

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Family Assistance (BFA), Division of Early Care and Education has been awarded a one-year Preschool Development Birth through Five (PDG B-5) grant totaling \$2.6 million. West Virginia's new grant is one of 13 recently announced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The priority populations for initiatives funded by the PDG are:

- Infants and toddlers,
- Vulnerable children,
- Children transitioning to kindergarten,
- Migrant families,
- Children with special needs, and
- Early Care and Education (ECE) workforce.

DHHR's Division of Early Care and Education, in collaboration with the West Virginia Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) and other early care and education partners throughout the state, is committed to building an equitable and sustainable ECE system in which all children, ECE teachers, and programs thrive. This approach to system change creates monumental opportunities for policy development, strategies and programming that ensure children have access to high quality settings and services.

Grant funding is being used for systemic and ECE workforce development. Funding from this grant opportunity will allow DHHR to:

- Support the development of additional professional development opportunities and support the early care and education workforce; and
- Target efforts to promote successful partnerships among early learning providers, community agencies, and school districts for successful transition from early learning programs to kindergarten;

More on the federal Preschool Development Grant program can be found at the [Office of Child Care website](#).