

Department of Early Childhood Education

Alabama received a 1-year Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Planning Grant in December 2022 and a 3-year Renewal Grant in 2020. The following is a snapshot of these grants.

[Read the Abstract of Alabama's PDG B-5 Planning Grant Application](#)

Top PDG B-5 Renewal Grant Accomplishments

- ▶ Developed Alabama Family Central, a website clearinghouse to inform families about all services available to support their child's healthy development.
- ▶ Expanded Help Me Grow Alabama, resulting in nearly 8,000 developmental screenings.
- ▶ Established five First Class Foundation Classrooms to raise quality in infant/toddler care through professional development, coaching, and learning environment improvements.
- ▶ Expanded Born Ready University parenting courses to 25 counties across the state. The goal of the program is to support expectant mothers, parents, and caregivers of children 0-5 years of age in acquiring knowledge that will support them as they strive to raise happy and healthy children who are ready for school.
- ▶ Expanded Reach Out and Read-Alabama in partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health. Reach Out and Read-Alabama helped provide free books to children (ages 0-3) and families during "well-child" visits at their local pediatricians' offices, distributing over 44,000 books.

Planning Grant Activities¹

- ▶ **Family Engagement:** Alabama will expand current initiatives serving families of children with autism or who are deaf or hard of hearing through the Alabama Early Intervention System, the Auburn University Autism Initiative, and Alabama Hands & Voices. LENA Grow and LENA Start will also be expanded to serve an additional 250 children. Alabama will continue to support the Alabama Parent Leadership Network, operated by the Alabama Partnership for Children, providing a leadership curriculum and statewide parent network support. Finally, Alabama will strengthen partnerships between early care and education and local education agencies through First 10 Transition Community Planning. This effort will engage six community cohorts in transition planning and add two communities to the First 10 Initiative.
- ▶ **Workforce:** Alabama will strengthen the workforce's capacity to support young children's social and emotional development by offering Conscious Discipline training to 200 professionals and ensuring that prior trainees have access to ongoing professional development. The state will also expand the Challenging Behaviors Project to train 120 professionals each year in Conscious Discipline and trauma-informed practices. Alabama will fund the seventh P-3 Leadership Academy cohort, inviting 30 early childhood education (ECE) leaders to participate. To support the recruitment and retention of a qualified workforce, Alabama will support fast-tracking Child Development Associate credentials through scholarships and mentoring and will provide funding to institutions of higher education to cover credits and related costs. Alabama continues to fund initiatives that began under the PDG-R, including ECE apprenticeships, T.E.A.C.H. scholarships, and the Auburn University Online Bachelor's Degree-Completion Program. To expand the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health workforce, Alabama will provide 18 scholarships for the Troy University Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Counseling Certificate program, as well as additional training and support to students and professors.
- ▶ **Program Quality:** Alabama is focused on strengthening the systemic collection, analysis, and use of early childhood data. The state will identify tools and strategies to structure and automate ECE workforce data collection and storage, allowing for the analysis of data from more than one source. The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education will also develop a comprehensive plan to utilize its internal data in a more systematic way, integrating with the Department's research and evaluation functions. This effort will identify ways to reduce duplication and to align the evaluation of progress and impact across the Department's programs.

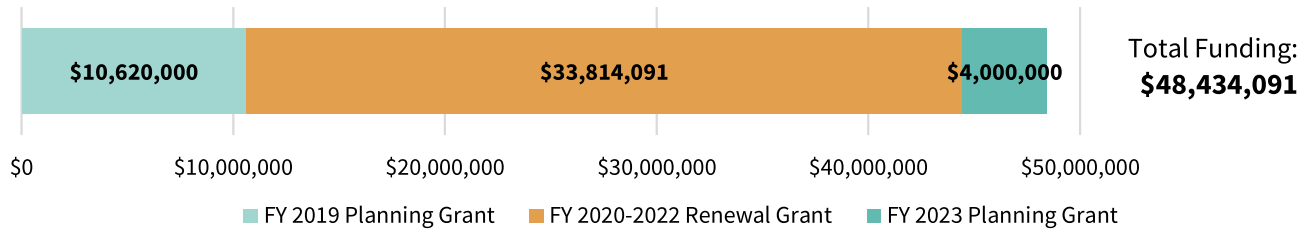
PDG B-5 Partners

- ▶ Home Visiting Programs
- ▶ Early Care and Education Providers including Head Starts, Early Intervention Services, Preschool Special Education
- ▶ Health and Public Health System Partners

¹ These activities are in addition to Alabama updating its Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan.

- ▶ State and Local Governments
- ▶ Tribal Organizations, Foundations
- ▶ Community-based Organizations
- ▶ Non-profit Organizations
- ▶ Local Education Agencies

Total Federal PDG B-5 Grant Funding Through December 2022



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