

## **Texas Grant Contents**

The Texas grant builds on the six goals from the Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan and will focus on connecting families to services and engaging them as leaders, supporting local system building, expanding access to high quality programs, strengthening and building the early childhood care and education (ECCE) workforce, and developing an early childhood integrated data system. Additionally, the grant includes updated reports and studies of the birth to 5 landscape in Texas.

PDG B-5 efforts will support the following activities:

### **Connect Families to Services and Engage Families as Leaders**

Expand [earlychildhood.texas.gov](http://earlychildhood.texas.gov) to add local resources and a tool (eligibility screener) that allows parents to see what early childhood programs and services they may be eligible to receive.

Leverage and expand Parent Advisory Councils across the state. Continue funding the TEA Early Childhood Education's two new positions: Family Engagement Director and Family Engagement Specialist in years two and three. Provide training to state agency staff, local early childhood coalitions, and other organizations to incorporate the National Family Support Network Standards of Quality. Develop processes to provide ongoing family feedback to the state.

Offer community subgrants to Prevention and Early Intervention providers through Department of Family and Protective Services to support family engagement activities, which may include expanding Family Resource Centers, hiring parent navigators, or hosting Parent Cafes.

### **Support Local Systems Building**

Broaden [Help Me Grow Texas](http://HelpMeGrowTexas.com), which helps communities coordinate early childhood resources to serve children and families, by:

- Offering technical assistance to interested communities to become Help Me Grow Texas affiliate organizations or to work toward Help Me Grow Texas readiness. Bringing together local early childhood coalition leaders to increase connections across programs and create a plan for ongoing, coordinated local work and transitions.
- Supporting local implementation through the availability of subgrants to local Prevention and Early Intervention providers.

### **Expand Access to High Quality Programs**

Continue funding Child Care Regulation's Navigator positions to improve access to child care in rural areas in years two and three.

Continue funding training for child care staff on developmental screenings, assessments, and early interventions to support young children with disabilities.

Provide local communities with the opportunity to expand access to research-based classroom assessment tools, which includes teacher coaching, to support educators in prekindergarten settings, through local subgrants

Expand infant and early childhood mental health consultation support, conducting a landscape analysis and implementation science overview to inform state efforts in making mental health consultation more widely available to the ECCE workforce.

### **Strengthen and Build the ECCE Workforce**

Develop a pipeline of effective early childhood educators and professionals through multiple pathways that improve the training of early childhood educators, including Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in high school, articulation and transfer agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, support for early childhood apprenticeships including incentives for apprentice mentors and robust work study programs.

Grow and maintain a qualified therapist workforce serving young children receiving Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services by providing incentives to therapeutic staff for mentoring staff or supervising interns and/or providing sign-on bonuses for therapists new to ECI and remaining for at least 2 years.

Support the early childhood workforce through restorative discipline coaching to offer alternatives to suspensions and expulsions.

### **Develop Statewide Integrated Data System**

Develop an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS), while working to align early childhood data efforts with the work of the Tri-Agency Work Group.

### **Reports and Studies**

Conduct a new comprehensive statewide needs assessment for children birth to 5 years old.

Develop a new statewide strategic plan with efforts led by the Texas Early Learning Council in partnership with families, providers and other ECCE stakeholders.

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