

Project Summary

Project Title: Coordination of Hoosier Early Education Resources

Applicant Name: Nicole Norvell, Director, Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning

Address: 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Contact Phone Number: (317) 234-3313

Email Address: nicole.norvell@fssa.in.gov

Website Address (if applicable): www.in.gov/fssa/2552.htm

Needs to be addressed: Indiana needs a unified B-5 system that promotes community-led systems, incentivizes high-quality programs and supports, builds a workforce that has the skills to educate young children, and creates an infrastructure that promotes information sharing. The B-5 workforce in Indiana has varying levels of knowledge of how to support the needs of families and how to link them to programs and services. As more families access programs and supports, the workforce requires high-quality professional development that informs their work with families and best meets their needs.

Proposed Services: Indiana will embark on a comprehensive systems-building process that includes a needs assessment and strategic planning process that includes a long-term strategy to scaling up programs and supports for children statewide, an understanding of current programs and services offered in the B-5 system and how to improve them, identify how families can assist in shaping the system, empower local communities to build a sustainable mixed delivery system in designing data collection systems that assist in information sharing across programs. Families and stakeholders will assist in designing more efficient systems in order to maximize family knowledge and choice. Indiana will identify the gaps in service delivery, particularly for specific populations such as low-income children and families in rural areas, vulnerable populations, and for different age groups such as infants and toddlers and make programmatic changes to meet those needs. In collaboration with stakeholders, Indiana will identify best practices and empower communities to implement those practices when designing local programs and services. Other quality improvement efforts include developing efficient methods to share best practices, strengthening the workforce capacity and knowledge in trauma-informed approaches, and providing the workforce professional development that best meet families' needs. Indiana will invest locally to adopt a shared service model, find local areas of excellence in transition practices, execute leadership training for community-based leaders, and issue challenge grants to find sustainable models for the workforce. These investments will increase the quality of supports for Hoosier children. Outcomes will include a community-led, better aligned and efficient B-5 system, with streamlined practices and policies, increased family involvement across the system, smoother transitions for children to elementary school, and quality programs and services

Populations to be served. While all B-5 Indiana families will be served, a special focus will be on understanding needs and best practices for infants and toddlers, vulnerable populations, children residing in low income households, preschool children, and children in rural areas.