

Delaware PDG B-5 Update

June 2019

Delaware continues its work on the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) through the collaboration of the Dept. of Education, the Dept. of Health and Social Services, and the Dept. of Children, Youth and their Families.

In June, a vendor was chosen to engage with various stakeholders to conduct a user experience needs assessment using a human-centric design thinking process. The vendor will conduct interviews with families and early learning professionals to learn more about the needs of children in the early childhood mixed delivery system. This contract will be finalized for a July start.

Simultaneously, the Birth through Five Accountability Committee (B-5 AC) has collected existing needs assessments for the vendor to synthesize upon their start. Additional partners have been reviewing these documents to learn about where Delaware is and where it wants to go. A concurrent early childhood data systems analysis has begun and will continue throughout the user experience needs assessment.

Once the vendor begins its work, teams will be formed to plan the tasks of Activities 3, parent knowledge and choice, and Activity 4, sharing best practices among professionals. The scope of these activities were reduced from our original application because all states received a reduced award.

After the needs assessment concludes at the beginning of the fall, this same vendor will be designing our improvements to the early childhood mixed delivery system and subsequently creating a Strategic Plan.