

Project Summary and Abstract

Project Title: Commonwealth of Kentucky Preschool Development Grant

Applicant Name: Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood

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The purpose of Kentucky's Preschool Development Grant is to strengthen its comprehensive early childhood system, to support all young children and their caregivers but especially highly vulnerable children and children in rural or limited accessibility areas of the state. Kentucky will build on its existing partnerships and relationships to improve the leveraging of resources across programs and agencies, to build capacity of state and local leaders with regard to programs, communications, outreach to families, and engagement strategies, and to ensure all children receive timely, effective, and high quality services that are responsive to their needs.

Kentucky's primary goal is to enhance and strengthen its early childhood system with activities and services in five areas, including an enhanced **Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning** process, which will complement activities that began under the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant. In addition, Kentucky will **Maximize Parent Knowledge and Choice** through the development and implementation of a comprehensive, statewide, outreach and education campaign, support for local family engagement initiatives, and development of statewide Transition Plans. Kentucky will promote the **Sharing of Best Practices** across the early care and education spectrum, through the development of a clearinghouse of best practices, with content dedicated to highly vulnerable children, children and families served through the Family First Prevention Services Act, Infants and Toddlers, Transitions, and children in rural and limited access areas. Finally, Kentucky will pursue continuous **Improvements to the Quality of Early Care and Education** settings through training and technical assistance to early care and education professionals, along with early childhood workforce and leadership development initiatives. Kentucky will build capacity across all activity areas through trainings, technical assistance, and staffing in Disabilities and Mental Health, Trauma and Resiliency, Transitions, and Infant/Toddler Quality. Finally, Kentucky will enhance its existing data systems for tracking participation in services and early childhood results and outcomes.