

Project title: Delaware Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Application

Applicant name: Delaware Department of Education

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Project Summary

The Office of Early Learning, within the Delaware Department of Education, in the State of Delaware is the lead entity applying for funding through the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5). The strategic investments outlined in this application will accelerate progress towards the State's vision of an inclusive, integrated early childhood system that provides high-quality services and supports the growth, development, and learning of all children, birth to age five (B-5).

The plans proposed are innovative approaches to priorities that the State has already established. Evidence of building on Delaware's early childhood successes is cited throughout the application, such as the connection to renewing the existing Delaware Early Childhood Council's strategic plan for the next five years, Governor Carney's Executive Order making Delaware a trauma-informed state, and the Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy grant recently awarded to Delaware to integrate data systems.

Delaware's long-term goals are congruent with the purpose of the PDG B-5 grant opportunity. Delaware seeks to understand the experiences of parents and early childhood professionals navigating the existing B-5 mixed delivery system through its comprehensive needs assessment. As a result, subsequent policy and process solutions will be grounded in an analysis of the true needs of Delaware's children and families.

Delaware's grant application is framed by four priorities that create continuity across its proposed actions, map to the five required activities, and reinforce one another. They are:

- 1) coordinated services across the B-5 mixed delivery system;
- 2) B-5 data integration;
- 3) tools to foster parent knowledge-building and choice; and
- 4) professional learning across sectors using a shared whole child development language.

Delaware has a unique advantage that will expedite this work: a relatively small geographic size and a population of just under one million people.¹ As a result, diverse stakeholders are accustomed to collaborating for a common purpose, much as three state agencies did to develop this grant. This history of collaboration will ensure Delaware actualizes the plans and outcomes in this application to improve the life trajectory of the State's children, and thereby, the State's future prosperity.

The total grant budget is \$7,889,582.00. Total federal funding requested by Delaware is \$5,967,376.00. Delaware will contribute \$1,922,206.00 (or 32%) of the budget, exceeding the 30% matching requirement. The State's matching funds are unencumbered by other federal grant match requirements and will be fully available to support the project.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2018). QuickFacts Delaware. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/de>