

## **Michigan’s 2025 PDG B-5 Grant: Three-Year Grant from U.S. DHHS Administration for Children & Families Will Improve Pay, Benefits, Other Supports to Recruit and Retain More Child Care Professionals, Increasing Options for Families**

### **What Is the Preschool Development Grant Renewal (PDG B-5 Renewal)?**

- A three-year grant issued through the Federal Administration for Children and Families, Office of Early Childhood Development to the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP). The grant supports enhancing early childhood systems and improving access to high-quality early care and education.
- The grant period is September 2024-September 2027.
- The total funding award is \$33 million, allocated annually at approximately \$11 million each year.

### **What’s the Focus of the PDG B-5 Grant Renewal?**

Michigan’s renewal grant capitalizes on the momentum created by the state’s historic investment in the early care and education over the past 18 months:

- Make the child care sector more attractive for top talent by creating a consortium to make it easier for employers to offer healthcare and retirement benefits for early childhood educators.
- Build on local and regional efforts to improve wages for child care professionals while keeping child care affordable for families.
- Expand local efforts to hire and deploy substitute educators to ensure child care business can stay open and provide safe care when someone is out sick.
- Double down on the state’s commitment to quality care by investing in child care educators and providing free trainings in early literacy, support for children with disabilities, and more to strengthen the industry’s ability to provide the best care to all of Michigan’s children.

## **What Projects are Included in the PDG B-5 Grant Renewal?**

### *Planning Projects*

The grant includes several projects to help understand the impact of previous early childhood investments and how the state can strategically focus resources moving forward. Planning projects include:

- A two-part study to determine (a) how past investments have impacted historically underserved populations, and (b) whether previous investments align with what families say they need most.
- An evaluation study to identify areas of inequity in early childhood education services.
- Developing a strategic plan for the Office of Early Education at MiLEAP to ensure efficiency and accountability of operations moving forward.

### *Talent Development Projects*

Supporting Michigan's early childhood workforce through continuous professional learning and job supports is a cornerstone of the grant. Talent development projects include:

- Improving support for multilingual learners through:
  - Increased professional development for providers and practitioners.
  - Enhanced multilingual support on the Great Start to Quality platform.
  - Development and implementation of best practices in interpretation and translation.
- Piloting a substitute pool for early childhood classrooms to ensure classrooms remain open and available to families.
- Expanding the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation workforce to ensure programs and providers have access to trained, knowledgeable resources.

### *Workforce Projects*

Because creating jobs is not enough on its own, this PDG renewal focuses on several projects that strengthen wages and promote worker retention by:

- Continued work on an early childhood education wage-scale pilot to ensure early childhood professionals are paid a living wage.
- Launching a benefits pilot to offer affordable and accessible health, life, retirement, and disability insurance options for child care providers.

### *Access to Early Care and Education*

Families who access multiple services through multiple entry points are often the most burdened, most overwhelmed, and least likely to receive the coordinated care they need. Ensuring easy access to referral and enrollment programs is a priority of the PDG. Specifically, this renewal grant funds the following technical and communications strategies:

- Reducing enrollment burdens for families by planning and implementing a coordinated early care and education enrollment system.
- Bringing CEOs and Business Leaders into early childhood conversations to collaboratively improve the accessibility of child care in their workplaces and communities.
- Expanding access to high-quality Prekindergarten instruction for four-year-old children by piloting state-funded home-based PreK through Michigan's Family Child Care Network (FCCN) hubs.

### *Outreach to Families*

Michigan is a large state with diverse social and geographic needs. This PDG renewal includes projects to create, test, and launch outreach and engagement campaigns for families, including:

- Designing a word-of-mouth marketing research project to understand how families receive and act on information about programs and services.
- Developing and executing a marketing plan that ensures families see the wide range of early care and education services available across the Birth to Five continuum.

### *Supporting All Learners*

Ensuring that all learners can reach their full potential requires coordination from birth to adulthood. This grant includes several projects to strengthen the infrastructure that supports learning transitions and ensures that teachers, families and practitioners have access to the most current tools to support learning. These projects include:

- Assessing how well the Michigan Early Childhood Standards of Quality align with approved early childhood curriculum and making recommendations on necessary changes.
- Working with the field to support a shift in coaching practices from curriculum-specific support to standards-based coaching.
- Utilizing the Science of Reading Foundations for Early Literacy to understand Dyslexia in young children and develop training models and materials for practitioners and families.
- Reviewing existing social emotional support resources and developing recommendations to improve access to resources for families and practitioners.
- Evaluating the diversity, equity, and inclusion practices of *Early On* to assess inequities in program implementation.