Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Q&A Session January 5, 2021
Session Overview

• Why is PDG B-5 important for the children of Virginia?
• Overview of the Preschool Development Grant B-5 (PDG)
• Review the procedures and dates in the Letter of Intent (LOI) and application process
• Frequently Asked Questions
• Q&A
Why is PDG B-5 important for the children and families of Virginia?

- 44% of Virginia’s children started school without the key literacy, math, and social-emotional skills needed to be successful (2019)
  - Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP)

- 33rd Virginia’s national ranking in preschool funding (2019)

- 75% of Virginia’s early childhood programs receiving public funding did not participate in the state’s voluntary quality measurement system (2019)

- 37th Virginia’s national ranking in early childhood governance (2019)

- 55% of children from economically disadvantaged families
- 66% of children with special needs did not enter school fully prepared for success.

- 1 in 3 economically disadvantaged four-year-olds
- 3 out of 4 economically disadvantaged three-year-olds lack access to quality preschool

- Vulnerable families, policymakers, practitioners and community leaders did not have uniform information on quality.

- New legislation signed in July 2020 by Governor Northam to create a Uniform Measurement and Improvement System
Why PDG B-5?

Our Vision: All children in Virginia will thrive with the support of accessible, quality, and affordable early care and education delivered in safe and nurturing environments.
Tackling Racial Inequities: Shared Vision

• **Our Vision** All children in Virginia will thrive with the support of accessible, quality, and affordable early care and education delivered in safe and nurturing environments.

• Yet race, ethnicity, socio-economic, language-learner, and ability status currently predict school readiness outcomes in the Commonwealth.

• To achieve **All,**
  - We must prioritize Black children
  - We must prioritize Latino children
  - We must prioritize children with special needs
  - We must prioritize the most vulnerable children and families in our communities
Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG)

- Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG), with a focus on building infrastructure: Through PDG, communities have the opportunity to build, expand, and sustain a birth-to-age 5 (B-5) system that supports school readiness for Virginia’s children served in publicly funded early childhood education and care (ECCE) classrooms.**

- The PDG strives to promote comprehensive supports that address the early childhood care and education needs of Virginia’s most vulnerable families as determined by the PDG B-5 Needs Assessment, including:
  - those who are economically disadvantaged;
  - homeless;
  - English Language Learners (ELLs);
  - living in rural areas or child care deserts;
  - belong to one of Virginia’s eleven tribal communities;
  - or have children with special needs.

- These efforts will help build the foundation for a new uniform measurement and improvement system required for all publicly-funded programs beginning in the fall of 2023.

**Publicly-funded ECCE classrooms include those programs in public schools, such as VPI, Early Childhood Special Education, Title One, Head Start programs, and publicly subsidized ECCE in family day homes, child care centers, and private preschools.
Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Birth to Five Partnership

• PDG Communities will work closely with VECF, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the University of Virginia (UVA) to complete activities and strengthen their local systems as indicated previously.

• Note that all Virginia communities will ultimately be expected to build this infrastructure, so PDG enables ready communities to start this important work now. It should also be noted that PDG cannot be used to pay for slots.
Commitments to Early Childhood Systems Building (Assurances)

**Increase Access**
Champion equitable early childhood opportunities

**Engage Families**
Partner with children’s first teachers

**Build Relationships**
Establish and grow collaborative partnerships

**Strengthen Quality**
Ensure high-quality learning experiences

**Confront Racial Inequity**

Icons: Flaticon.com
What do I need to do if I’m a Current PDG Community?

• Current PDG communities (those with signed SOWs for activity through June 30, 2021) will not need to submit an LOI

• Current grantees will be asked to complete a brief form (provided by VECF by February 1) to indicate their intention to continue into FY22
  – Form is due back by March 15

• Formal MOUs, will be provided by VECF and fully executed between the community lead agency and VECF by early May.
What do I need to do if I’m a Current PDG Community interested in expanding or merging?

• **Current** PDG communities (those with signed SOWs for activity through June 30, 2021) **will not** need to submit an LOI

• Current grantees will be asked to complete a brief form (provided by VECF by February 1) to indicate their intention to expand footprint or merge
  – Form is due back by March 15

• Formal MOUs will be provided by VECF and fully executed among the community lead agency and representatives from the localities to be added by early May.
Potentially eligible applicants:

• Applying entities and fiscal agents must have proven experience and capacity to administer grants of complex nature and represent coalitions of community partners committed to the success of the initiative.

• Potential applicants may represent school divisions, local governments, human service agencies, United Way agencies, community action agencies, Smart Beginnings initiatives, chambers of commerce, and/or community-based organizations or associations.
Letter of Intent (LOI)

• The letter of intent is required for communities interested in the opportunity to submit full applications for PDG.

• A panel of reviewers will use information provided in the LOI to determine which communities will be invited to submit PDG applications.

• VECF will also use information provided in LOIs to plan for provision of technical assistance for communities as needed during the application process.

• Required Letters of Intent (LOIs) will be shared by February 1st and are due to VECF no later than March 15, 2021, 5:00 pm.
Letter of Intent (LOI), continued.

• Successful applicants for this funding opportunity will represent strong collaborations of organizations at the community level.

• Only one Letter of Intent (LOI) and application per region/service area will be funded.

• VECF encourages interested communities to develop a coordinated vision for their community and work collaboratively to apply.
Letter of Intent (LOI): Questions for Applicants

Applicants will be asked to provide the following:

• Basic information about the person and organization submitting the LOI on behalf of the community

• Building Relationships: Explain engagement of key decision-makers during the application process, outreach to neighboring PDG regions, and regional collaboration

• Increasing Access—Name jurisdictions that you will serve in the PDG and how many publicly-funded sites/classrooms you anticipate engaging

• Strengthening Quality—Convey efforts your region has taken to familiarize publicly funded programs with quality improvement measures, including the CLASS® tool

• Engaging Families—Share family engagement efforts within your region

• Confronting Racial Inequity—Articulate the steps your region has taken to analyze and reflect on data disaggregated by race/ethnicity and how that informs the policies and practices to equitably engage families and children of color.
Important Dates

- February 1 - LOI Released
- February 5, 9 am – LOI Informational Webinar
- February 8 - February 26 - One on One Calls, Available by Appointment
- February 19, March 5 – PDG Bi-Weekly Q&A Sessions (Fridays at 9am)
- March 1 - March 12 - One on One Calls, Available by Appointment
- TBD - Additional TA opportunities, as needed
- March 15 - LOIs Due by 5pm
- March 16 - March 31 - LOI Evaluation Process
- March 31 - Notification of Invitation to Apply
- April 1 - Applications Released
- May 14 - Applications Due by 5pm
- May 25 - New PDG communities announced
- July 1 - Grant funding begins

Technical assistance in the form of webinars, FAQs, and phone calls will be provided throughout the application period. Please stay tuned to VECF social media and website for updates.
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the funding range? How can we know how much funding our community might be eligible to apply for?

• Funding ranges will be determined for PDG based on the number of publicly funded classrooms within your specified region.
• After submission of an LOI, budget guidance will be provided prior to being invited to submit a full application.
Frequently Asked Questions

What are the allowable costs for PDG?

• The primary focus is dedicated funds for coordination and infrastructure to increase access and improve quality in publicly-funded infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms.

• You can find detail for allowable costs within the PDG Guidebook budget guidance section.
Can I use PDG funds to expand slots? How about for before- and after-school care?

- PDG funds cannot be used to expand slots.
- Funding cannot be used for before- and after-school care.
Frequently Asked Questions

How is the unified measurement and improvement system related to PDG?

• PDG communities will be the first to “practice” the unified measurement and improvement system. The first practice year will begin in August 2021, and the second practice year will begin in August 2022.

Where can I learn more about the unified measurement and improvement system?

• You can access the informational webinar and one-page overview on the new unified measurement and improvement system on the Opportunities Ahead page.
Recommended activities for interested applicants:

• Review materials related to the PDG opportunity on VECF’s website, including the PDG Overview Information Session Webinar and Resources Document

• Start or restart conversations with community partners; how can PDG B-5 support your community with the following:
  – build community infrastructure
  – prepare for the uniform measurement and improvement system
  – measure and increase access to and strengthen quality of ECCE for at-risk children in your community

• Set up additional community one-on-one calls to receive additional technical assistance

• Submit the required LOI to VECF no later than March 15, 2021 at 5pm.
Keeping Informed

• To receive information and details about the PDG opportunity, application requirements, and deadlines, please:
  – Follow VECF on Facebook (www.facebook.com/SmartBeginnings) or Twitter (@SB_VECF).
  – Visit our website for the most up-to-date information.

• Comments and questions, please send inquiries to Lucy@vecf.org.
QUESTIONS