, resources, data and other supports and materials

Oversee and coordinate multi-agency grant management activities, including monitoring and reporting functions

RTT-ELC Projects

Project 2
Increasing
Participation in
Great Start to
Quality

Michigan RTT-ELC Project 2:

INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN GREAT START TO QUALITY



Project 2 Description

Through this project Michigan will develop and implement effective strategies for improving the quality of early learning environments, across provider types, through increased participation in Great Start to Quality (GSQ).

Project 2:

Increasing Participation in GSQ

How?

Provide training and consultation through GSQ to unlicensed providers to support quality improvement.

Assign regional Quality Improvement Specialists to offer outreach and individualized technical assistance to home-based providers in target areas.

Offer participation bonuses targeted toward licensed providers serving families at or below 185% of federal poverty level.

Offer of Quality Improvement Grants to licensed providers.

Support licensing consultants to become ambassadors for (GSQ).

RTT-ELC Projects

Project 3
Supporting
Healthy Minds
and Bodies

Michigan RTT-ELC Project 3:

SUPPORTING HEALTHY MINDS AND BODIES



Project 3 Description

Michigan plans to increase the availability of high-quality early learning programs that meet the physical and social-emotional health needs of young children, with a focus on Pathways to Potential communities.

Project 3: Supporting Healthy Minds and Bodies

How?

Align Great Start to Quality program standards with nationally-recognized physical and social-emotional health standards.

Develop training and technical assistance materials and supports that promote both healthy habits for families and providers, as well as developmental screening and referral procedures.

Provide consultants to support home-based providers in meeting the social-emotional and physical health needs of young children.

RTT-ELC Projects

Project 4
Improving
Access to
High-Quality
Early Learning

Michigan RTT-ELC Project 4:

IMPROVING ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING



Project 4 Description

Michigan will work to increase the availability of high-quality early learning opportunities by expanding access to the quality improvement resources available through Great Start to Quality. Michigan will also provide outreach and scholarships to families in targeted communities to increase access to quality early learning and development programs.

Project 4: Improving Access to High-Quality Early Learning

How?

Encourage participation of tribal and early childhood special education programs (ECSE/619) in GSQ through system enhancements and stronger relationships with these programs.

Streamline program monitoring efforts to allow licensing consultants to increase focus on improving program quality.

Increase access to high-quality early learning and development programs in Pathways to Potential communities by providing scholarships.

Conduct outreach to families in Pathways to Potential communities to increase the percentage of families accessing high-quality early learning and development programs.

RTT-ELC Projects

Project 5
Developing
Early
Childhood
Educators

Michigan RTT-ELC Project 5:

DEVELOPING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS



Project 5 Description

This project is focused on ensuring that early childhood educators have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful. While supporting early childhood educators statewide, this project will also target home-based providers who serve children with high needs in their programs.

Project 5: Developing Early Childhood Educators

How?

Expand online Child Development Associate (CDA) credential programs for early childhood educators.

Increase the number of National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited community college early learning programs.

Expand opportunities for home-based providers to earn a degree, as well as increase the supply of staff qualified to teach in Michigan's Great Start Readiness Program, through Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) scholarships.

Increase access to training focused on achieving Great Start to Quality standards for program administration.

RTT-ELC Projects

Project 6
Early Learning
Data System

Michigan RTT-ELC Project 6:

EARLY LEARNING DATA SYSTEM



Project 6 Description

Michigan plans to incorporate data for publicly-funded early learning programs in the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (MSLDS) to support increased understanding of the quality of care and educational experiences of our youngest learners. Michigan will ensure these data are available to families, educators, researchers, and others needing access to data to support early learning improvement.

Project 6: Early Learning Data System

How?

Create a management structure that will plan, organize, regulate, and guide the collection of, access to, and use of MSLDS data.

Improve the existing Statewide Longitudinal Data System (MSLDS) to create links to all of the essential data elements.

Increase access to data to improve program delivery and effectiveness, to inform resource investment and policy decisions, and to empower families to make better decisions for their children.

Improve data about early childhood educators to help improve policies that impact Michigan's early childhood educators.

RTT-ELC Projects

Project 7
Increasing
Family
Engagement

Michigan RTT-ELC Project 7:

INCREASING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



Project 7 Description

Michigan plans to expand and improve efforts to engage families in meaningful ways and support their development as leaders for their own children and communities. The strategies in this project will increase family access to resources designed to promote the physical, social, and emotional health of their children.

Project 7: Engaging Families

How?

Incorporate Strengthening Families Protective Factors into the Great Start to Quality program standards.

Place Family Engagement Consultants in target communities to support parents and providers.

Provide training modules about the Great Start to Quality Family and Community Partnerships standards.

Assist families and providers in understanding and adopting protective factors into daily practice.

Establish and coordinate networks of trusted advisors able to provide support to families in their local communities.

Develop and distribute supplemental materials to support family understanding of Kindergarten Entry Assessment data.

Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

Questions?

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