

**Project Title:** Texas Preschool Development Grant  
**Applicant Name:** Texas Education Agency  
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### Project Summary

The Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) will allow Texas to boost the efficiency, quality, and coordination of its early childhood care and education mixed delivery system. Currently, Texas' statewide system consists of multiple agencies and service providers working in silos. While Texas has several current initiatives to help align these systems, this grant would maximize efforts to build a statewide system and develop sustainable solutions to support vulnerable and underserved children<sup>1</sup>.

This proposed project includes five activities designed to ensure that state and local systems coordinate and align to empower thriving children and families. This will be accomplished by helping them receive critical services and achieve developmental milestones. These activities consist of 1) needs assessment development to provide a clear picture of the current landscape of Texas' early childhood system, 2) strategic plan development to ensure a coordinated statewide system of early childhood programs and services, 3) maximizing family choice and knowledge by training, planning, and creating tools based on user-centered design principles to empower families, 4) sharing best practices by providing technical assistance to local systems and expanding access to shared services to child care providers, and 5) improving overall quality by expanding the state's quality-rating and improvement system (QRIS) and providing additional professional learning opportunities around developmental screenings and Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Intervention.

This project will be led by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in partnership with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), and Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office (THSSCO). Each agency is committed to working together to achieve the goals of this grant. Also, included in the partnership are child care providers and local education agencies (LEAs), and Head Start providers, which include the programming and voices of our Indian tribes and tribal organizations. Including these programs ensures diverse voices across Texas are heard. The Texas Early Learning Council (TELC) will serve as the lead to ensure robust stakeholder engagement for all the activities proposed in the grant application.

Texas is primed to improve its system and this grant would provide a tremendous opportunity to drive quality improvements.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of the application this is defined as families with children eligible for free or reduced lunch.