

# Preschool Development Grant Needs Assessment



**The Needs Assessment is funded by the  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Preschool Development Grant**

# PDG Needs Assessment Collaborative



# PDG Needs Assessment 2019

- **Three strategies (January-June 2019)**

- Stakeholder Meetings (n=440)
- Survey—Parent/Caregiver and Organizations (n=3,114/2,680 used)
- Focus Groups—First Steps Partnerships (n=1,495)

- **Identified overall priorities in three areas**

- Early Learning and Development
- Health and Wellbeing
- Family and Community

# PDG Needs Assessment 2020-2023

- **Four strategies (April 2020-April 2023)**
  - Parent/Caregiver Survey (n=2,727)
    - Identified level of need based on 2019 priorities and strategic plan
  - Parent/Caregiver Interviews (n=38)
    - Triangulated survey findings, sought strategies to meet needs
  - Early Childhood Educator Survey Pilot (n=353)
    - Identified needs of educators; educators' perception of children's needs
  - Stakeholder Meetings (n=158)
    - Shared findings, sought strategies to meet needs
- **Identified highest level needs overall and by specific groups**



# Parent/Caregiver Survey

Variable	Level	%	N
Education	High School or Some College	62.1	1194
	Bachelor or Above	37.9	729
Primary Language	Language Other Than English	8.1	160
	English	91.9	1823
Number of Young Children	1 Child	52.2	1022
	2 or More Children	47.8	934
Parents/Caregivers' Age	25 or Younger	12.0	237
	26-40	70.1	1383
	41 or Older	17.9	353
Parents/Caregivers' Income	Less than \$25,000	35.6	616
	\$25,000-\$49,999	27.6	477
	\$50,000 or More	36.9	638
Race/Ethnicity	White	45.7	866
	Black	39.1	741
	Hispanic or Latino	8.8	166
	Asian	0.9	18
	American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander	1.1	21
	Multicultural (2 or more races)	4.4	84
Number of Primary Caregivers Involved	1 Primary Caregiver	21.3	414
	2 Primary Caregivers	58.0	1127

# Needs in Early Learning & Development

Please indicate the **level of help you need regarding the learning and development of your child (0-5 years old).**

% Some or A Lot of Help

N

Knowing what to do for my child to be ready for kindergarten

74.7

2205

Finding community programs or services that support early learning

72.9

2189

Finding resources or materials to help my child learn at home

72.6

2212

Paying for high quality early care and education programs

71.1

2137

Identifying features of a good early care and education program

69.4

2236

Accessing high quality early care and education programs

68.3

2192

Knowing how to play with my child to promote learning

64.5

2231

Finding early care and education programs in my local area

61.8

2185

Finding information for my child's special needs (e.g., disabilities, behavioral challenges)

56.4

1720

# Important Aspects of Early Care/Education

If you are considering, have considered, or are currently enrolled in an early care and education program for your child, <b>how important</b> are the following aspects to you?	% Important	N
Health and safety aspects	99.4	2589
Physical space (cleanliness, spaciousness)	99.1	2589
Teacher characteristics	98.8	2604
Program policies/rules	98.0	2626
Balance of play and academics	98.0	2591
Director/leader characteristics	97.9	2611
Staff/child ratios and/or classroom size	97.7	2597
Hours of operation/schedules	97.3	2593
Location/driving distance	95.3	2582
Cost to me	94.9	2594
Availability of specific programs (enrichment, special needs, culturally responsive, after school)	94.5	2601
Type of program (home-based, center-based, public school based, faith-based)	94.2	2624
Program accreditation/rating (ABC Quality, NAEYC, NECPA)	92.5	2670
Program providing meals/snacks	85.9	2595
Existing relationships (friends having child/children enrolled)	69.1	2593
Program providing transportation	56.4	2584

# Early Learning & Development Interview Data

## Needs

**Enhance child care availability and offerings**

**Provide resources to support educational development at home**

**Engage fathers in their children's education**



# Needs in Health and Wellbeing

Please indicate the level of help you need regarding the health and wellbeing of your child (0-5 years old).

	% Some or A Lot of Help	N
Understanding how children develop (physical, cognitive, emotional)	55.2	2087
Involving my child in physical activities that are age appropriate	51.0	2079
Paying for healthcare for my child	44.3	2029
Finding early intervention programs (e.g., BabyNet) when needed	44.2	1959
Paying for nutritious foods	44.1	2037
Finding mental health services for parents/caregivers	38.6	1878
Finding resources when my child is in danger	35.8	1968
Knowing how to keep my child safe physically and emotionally	35.4	2064
Finding mental health services for my child	35.1	1841
Finding healthcare providers for my child	32.1	2075
Finding enough food	30.9	2017
Getting to healthcare site as needed for my child	27.8	2044
Taking my child to well-child visits	21.5	2051
Finding safe drinking water	20.2	1995

# Parent/Caregiver Adverse Experiences

Have you experienced any of these in the past 5 years? (Select all that apply)	%	N
None of the above	57.3	1093
Mental illness (e.g., depression)	17.9	341
Housing instability (e.g., difficulty paying rent, too crowded, moving often, staying with others)	16.4	312
Economic hardships (e.g., not having enough food to eat)	15.3	291
Divorce/separation	8.5	163
Chronic physical condition (e.g., physical illness, injury)	7.7	147
Abuse (e.g., physical, emotional, sexual)	6.9	132
Discrimination (e.g., racial, gender-based)	6.4	123
Prefer not to disclose	3.7	71
Not listed, Please specify	2.7	51
Drug or alcohol problem	1.1	21

# Health & Wellbeing Interview Data

## Needs

**Ensure access to mental and behavioral health resources**

**Promote early detection and intervention for developmental differences**

**Promote opportunities for physical activity within the community**

**Provide clarification on COVID-19 vaccines and safety measures**

**Promote necessary resources**

# Needs in Family and Community

Please indicate the level of help that you and your family need to support your child (0-5 years old).	% Some or A lot of Help	N
Knowing how to be a more effective parent	53.1	1945
Building strong relationships with my child	42.3	1975
Learning how to be an advocate for my child	41.9	1955
Furthering my career education/job training to support my family	41.1	1884
Accessing parenting programs	39.6	1937
Getting my child to activities	30.3	1928
Finding and keeping a job to support my family	29.2	1881
Getting my child to child care services	29.0	1937
Creating a safe and caring environment at home	24.0	1959
Having translation/interpreting services when needed	22.3	1671

# Community Safety and Support

Please indicate the agreement levels on the following statements about your community. Community means your neighborhood or the area where you live.

% Agreement

N

My community is safe.

92.8

1956

My community is supportive.

85.6

1731

My community appreciates and respects diversity and cultural differences.

81.6

1687

My community has resources and services for my child.

79.9

1683

My community provides activities that are helpful for my child.

73.1

1663



# Family & Community Interview Data

## Needs

**Increase community activities and engagement to promote diversity and inclusion**

**Improve accessibility and affordability**

# Next Steps



- **Review Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan for alignment**
- **Gain input/prioritization related to strategies to meet highest level needs**
- **Expand workforce study with PDG Planning Grant 2023**