

Project Summary/Abstract

Building on Progress: Connecticut's Preschool Development System Grant Application

Applicant: Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

Address: 540 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103-1835

Contact Phone: (860) 500-4412

Email: Catherine.lenihan@ct.gov

Website: www.ct.gov/oec

Project Summary Abstract

The Office of Early Childhood (“OEC”) requests funds to carry out key systems building activities to build on a completed needs assessment and strategic plan to maximize parent choice and knowledge of the early care and education system, foster a community of learning in Connecticut to share best practices, and improve the overall quality of early care and education system.

Approach: The OEC will work with a dedicated group of established partners to implement activities that will:

- increase parents knowledge and access to trusted, licensed care through an improve website and updated materials that are culturally and linguistically diverse
- support smooth transitions for children in the B-5 state system by supporting community collaborations and connecting IDEA part C and B
- incentivize coordination and collaboration within B-5 programs through outcome based contracting to achieve positive outcomes for children and families
- provide and align quality activities with the CT Quality Rating Information System
- pilot innovative app-based technology to increase developmental screening, developmental surveillance and parents knowledge of child development
- develop and integrate data systems that will serve as the foundation for long term evaluation of performance metrics and outcomes

Through this grant award OEC expects to:

- Successfully publish a Needs Assessment of the Early Care and Education system
- Update the OEC’s 2020 Strategic Plan to include B-5 system programs
- Develop a performance and evaluation plan that will provide a roadmap for future progress for achieving positive outcomes for children and families
- Build and sustain community partnerships

OEC will use its experienced staff, creative partners and Federal support staff to assist and troubleshoots obstacles and challenges that might arise during the grant period.