

PROJECT ABSTRACT

- New York State Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five Project
- Submitted by the New York State Council on Children and Families
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The vision of the New York State Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five project is for every child in New York to be supported by a mixed-delivery system that is informed by parent voice and provides access to high quality, equitable and comprehensive early care and learning environments and services essential for successful development and lifelong success. New York's expansive early childhood infrastructure and investment in health, education, nutrition, social and other needed services reflect a strong commitment to supporting young children and their families. Yet, it is evident that our state's current early childhood configuration, with multiple oversight agencies and varying funding streams, workforce qualifications and compensation scales, results in agencies operating in silos and inefficiently using resources. These differences translate into inequitable accessibility and quality of early care and learning opportunities for children, particularly our most vulnerable.

The New York State Council on Children and Families, in partnership with the New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, the New York State Education Department, the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Office of Mental Health, other public and private agencies, and, most importantly, parents representing vulnerable and underserved populations, plans to achieve the following outcomes with the successful implementation of this grant:

1. A comprehensive analysis of access to early childhood programs that delivers a more nuanced understanding of parent need and a detailed assessment of the system's supply and demand;
2. A stronger early childhood care and education mixed delivery system that fully informs and engages families in their children's early care and education choices;
3. New financing strategies, including braided public and private funding and seamless coordination among early childhood programs to support New York's mixed delivery system;
4. Increased numbers of early childhood programs with active linkages to pediatricians, dentists, and early childhood mental health consultants;
5. A coordinated approach to sharing best practices and technical assistance;
6. Consistent use of standard agreements to support smooth transitions for children and families, from Early Intervention to Preschool Special Education programs, and from early care and education programs to elementary school;
7. Increased professional early childhood workforce development;
8. Integration of the state's early childhood data to enable better tracking of the early childhood system and of child outcomes; and
9. Expansion of QUALITYstarsNY, a five-star rating system, to ensure more children, especially those who are most vulnerable, have access to quality early childhood programs.