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Frank Edelblut
Commissioner



Christine M. Brennan
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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February 3, 2020

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education to accept and expend funds from the University of New Hampshire (UNH) in the amount of \$88,326, to assist in the administration of the Preschool Development Grant awarded to UNH from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, effective upon Governor and Council approval through December 31, 2020. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds to be budgeted as follows:

PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Account: 06-56-56-560510-30650000

Class	Description	FY 2020	FY 2021
<u>Income</u>			
000-400374	Federal Funds	\$ (49,087)	\$ (39,239)
<u>Expenditures</u>			
018-500106	Overtime	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
020-500200	Current Expenses	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
027-582703	Trans to DOIT	\$ 3,450	\$ 3,450
028-582814	Trans to General Services	\$ 850	\$ 1,000
029-500290	Intra-Agency Transfers	\$ 15,300	\$ 19,331
030-500301	Equipment New Replacement	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,000
037-500173	Technology- Hardware	\$ 8,000	\$ 100
038-500177	Technology- Software	\$ 1,000	\$ 100
039-500191	Telecommunications	\$ 1,770	\$ 1,770
040-500800	Indirect Costs	\$ 904	\$ 1,018
041-500801	Audit Fund	\$ 50	\$ 40

042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	\$ 527	\$ 628
050-500109	Personal Services Temporary	\$ 2,042	\$ 3,011
060-500601	Benefits	\$ 1,494	\$ 2,091
070-500704	In State Travel	\$ 100	\$ 100
080-500710	Out of State Travel	\$ 100	\$ 100
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500
	Total	\$ 49,087	\$ 39,239

EXPLANATION

New Hampshire has embraced the US Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Office of Child Care (OCC) goals for the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) initiative to create an integrated early childhood care and education (ECCE) system. NH has mobilized leadership from the state’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Department of Education (DOE) along with the University of New Hampshire (UNH) to collaboratively lead PDG efforts while engaging constituents at all levels of the ECCE system of support, including the families who benefit from it.

NH’s proposal reflects an integration of resources among the state’s highly-regarded university system, health and human services organizations, educational system, and community partners. Each of these resources has come together with a singular focus – to ensure the children of NH have bright futures. This proposal lays out a collective plan, starting with a strong understanding of the essential needs of families and children. While many educational and public health indicators rank NH advantageously as compared to other states, there are disparities among the state, within communities, town/cities, and neighborhoods; there is room for improvement, especially among NH’s most vulnerable families. The state is not willing to leave any child behind and is firmly committed to building a comprehensive support structure that ensures NH realizes its vision: All families are afforded comprehensive and responsive supports, so they are healthy, learning, and thriving now and in the future.

NH’s PDG Strategic Plan will serve as the state’s roadmap for this work. Parents and caregivers play a vital role in NH’s system of supports. The PDG Needs Assessment revealed that 70% of parents turn to family, friends, and neighbors when looking for information on effective early childhood care and education. NH has used this knowledge to drive the state’s unique approach in which parents play a dual role as both recipients and providers of supports and services. Recognizing that families are the most local level of support (and, in many instances, most trusted), NH’s proposed strategies are centered on communities as the hub for engagement, capacity building, and service delivery. Moreover, local and regional efforts will benefit from, and become integrated with, the statewide early childhood infrastructure, which leverages coordination of the Governor’s early childhood advisory Council, Spark NH. NH’s goals focus on strong families, positive early learning experiences, healthy children and families, and statewide coordination, and fulfill all ACF requirements for Activities 1-6 outlined in the PDG renewal grant funding announcement.

Activity 1: PDG B-5 Statewide Needs Assessment

Activity 2: PDG B-5 Statewide Strategic Plan

Activity 3: Maximizing Parent and Family Knowledge, Choice, and Engagement in their Child’s Early Learning and Development

Activity 4: Sharing Best Practices and Professional Development for the Early Childhood Workforce

Activity 5: Improving Overall Quality and Service Integration, Expanding Access and Developing New Programs

Activity 6: Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Use for Continuous Improvement


The Department of Education will assist with the administration of this grant by collaborating with UNH by leveraging our existing contacts with communities, using existing resources to grant out funds to local communities and ensuring compliance requirements are implemented in line with the grant award and Uniform Grant Guidance.

The following appropriation authorities are being requested:

Class 020	Current Expenses	Appropriation needed to pay expenses associated with conducting grant activity
Class 018	Overtime	Appropriation needed to cover the anticipated overtime cost
Class 027	Trans to DOIT	Appropriation needed to pay DOIT costs associated with personal
Class 028	Trans to General Services	Appropriation needed to pay rent costs associated with personal
Class 029	Intra-Agency Transfers	Appropriation needed to pay associated Federal Compliance and monitoring costs
Class 030	Equipment New Replacement	Appropriation needed to purchase equipment for personal
Class 037	Technology- Hardware	Appropriation needed to purchase computers and necessary technology equipment for personal
Class 038	Technology- Software	Appropriation needed for the necessary software
Class 039	Telecommunications	Appropriation needed to pay Telecommunication costs associated with personal
Class 040	Indirect Costs	Appropriation needed to pay the state wide cost allocation bill
Class 041	Audit Fund	Appropriation needed to pay the required audit charges
Class 042	Additional Fringe Benefits	Appropriation needed to pay the required fringe benefits
Class 050	Personal Services Temporary	Appropriation needed to cover cost allocation of personal expenses
Class 060	Benefits	Appropriation needed to cover cost allocated benefits related to personal expenses
Class 070	In State Travel	Appropriation needed to pay in-state travel expenses to communities
Class 080	Out of State Travel	Appropriation needed to pay any expenses incurred for conference expenses
Class 102	Contracts for Program Services	Appropriation needed to pay contracts needed to fulfill grant obligations

The Department has conducted a detailed review of these line items in the budget to ensure that available funds are maximized to the greatest degree possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



Frank Edelblut
 Commissioner of Education



**University of
New Hampshire**

Commissioner Edelblut
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January 29, 2020

Dear Commissioner Edelblut,

I would like to thank the NH Department of Education for its support of New Hampshire's Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 (PDG B-5) work under the renewal awarded to the University of New Hampshire. We are grateful for the Department's role in helping us enhance the quality of early experiences for our children and families.

As outlined in the PDG B-5 grant proposal (submitted as an addendum to the letter, along with our Notice of Award and overview of the revised grant budget), one of the objectives of the grant is to create a competitive procurement process so that communities can access approximately \$3,000,000 in critical funds to address local needs, informed by and aligned with statewide effort. While UNH will be responsible for the distribution of funds to communities, we proposed to leverage DOE's grants management system to effectively distribute the Request for Proposals, receive and evaluate applications from local communities, facilitate the collection and reporting of evaluation metrics required by the PDG's project performance evaluations, and enable communities to efficiently invoice UNH for completed work.

We have allocated \$88,326 in the first year of the grant (end date of December 31, 2020) to support DOE's role in the procurement, application evaluation, and grants management process. The funds were set aside to help cover costs associated with refining the current grant's management system to meet the specifications of the PDG B-5 and to facilitate compliance reviews and monitoring and fiscal management of the funds. Separately, it is proposed that UNH will hire a full-time grants management position to be housed at DOE to monitor and oversee the program management of the community grants.

I am writing to initiate the approval for us to proceed with the proposed plan. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information to expedite the request.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly Nesbitt".

Kimberly Turner Nesbitt, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, PDG B-5 Primary Investigator
Department of Human Development and Family Studies

c/o Christine Brennan, Tammy Vallencourt