

Table of Contents

Approach and Expected Outcomes: Activities One through Five.....2-38
Activity One: B-5 Needs Assessment (including Bonus Points).....2-13
Activity Two: B-5 Strategic Plan.....13-20
Activity Three: Maximizing Parent Knowledge and Choice.....20-29
Activity Four: Sharing Best Practices.....29-36
Activity Five: Improving Overall Quality.....37-38
Organizational Capacity and Management (including Third-party Agreements.....38-43
and Plan for Oversight of Federal Award Funds)
State B-5 Mixed Delivery System Description and Vision Statement.....43-51
Timeline (including Dissemination Plan).....52-55
Program Performance Evaluation Plan.....55-62
Logic Model.....63
Sustainability Plan.....64-66
Budget and Budget Justification.....66-69

Approach and Expected Outcomes: Activities One through Five

For almost two decades, Minnesota advocates and state agencies have been dedicated to building a comprehensive, mixed delivery early childhood system. Our robust systems offer multiple layers of quality programming and interventions to support positive child and family outcomes. Our overall goal through the PDG B-5 project is to more effectively align and coordinate our systems in order to ease navigation through the system for families. **Minnesota has demonstrated a commitment to continuous improvement in early childhood care and education.** Governor Dayton re-established the Children's Cabinet, whose work is led by an Executive Director and supported by three staff. Cabinet members also include the commissioners of the Minnesota Departments of Education (MDE), Health (MDH), and Human Services (DHS). The purpose of the Cabinet is to better coordinate policies, programs, and resources across agencies and communities to support improved outcomes for Minnesota children. The Children’s Cabinet is focused on ensuring all Minnesota children are healthy, safe, supported, and prepared to achieve their full potential. Since 2011, the Children’s Cabinet has led efforts to reform Minnesota’s early childhood system, including successful completion of Minnesota’s Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant and expanding Minnesota’s Help

Me Grow system. It also has advanced policies around voluntary pre-kindergarten, early learning scholarships, home visiting, health and well-being, and ensuring all Minnesota children have access to foundational education opportunities. In addition, the Children's Cabinet has worked to improve interagency communication and the coordination of services across state government. In January 2018, the Children's Cabinet was expanded to include commissioners of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (DOT), Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA), Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), and the Metropolitan Council. The expansion reflects the consensus that families with young children must have a broad spectrum of needs met to ensure healthy development and future life success. Inclusion of the additional agency commissioners in the Children's Cabinet ensures that Minnesota is taking a whole-family approach to serving children and families, and will continue to improve coordination and streamline services. This infrastructure also ensures a strong avenue for state-level cross agency collaboration.

Activity One: B-5 Needs Assessment

1. How the State will address the required activities for Activity One.

The Minnesota Children's Cabinet has recently adopted the vision: *By focusing on children facing racial, geographic, and economic inequities, all children in Minnesota will be born healthy and able to thrive within their families and communities.* This vision was developed by the Early Childhood System Reform (ECSR) Steering Committee and has been adopted by multiple organizations and state agency initiatives supporting pregnant and parenting families with young children. Under the direction of the Children's Cabinet, the PDG B-5 project was developed by an interagency leadership team representing each of Minnesota's early learning sectors (MDE, DHS, and MDH). This team, through the Children's Cabinet, will