



Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

Office of Great Start
Michigan Department of
Education

March 2, 2015

Welcome and Logistics

Presenter: Jessica Gillard
Project Manager, Race to
the Top – Early Learning
Challenge
MDE, Office of Great Start



WEBINAR AGENDA:

- Overview of RTT-ELC
- Background/Goals
- Description and Overview of RTT-ELC Projects
- Participant Questions

Partner Introductions

- Coleen Nelson, Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing
- Erica Willard, Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children
- Kaitlin Ferrick, MDE, Office of Great Start, Head Start
- Kelly Kreider, Early Childhood Investment Corporation
- Lisa Brewer-Walraven, MDE, Office of Great Start, CDC
- Mary Ludtke, Department of Community Health
- Nancy Peeler, Department of Community Health
- Renee Demars-Johnson, MDE, Office of Great Start, Early Childhood Education
- Robert Dickinson, DTMB Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI)

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



Background for RTT-ELC in MI

Great Start, Great Investment, Great Future

The Plan for Early Learning and Development in Michigan

• Michigan Department of Education | Office of Great Start •
May 2013



THE KRESGE FOUNDATION



- Children are born healthy.
- Children are healthy, thriving and developmentally on track from birth to third grade.
- Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry.
- Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently at the end of third grade.



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 and 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: Building and Early Learning Data System
 - Provide anonymous and aggregated information allowing us to assess program value

Michigan RTT-ELC Time Frame

- Grant period: January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2017
 - Year 1=2014
 - Year 2=2015
 - Year 3=2016
 - Year 4=2017

7 Projects

- Project 1: Grant Management and Governance
- Project 2: Increasing Participation in Great Start to Quality
- Project 3: Supporting Healthy Minds and Bodies
- Project 4: Improving Access to Great Start to Quality
- Project 5: Developing Early Childhood Educators
- Project 6: Early Learning Data System
- Project 7: Increasing Family Engagement



Michigan RTT-ELC Project 1:

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Project 1 Description

Create a grant management and governance structure that will coordinate and streamline efforts 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

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 GSO

How?

Provide training and consultation through GSO 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 (GSO).

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 afforded to our youngest learners and 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.

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

Additional questions?

Contact RTT-ELC team:

MDE-OGS-RTTELCteam@michigan.gov



Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

Additional questions?
Contact RTT-ELC team:
MDE-OGS-RTTELCteam
@michigan.gov

