

Wisconsin's Preschool Development Grant Birth to 5

Doing What's Best for Our Kids

Closure Report - June 2025



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families



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Acronyms

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Applied Populations Laboratory (APL)

Business Child Care Advocates (BCCAs)

Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies (CommNS)

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA)

Department of Health Services (DHS)

Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

Early Care and Education (ECE)

Early Childhood Health Consultation (ECHC)

Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems (ECIDS)

Family Resource Centers (FRCs)

Infant Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH)

Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP)

Lead in Water Testing and Remediation (Lead in WTR)

Leadership Council on Early Years (LCEY)

Longitudinal Information for Family Touchpoints (LIFT)

Parent/Caregiver Advisory Cabinet (PCAC)

Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5)

Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy and Training (QUEST)

University of Wisconsin– Madison Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS)

Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (Prevention Board)

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA)

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)

Wisconsin Head Start Association (WSHA)

Young Learners Tribal Language Revitalization Grants (YLTRG)

Introduction

The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) is a federal grant administered by the Department of Children and Families in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the Department of Health Services (DHS), and additional partners. In 2020, Wisconsin was awarded a PDG B-5 Renewal, totaling \$30 million and spanning three years (2021–23). In 2024, Wisconsin received a no-cost extension to continue their PDG B-5 work for the remainder of the calendar year.

DCF staff worked with a range of collaborators and used a wide body of research to guide the projects funded through PDG B-5. Through this process they created guiding documents, including:

- Needs Assessments (2020, 2021, 2022)
- PDG B–5 Statewide Strategic Plan (2021-2023)
- Program Performance Evaluation Plan (PPEP)

The PDG B-5 Renewal Grant funded numerous programs and other initiatives across all regions of Wisconsin to support children and families, communities, and the early care and education workforce.

Our Vision

All Wisconsin families will have access to high-quality, affordable, local early care and education opportunities. When systems work together, intentionally aligning and improving how we support and serve our youngest children and families, we will help every child succeed and help Wisconsin thrive.

This report details activities funded through Wisconsin’s Preschool Development Grant Birth to 5 between January 2021–December 2024.



Partnerships

PDG B-5 activities detailed in this report would not have been possible without help from several partner organizations. Read about each partner organization below.

| Partner | Description | Projects |
|---|---|--|
| Applied Population Laboratory (APL) (University of Wisconsin-Madison) | APL provides information solutions through a unique set of skills that unites applied demography, health geography, spatial analysis, information systems, planning, and community development and is housed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk and Reach • Child Care Deserts |
| Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies (CommNS) (University of Wisconsin-Madison) | The CommNS is a Center of Excellence at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Human Ecology. It supports faculty, staff, and students in the field of community and nonprofit studies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECE Workforce Study • Supporting Early Childhood Transition Projects |
| Consilience Group | Consilience Group, LLC is a mission-driven systems transformation firm committed to the physical, social, and economic well-being of all people and communities. Consilience Group's expertise is in developing comprehensive, accountable, and action-oriented strategic plans to align and integrate policy and practices for equitable people-centered services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth to Five (B-5) Strategic Plan (2024-26) |
| First Children's Finance | First Children's Finance is a national nonprofit organization that provides loans and business development assistance to child care businesses serving low- and moderate-income families. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Growth: Dream Up! |
| Head Start | Wisconsin worked with Head Start Collaboration Office and Head Start grantees on data integration. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Start Data Integration |
| Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) | IRP is a nonpartisan research institution dedicated to producing and disseminating rigorous evidence to inform policies and programs to combat poverty, inequality, and their effects in the United States. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Performance Evaluation Plan (PPEP) • Caregiver Survey |
| KW2 | KW2 is a full-service digital and advertising agency with extensive expertise in public health, public information and education, higher education, and business services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Growth: Communications Campaign • Project Growth: Employee Perceptions of ECE Research • Project Growth: Evaluation Research • Community Resource Tool Kit • Quality/Compliance Campaign • Wisconsin Shares Paid Media Campaign |

Partnerships (cont.)

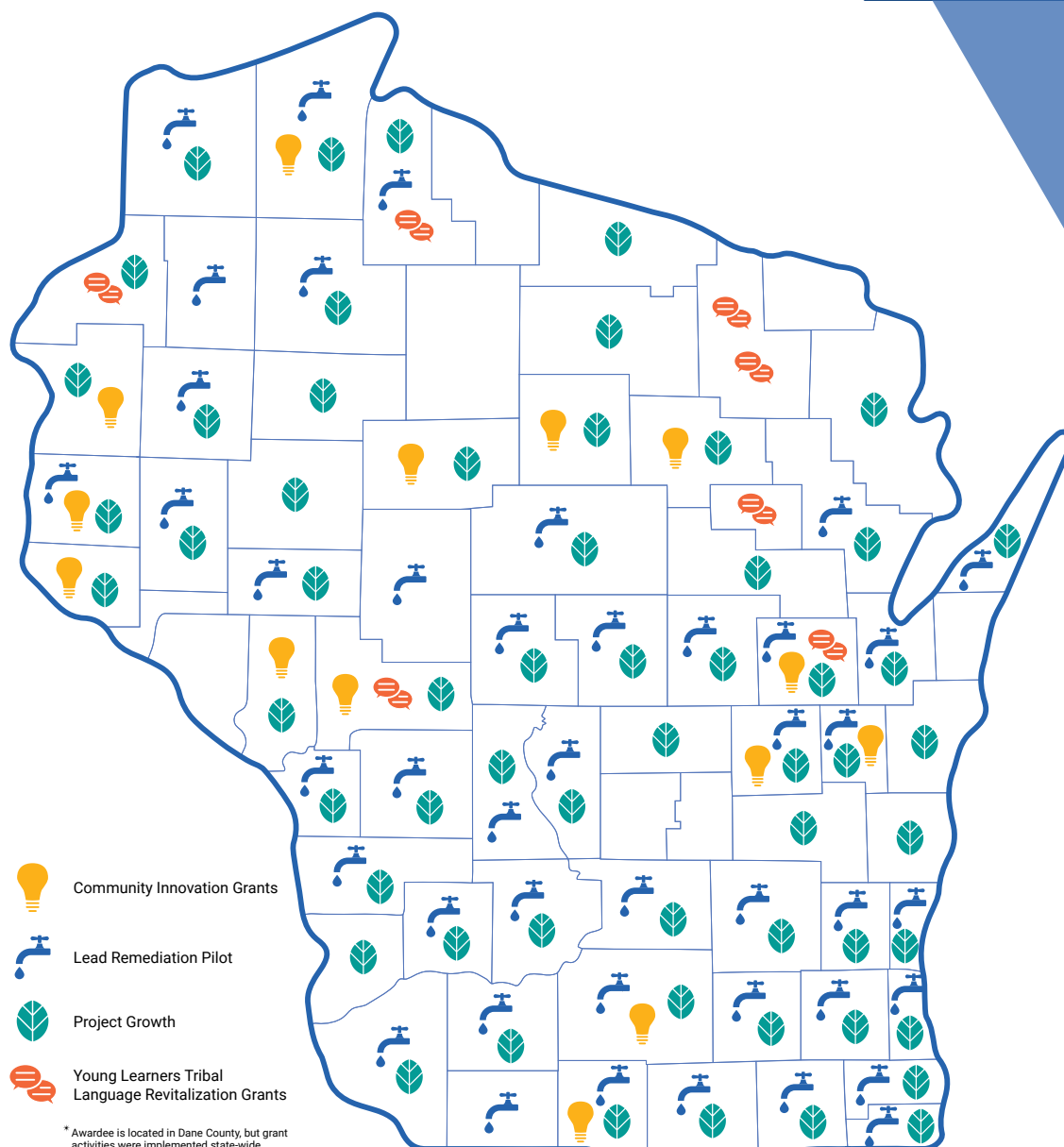
| Partner | Description | Projects |
|---|--|--|
| Literacy Lab | The Literacy Lab provides students—in communities experiencing racial and/or economic inequities—with evidence-based, culturally responsive literacy instruction as preparation for academic, professional, and personal success. They serve children from age 3 through grade three and partner with school districts to help close the literacy gap largely by embedding full-time, rigorously trained tutors in early childhood centers and elementary schools. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading Men Fellowship |
| ParentPowered | ParentPowered provides easy-to-use, highly accessible parenting tools designed to improve the lives of all children, birth through 12th grade. ParentPowered serves families nationally through its evidence-based, whole-child family engagement approach, delivered through text messages. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ParentPowered (formerly Ready4K) |
| Thriving Wisconsin (Formerly Supporting Families Together Association) | Thriving Wisconsin envisions a future where all Wisconsin children have access to the highest quality child care. They are Wisconsin's membership association for CCR&Rs and FRCs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Growth: Business Child Care Advocates Project Growth: Partner Up! |
| University of Wisconsin– Madison Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS) | COWS is a nonprofit, nonpartisan “think-and-do tank” dedicated to improving economic performance and living standards in the state of Wisconsin and nationally. Based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, COWS works to promote “high road” strategies that support living wages, environmental sustainability, strong communities, and public accountability. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECE Workforce Study |
| University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Human Ecology and School of Medicine and Public Health's Department of Pediatrics | The Department of Pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health promotes and enhances the health of children through outstanding clinical care, exemplary education of pediatric trainees, performance of cutting-edge research, and vigorous advocacy. It is the academic home to more than 200 faculty members across 16 subspecialty divisions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Childhood Health Consultation (ECHC) |
| University of Wisconsin Survey Center | The University of Wisconsin Survey Center , a unit of the College of Letters & Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has conducted thousands of studies working in the field of survey research since its inception in 1987. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECE Workforce Study |
| University of Wisconsin–Whitewater College of Education and Professional Studies | The College of Education and Professional Studies at UW-Whitewater is committed to the development of professionals who are lifelong learners, creators of knowledge, and leaders of character and integrity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022 Needs Assessment |

Partnerships (cont.)

| Partner | Description | Projects |
|---|---|--|
| Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health (WI-AIMH) | WI-AIMH is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) through relationship-based practices. WI-AIMH works to promote infant mental health through building awareness, promoting professional capacity, fostering partnerships, and supporting policies that are in the best interest of infants, young children, and their families. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pyramid Model IECMH Endorsements |
| Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (Prevention Board) | The Prevention Board is a statewide board committed to family strength and preventing child abuse and neglect. The Prevention Board collaborates and funds Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to help children grow up in safe, stable, and nurturing families and communities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 211 Family Resource Centers Network |
| Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) | DHS is the state agency dedicated to protecting and promoting the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin. Their core values include focusing on the needs of people they serve, addressing health disparities, and managing public resources responsibly. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead in Water Testing and Remediation (Lead in WTR) Risk and Reach |
| Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) | DPI is the state agency that advances public education and libraries. Their mission is to advance equitable, transformative, and sustainable educational experiences that develop learners, schools, libraries, and communities in Wisconsin. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Learners Tribal Language Revitalization Grants (YLTRG) Risk and Reach |
| Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA) | WECA is a state nonprofit dedicated to advancing comprehensive and transformational support of the early childhood workforce. It exists to support early childhood educators, child care programs, and tens of thousands of young children, families, and communities across Wisconsin. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECE Workforce Study T.E.A.C.H Business-Child Care Partnership Tool Kit |
| Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) | WEDC provides resources, operational support, financial assistance, and works with more than 600 partners across the state to enhance the economic well-being of people, businesses, and communities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business-Child Care Partnership Tool Kit |
| Wisconsin Registry | Wisconsin Registry provides high-quality early learning and continuous professional growth to Wisconsin's Early Childhood Care and After-School Education workforce. Wisconsin Registry works to develop and implement a system to approve training and trainers to ensure providers can find quality training opportunities across the state. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registry memberships |

PDG: Making a Difference Across Wisconsin

Through PDG B-5, Wisconsin has been able to offer numerous grant programs and other activities that span all regions of Wisconsin. We've used some of our research outlined in this report to discover areas of need and come up with approaches to address those needs. The work has therefore focused on areas in Wisconsin that are identified as a child care desert, counties that need more support in access to health services, or places that need assistance with lead remediation. Read more about each program throughout this report and use the visual below to see how these services spanned the whole state.





Research Activities

PDG B-5 funded research activities to better understand the accessibility, availability, workforce, and quality of early care and education in Wisconsin. PDG B-5 funds were also used to update systems to gather more and better data. Read about each research activity below.

1,053

Caregiver
Responses

Caregiver Survey

DCF worked with IRP and the Survey Center to send out a survey to caregivers across Wisconsin. We wanted to understand how caregivers were accessing and using public programs. This survey helped state agencies address barriers and create similarities across programs. The [Findings Summary](#) highlighted the difficulties caregivers experience in finding child care programs. It also showed the geographic and income barriers for enrolling in child care programs.

Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems (ECIDS)

Wisconsin used ECIDS to create a count of children being served in ECE programs throughout the state. While unduplicated counts exist for individual programs, this was the state's first effort to pull all the data together. ECIDS helped identify which children receive ECE services across state agencies. This distinct count of children participating in ECE programs throughout the state was then analyzed by characteristics such as age, race/ethnicity, geography, disability, and other child well-being indicators.

ECE Workforce Study

In 2020 and 2021, partners at UW-Madison Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS), the Institute for IRP, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA), and the UW Survey Center conducted a series of surveys with Wisconsin's ECE workforce. The goals were to gather information about their working conditions, wages, and plans related to staying in the ECE workforce long term. The results of this workforce study helped show both the challenges the ECE workforce continues to face and its resilience during stressful times. An [executive summary](#), an [at-a-glance infographic](#), and reports on the surveys of [program directors](#), [center-based teachers](#), and [family providers](#) were published. Additionally, WECA published a [recommendations brief](#) and Milwaukee Succeeds published a [snapshot of Milwaukee data](#) alongside this research.

Head Start Data Integration

In 2021, the pilot to integrate Head Start data into DCF's data system, the Longitudinal Information for Family Touchpoints (LIFT), continued. PDG B-5 data and program staff worked closely with the Wisconsin Head Start Association (WHSA) and Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) to gauge interest in further data integration. The PDG B-5 team developed a survey to identify interest and topics for potential data reports and research that informed the pilot efforts in 2022. Through our outreach efforts, we surpassed our goal of having **40% of all children enrolled in Head Start reported to LIFT**.

Risk and Reach

The interactive [Risk and Reach website](#) was developed in partnership with UW-Madison's Applied Population Laboratory (APL). It is a tool to better understand areas of need around Wisconsin. Risk and Reach assesses risk factors that can impact the needs of young children, birth to 5, as well as potential gaps in services delivered by state and federal programs.

Supporting Early Childhood Transition Project

In 2022, DCF contracted with the Co-Create team of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies on the Early Childhood Transition Project. The project aimed to understand how communities could better support families through transitions in the early years (prenatal through age 8). These transition periods include milestones, such as the transition from finding a child care program for your baby, Pre-K to Kindergarten, etc. In December 2023, DCF and the Co-Create team published their [report on eight case studies](#). The **eight case studies included 34 interviews and seven focus group sessions** with staff, board members, parent advisory group members, and other collaborators. The case studies helped identify promising practices to support families in early childhood transitions. This work also provided recommendations to strengthen transition-related activities.



3,000

Risk and Reach
Website Users



Community Programs and Grants

PDG B-5 funded several projects and programs which directly supported local communities and families. Read about each initiative below.

608

Unique 211
Users

211 Wisconsin Database

The Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (Prevention Board) used PDG B-5 funds to develop the [211 Wisconsin Database](#). This database is a guided search for families statewide to connect with the information and support they may need. The Prevention Board collaborated with staff and parents from Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and Help Me Grow-Wisconsin to identify the categories of services for the search. A survey was sent to parents participating in FRC services to provide feedback on the initial version of the database, with two rounds of feedback before the page was launched.

Community Innovation Grants

Community Innovation Grants were a funding program that supported locally driven efforts. They addressed the needs of communities and increased the collective impact of early care and education (ECE) for young children ages birth to 5 and their families. When Project Growth began, these grants became the Dream Up! grant program. (See Project Growth for more details.)



Family Resource Center Network

The Prevention Board also used PDG B-5 funding to establish an FRC network. This network is an improved, coordinated network of services. It also increased opportunities for FRCs to communicate across data systems. This network allowed the Prevention Board to achieve long-standing goals, including **creating the FRC of Quality Accreditation process**. This process implements a dedicated FRC professional development system, plus helps to:

- Create a more coordinated network of services
- Increase opportunities for FRCs to communicate across data systems
- Better equip FRCs to help families navigate the complex system of resources and services available to address their children's needs

Ten FRCs were awarded grants to participate in the newly developed FRC of Quality Accreditation process.

Young Learners Tribal Language Revitalization Grant (YLTLRG)

DPI and DCF collaborated to launch the YLTLRG. This grant program was designed to support tribal early childhood education and tribal Head Start programs to support American Indian language revitalization.

1,089

Children/Students
Supported

Project Growth

[Project Growth](#) provided millions in grant programs designed to build relationships between early childhood, businesses, and communities, and aimed to make high-quality, affordable child care more accessible and sustainable across Wisconsin. Project Growth was funded through the PDG B-5, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy and Training (QUEST), and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Project Growth also included several programs, all of which you can read about below.

Project Growth: Business Child Care Advocates

Business Child Care Advocates (BCCAs) conducted outreach to businesses for Project Growth, mainly about the Partner Up! program. They were located at each of the CCR&Rs across the state so that they could familiarize themselves with local supports. BCCAs connected businesses and regulated child care providers and provided technical assistance to businesses and providers participating in Partner Up!

Project Growth: Business-Child Care Partnership Tool Kit

The [Business-Child Care Partnership Tool Kit](#) was created by DCF, WECA, and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). It contains information and considerations for businesses and child care providers looking to partner within their communities. The tool kit is a resource for businesses interested in building child care capacity within their communities to create a stronger local workforce. Child care programs can also use this tool kit, and to showcase how they can benefit from partnering with businesses and ways to do so.

Project Growth: Communications Campaign

DCF worked with KW2 to create a comprehensive media campaign for the launch of both the Partner Up! and Dream Up! grant programs. It was important that businesses and communities across Wisconsin had the opportunity to apply for these grant programs. KW2 helped ensure that happened by designing and implementing a plan that included several different media channels. The campaign was successful with **over 85,388,062 impressions on advertisements and sufficient applications for both Dream Up! and Partner Up!**

Project Growth: Dream Up!

In 2022, DCF transformed the Community Innovation Grants into the Dream Up! Child Care Supply-Building Grant Program as part of the Project Growth initiative. This program was administered by First Children's Finance. Dream Up! provided \$10.4 million in funding to 37 Wisconsin communities to support child care supply-building through a collaborative community approach. Dream Up! awarded communities established their core teams, evaluated their communities, developed strategic plans, and then received funding to implement those plans. In addition to the grant funding, Dream Up! provided:

- **\$5,000 stipends to over 300 child care providers** who updated their business plans through the Dream Up! Business Leadership trainings
- A **free four-part statewide community webinar series** to help communities address child care supply and sustainability
- **32 free provider business trainings** online
- Over **500 hours of consulting services**



37

Communities
Participated

Project Growth: Employee Perceptions of ECE Research

In the fall of 2021 DCF surveyed **nearly 1,000 Wisconsin employers** from every county in the state, across a wide range of industries. The goal was to better understand their perceptions about early care and education for children between birth and age 5, as well as what barriers businesses faced in supporting employees' child care needs. Gaining insight into their perspectives helped us connect Wisconsin business owners with the child care information and community-based resources they—and their employees—needed to thrive.

Read the [Wisconsin Employer 2021 Research Snapshot](#).

Read the [Comprehensive Research Findings](#).

Project Growth: Evaluation Research

DCF partnered with KW2 to conduct an evaluation of both the Dream Up! and Partner Up! grant programs. You can access each report below:

- [Project Growth Overview](#)
- [Partner Up! Program Evaluation](#)
- [Dream Up! Mini Report](#)
- [Dream Up! Full Grant Program Report](#)

Project Growth: Partner Up!

The Partner Up! grant program provided funding for partnerships between businesses and regulated child care providers. Awarded businesses purchased child care slots at existing regulated child care programs for their employees. Between the business portion and the Partner Up! portion, local child care programs received the true cost of care as established by DCF's Market Rate Survey, regardless of their current enrollment prices. In most cases, this increased the amount that child care providers received for slots contracted through Partner Up! Child care providers were then able to use that funding to increase staff compensation, reserve child care slots for local business employees, improve the quality of a child care program, and more.

Overall, there were three cohorts of Partner Up! awards, with some businesses applying to extend their contracts during the third cohort. Cohorts 1 and 2 were administered by Thriving Wisconsin (formerly Supporting Families Together Association) with DCF taking on the administration of the third cohort.

Partner Up! was funded by ARPA, CRRSA, PDG B-5, and QUEST



220+

Businesses
Participated

Health Programs

PDG B-5 funds were used to improve the health of children and families across Wisconsin. Read about each completed initiative below.

30,140

Children
Served

Lead-in-Water Testing and Remediation (WTR) Initiative

The [Lead-in-WTR Initiative](#) was offered by DHS. By partnering with **46 local public health departments**, the Lead-in-WTR Initiative offered licensed group child care centers free lead-in-water testing and free lead remediation for their water fixtures, which includes the removal and/or replacement of any hazardous faucets or water fountains. Overall they replaced **over 120 water fixtures**.

Early Childhood Health Consultation (EHC)

The [EHC program](#) is part of a multi-phase project addressing the quality of and access to ECE programs in Wisconsin. Funded by PDG B-5, EHC was created by UW-Madison School of Human Ecology (SoHE) and the School of Medicine and Public Health's Department of Pediatrics. EHC is a free program which supports the implementation of best health and safety practices in early childhood care settings. The program works with ECE providers to achieve best practices in child health and safety. The EHC program offers ongoing guidance statewide through the resource library, monthly webinars, and a fun, informative podcast. With PDG B-5 funds, EHC provided all services at no cost to early childhood care and education providers.

4,100+

ECE Providers
Supported

Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsements and Pyramid Model

PDG B-5 funds supported the quality of social-emotional resources available in Wisconsin's ECE programs. Partnerships with WI-AIMH built the infrastructure for increased integration of the state's infant and early childhood mental health and Pyramid Model work into YoungStar, the state's QRIS system. WI-AIMH supported the expansion of [Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health \(IECMH\) Endorsement® program](#), **doubling the amount of endorsed professionals since 2019**.





Workforce Support

Workforce support was identified as a priority during the PDG B-5 Strategic Plan and Needs Assessment processes. Therefore, PDG B-5 funded specific initiatives for supporting the early care and education workforce. Read about each completed initiative below.

Leading Men Fellowship

To strengthen the ECE workforce, PDG B-5 partnered with Leading Men's Fellowship. **Six active fellows in four different schools** participated in the program.

T.E.A.C.H.

PDG B-5 funds helped expand the [scholarship program](#) to eligible child care providers.

Wisconsin Registry

PDG B-5 funds provided **49,200 coupons** for free membership to [Wisconsin Registry](#) for ECE professionals between January 2021 and October 2023.

287

T.E.A.C.H.
Scholarships

Resources

PDG B-5 funds allowed Wisconsin to create new resources to provide more information to families and communities. These resources aimed to increase knowledge and involvement in programs. Read about each initiative below.

Community Resource Tool Kit

The Community Resource Tool Kit was developed in partnership with KW2. It is a complimentary tool kit to the Business-Child Care Partnership Tool Kit. The Community Resource Tool Kit outlines the way an entire community can come together to work to solve the child care crisis in their area.

ParentPowered (formerly Ready4K)

ParentPowered sent curriculum-based text messages to subscribers. These text messages were offered in **10 commonly used languages** across Wisconsin and were versioned into two different tribal languages.

Quality/Compliance Campaign

DCF worked with KW2 to create important resources and spread information about programs that could help children and families across Wisconsin. Part of this work helped families and communities across the state to understand the quality and compliance connection in the early care and education field. To do this, KW2 helped DCF to:

- Outline the value of early care and regulation
- Develop a series of animated videos to cover what goes into both regulated and quality child care
- Create resource guides – one for families and one for child care providers
- Help providers navigate regulation through a new online interactive roadmap
- Share all these tools and resources through a statewide paid media campaign

Wisconsin Shares Paid Media Campaign

PDG B-5 funds were utilized, along with other funding, to run **three statewide media campaigns** that helped spread awareness about the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. KW2 helped design and implement these campaigns which used several different channels including billboards, online streaming, radio, television, banner and other web ads, social media, and transit shelters.

In addition, DCF and KW2 created a [media kit](#) that was shared among our partners and other supporting community organizations across Wisconsin. This kit helps organizations and people that work directly with families across the state, share this important subsidy with their families.



31,000

Children Enrolled
in ParentPowered

Information Technology Update

Wisconsin utilized a portion of PDG B-5 funds for information technology updates to create more efficiency across programs and user-friendly applications for providers and parents. Read about each initiative below.

Child Care Finder Upgrades

The [Child Care Finder](#) is a tool that can be used by parents/caregivers to find early care and education programs near their home or work. The programs that appear in a search are regularly monitored by DCF or county/tribal certifiers. The tool gives parents a high-level overview of each program. PDG B-5 funds were used to both make the Child Care Finder available in Spanish as well as track the criteria being searched for by users.

Parent and Provider Portal Enhancements

DCF has both a Parent and a Provider Portal. These platforms allow parents and providers to give us updates as well as for us to give parents and providers updates electronically. Through PDG B-5 funding, both platforms were translated into Spanish.

Text Messaging for Providers

PDG B-5 also funded a project to add functionality to push out announcements via text messages. These messages reached providers statewide.



Leadership Bodies

There are multiple leadership bodies that support and guide DCF and PDG B-5 activities. Two of them are direct results of PDG B-5 investments: the Leadership Council on Early Years (LCEY) and the Parent/Caregiver Advisory Cabinet (PCAC). Learn more about the role of each of these bodies below.

Leadership Council on Early Years (LCEY)

Created under PDG B-5, [LCEY](#) was launched in February 2020 with the aim of making strategic connections across executive branch agencies to better serve and improve outcomes for all of Wisconsin's children and their families, particularly those who are most vulnerable and underserved. It is comprised of state agency leaders who work together to advance the Governor's vision of "what's best for our kids is best for our state." Between January 2021 and December 2024, [LCEY met 13 times](#).

Parent/Caregiver Advisory Cabinet (PCAC)

The [PCAC](#) was established to ensure that family perspectives are included in the development process for the state's early childhood programs, policies, and services. The PCAC met for the first time in early 2022 and focused on the needs of five communities—Adams County, Beloit, and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Tribe, Madison, and Milwaukee.

