



Quarterly Newsletter

JULY – SEPTEMBER, 2020

This newsletter highlights progress from **Quarter 3 (July to September, 2020)** and summarizes upcoming activities for **Quarter 4 (October to December, 2020)**.

Key Highlights:

- A cross-sector review team comprised of staff from DHHS, DOE, UNH, direct service providers, and philanthropic organizations reviewed Community Grant applications.
- Grants were awarded to 13 collaborative groups across the state (see Exhibit 1) to complete projects from August 2020 to July 2021. Highlights are described in the corresponding activity sections below.

Applicant	Needs Assessment Grant	Strategic Planning Grant	Implementation/ Expansion Grant (# of Programs)	Capacity Building Grant
Amoskeag Health			2	X
Children Unlimited		X		X
Claremont Learning Partnership	X		2	X
Good Beginnings Inc.		X	1	X
Granite United Way	X	X		X
Greater Tilton Area FRC				X
Lakes Region Community Services				X
Milford Thrives	X			X
Monadnock United Way			1	X
United Way Greater Nashua		X	2	X
United Way Seacoast	X			X
Waypoint	X	X	2	X
Winnacunnet Cooperative / SAU 21	X			X



ACTIVITY 1: Needs Assessment

QUARTER 3 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Local Needs Assessments:** Of the 13 Community Grants awarded, six collaborative groups received grants to conduct local needs assessments. These local needs assessments will utilize standardized evidence-informed tools to align with the statewide needs assessment. The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) will provide technical assistance (TA) to these grantees.
- **Statewide Needs Assessment:** NCCP is actively planning for two upcoming surveys: (1) a survey of families with young children, including vulnerable family populations, and (2) a survey of Family Resource Center (FRC) staff.

PDG CONNECTIONS

Parent Information Center/ New Hampshire Family Voices (PIC/NHFV) and NCCP collaborated in Quarter 3 on outreach plans for the Family Survey to ensure family voice, especially of vulnerable families, is represented in the survey.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 4

- NCCP will field the Family Survey and prepare for the FRC staff survey.
- NCCP will begin implementing TA with Community Grantees conducting local needs assessments.



ACTIVITY 2: Strategic Planning

QUARTER 3 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Local Strategic Planning:** Of the 13 Community Grants awarded, five collaborative groups received awards to develop local strategic plans. Pear Associates created a six-part webinar series as part of their TA to the support these grantees.
- **Statewide Needs Assessments:** Pear Associates presented on the statewide Strategic Plan to a range of stakeholders, including Family Support NH, FRCs, the DOE and DHHS Early Childhood Integration Teams (ECITs), the Director of the NH Council for Thriving Children, and PIC/NHFV. Pear Associates also began drafting the Year in Review document, a report that will summarize progress made this year towards NH's Early Childhood Strategic Plan.

PDG CONNECTIONS

Pear Associates, PIC/NHFV, and the NH Council for Thriving Children began working together to develop a family-friendly presentation of the statewide Strategic Plan.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 4

- Pear Associates, PIC/NHFV, and the NH Council for Thriving Children will continue creating family-friendly statewide Strategic Plan materials.
- Pear Associates will collect information and data to inform the Year in Review report.
- Pear Associates will continue TA to Community Grantees developing local strategic plans.



ACTIVITY 3: Maximizing Family Choice and Knowledge (State-level activities)

QUARTER 3 HIGHLIGHTS

- New Hampshire Children's Trust (NHCT) distributed funding to FRCs to expand and enhance the services they provide for children and families. NHCT also continued to build and implement the QuickBase data platform for FRCs.
- Rebel Interactive and Early Learning NH finalized initial site content and functionality of the Welcome Families Web Tool. Rebel Interactive implemented quality assurance testing of all web tool features.
- Early Learning NH continued promoting the importance of early childhood development, meeting with Community Grantees to discuss Vroom/Mind in the Making (MITM) initiatives in their communities. Additionally, Early Learning NH and PIC/NHFV are adapting the *Children: the Bedrock of the Granite State (NH Bedrock)* presentation for parents and caregivers.

PDG CONNECTIONS

- Early Learning NH, PIC/NHFV, and Rebel Interactive collaborated to conduct family focus groups and integrate their feedback into the Welcome Families Web Tool.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 4

- NHCT and PIC/NHFV will develop and co-host a communications/story telling workshop for FRC staff.
- NHCT will continue to expand the QuickBase database reporting features.
- Rebel Interactive will finalize the Welcome Families Web Tool and release a "soft launch".
- Early Learning NH will continue hosting Vroom/MITM presentations. They will also work with PIC/NHFV and NHCT to discuss aligning a multi-strand marketing and communication campaign for families.



ACTIVITY 4: Sharing Best Practices

QUARTER 3 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Pyramid Model Consortium continues systems-building efforts with DHHS and DOE. They also conducted workgroups focused on Communication, Professional Development, Data/Evaluation, and Implementation.
- Southern New Hampshire Services/Child Care Aware of New Hampshire (SNHS/CCAoNH) led multiple trainings for the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) Virtual TA Cohort. They also held a series of TA Team Community of Practice Meetings with the UNH practice-based coaches.
- UNH's practice-based coaches began to create virtual professional development sessions focused on best practices for both Infant/Toddler and Preschool teachers. They also worked with NH PDG staff, Pyramid Model Consortium, and state representatives to create play-based learning coaching competencies and content.
- Abt Associates conducted a literature review on kindergarten entry assessment (KEA) tools and transition practices. NH PDG staff discussed with DOE and DHHS the creation of a KEA taskforce.

PDG CONNECTIONS

The Pyramid Model Consortium worked with SNHS/CCAoNH to hold monthly Peer Learning Community meetings for the Master Cadre of trainers to continue their professional development and knowledge of the Pyramid Model.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 4

- The Pyramid Model Consortium will continue supporting the Master Cadre in collaboration with SNHS.
- SNHS will continue the ERS Virtual TA Cohort and will provide trainings and TA focused on additional topics.
- The UNH coaches will establish a Play-Based Learning Task Force.
- The NH PDG project team, in collaboration with DHHS and DOE leads, will assemble the KEA Task Force.



ACTIVITY 5: Improving Quality/ Subgrants

QUARTER 3 HIGHLIGHTS

- Of the 13 Community Grants awarded, six collaborative groups received awards to implement or expand projects in their communities. Examples of Community Grantee programs include home visiting, the Pyramid Model, developmental screening, and family child care provider supports.
- Abt Associates provided Implementation/Expansion Community Grantees with evaluation-focused TA. This TA will support Grantees in completing a process evaluation to increase capacity for program implementation and identify goals for quality improvement.

PDG CONNECTIONS

Abt Associates began working with SNHS/CCAoNH to obtain early childhood program data in NH. These maps will identify potential child care desert communities.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 4

- Community Grantees will continue implementing and expanding programs.
- Abt Associates will continue to provide Community Grantees with evaluation-focused TA.
- Abt will continue working with SNHS/CCAoNH to obtain final program data and create maps of potential child care deserts.



ACTIVITY 6: Governance/ Data Interoperability

QUARTER 3 HIGHLIGHTS

- The NH Council for Thriving Children met for the first time under the leadership of its new Director, Christina Lachance. NH PDG staff supported the Early Childhood Integration Teams at DOE and DHHS. NH PDG staff also participated in regular meetings of the Birth through Age 8 Advisors, a group within NH's early childhood governance system serving in an advisory role to the Council.
- DHHS staff within the Bureau of Child Development and Heart Start Collaborative (BCDHSC) began implementing system adaptations for integrating disparate program and learning modules into a shared data platform.

PDG CONNECTIONS

The Council's "Core Support Team" began meeting in Quarter 3 with representation from NH PDG, the Council, and the designated quadrant leads of the B-8 Advisors, DOE and DHHS ECITs, and Early Childhood Experts group.

UPCOMING IN QUARTER 4

- The NH PDG B-5 team will continue efforts to form a cross-department data governance group.
- DHHS will implement BCDHSC database components and initiate database testing.
- The NH PDG B-5 team will hire a DOE/DHHS Senior Scientific Data Analyst to support both DHHS and DOE in their efforts to integrate data systems and operations.

Contact Information

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