

PROJECT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

Hawaii's PDG B-5: Our Keiki, Our Ohana, Our Future

Hawaii Department of Human Services

1390 Miller Street, Room 209, Honolulu Hawaii 96813-2403

Point of Contact: (808)586-3811 / lauren.k.moriguchi@hawaii.gov

Work in Hawaii toward a coordinated, high-quality mixed delivery system (MDS) has been in progress for decades. Strong partnerships and inroads have been made but not necessarily the infrastructure, resources, or technical expertise needed. While there has been much focus on establishing public prekindergarten, other areas must also be built up – governance, equitable access to early childhood programs/services, family engagement, a highly qualified workforce, and high-quality programs and services – to strengthen the MDS, which the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) gives Hawaii the opportunity to do.

Hawaii envisions a strong infrastructure for a coordinated MDS that addresses equitable access to, and transitions between, high-quality programs and services for all children birth through five statewide, to support their health, safety, and readiness for lifelong learning. While Hawaii is working to address the needs of all children and families, special attention will be paid to vulnerable children per the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) ESSA definition.

Hawaii strives to achieve this vision through the grant by:

- Conducting a statewide needs assessment that includes a systems assessment of State agency leadership, programs and providers, and families, to better understand how the system is working and how it can be improved; a resource map to inform more efficient and effective use of existing resources; and a facilities study to address disparities in the availability of and access to early childhood programs;
- Developing a strategic plan informed by the new and previous needs assessments to improve the utilization, timeliness, efficiency, and effectiveness of services and strengthen governance for the MDS;
- Engaging families in improvement of the MDS to better meet their needs by creating a family engagement model, developing a transition toolkit for families and providers, and designing training for providers to help families by connecting them with such resources;
- Developing a community of practice framework to support professional learning for providers through the sharing of best practices; and
- Convening a State Early Childhood Summit to share the strategic plan and best practices to promote the envisioned high-quality MDS.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is applying for \$965,530 through PDG B-5. DHS will oversee the grant and serve as fiscal agent – as the agency that receives the largest percentage of the State budget and is administrator for many large federal grants, DHS is well-equipped to oversee PDG B-5 administration. Grant operations will be managed by the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) as the State entity tasked with development of the State's early childhood system in collaboration with the wide range of stakeholders in both the public and private sectors, and guided by the State Advisory Council.