GRANTEE ABSTRACT

New Jersey

Overview

We propose to bring the components of New Jersey's High-Quality State Preschool Program to 19 High-Need Communities through a mixed-delivery system of school-based, private provider and Head Start programs, maximizing the learning and development of Eligible Children (including preschoolers with special needs, English language learners, and other vulnerable populations, such as children in foster care, or in military, homeless and/or migrant families), and collaborating with settings that precede and follow preschool to ensure high-quality experiences throughout the birth to eight continuum. In the last decade, the State of New Jersey has positioned itself to launch and implement the New Jersey Preschool Expansion Plan.

Project Objectives

To accomplish our project, we will use the model that has worked so well for our High-Quality State Preschool Program. Schools, private providers and Head Start programs in the 19 High-Need Communities will implement the high-quality components of the State Preschool Program. We will enhance current programs and generate new High-Quality Preschool Program slots for Eligible Children through the following activities:

Lead Agency
New Jersey State Department of Education

Year 1 Federal Award Amount
$17,498,115

Plan Period
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2018

Preschool Development Grants will support states to build, develop, and expand voluntary, high-quality preschool programs for children from low- and moderate-income families.

There are two types of grants.

Development Grants are for states that currently serve less than 10 percent of four-year-olds and have not received a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant.

Expansion Grants are for states that currently serve 10 percent or more of four-year-olds or have received an RTT-ELC grant.

- Conducting a needs assessment of the current programs;
- Providing intensive support to elevate quality;
- Measuring program progress regularly;
- Monitoring fiscal practices regularly;
- Implementing strategies to enroll hard-to-reach families;
- Meeting children's individualized needs through comprehensive supports; and
- Aligning and coordinating transitions.

This abstract was submitted as part of New Jersey's Preschool Development Grant Application.

Proposed Project Outcomes

By the end of the grant period, we intend to meet the following proposed project outcomes:

1. The 19 target school districts are implementing the program and learning standards, and are equipped to use comprehensive assessment systems, kindergarten entry assessments, as well as support children with disabilities and English language learners.
2. 60% of preschool children with disabilities in the school districts are served in inclusive, general education settings.
3. Classroom level quality reaches a 5.0 or higher on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R).
4. 100% of teachers in all settings, including Head Start and Private Provider settings, have their Preschool to Third Grade (P-3) certificates.
5. Serve an additional 1,248 Eligible Children in High-Quality Preschool Programs with Preschool Expansion Grant funding.
6. Improve existing slots for 729 Eligible Children and 338 other children in High-Quality Preschool Programs by limiting class sizes, decreasing child to staff ratios, extending the program day, providing Comprehensive Services (through Central Intake and County Councils), and employing/compensating teachers with bachelor's degrees and preschool certification.
7. Implement a sustainability plan to maintain and expand the new and improved slots.
8. Participating programs implement the elements of the High-Quality State Preschool.
9. Implement the NJKEA to improve the efficacy of kindergarten classrooms, and have teachers enroll in the Kindergarten Seminar.
10. Implement the First through Third Grade Guidelines.

High Need Communities to be served under New Jersey's Plan	
COUNTY	**DISTRICTS**
Atlantic	**Absecon City**
	Atlantic City
	Egg Harbor City
	Galloway Twp
	Hamilton Twp
Burlington	**Mount Holly Twp**
Camden	**Bellmawr Boro**
	Lindenwold Boro
Cape May	**Middle Twp**
Cumberland	**Upper Deerfield Twp**
Gloucester	**Clayton Boro**
	Paulsboro Boro
Hudson	**North Bergen**
Monmouth	**Freehold Boro**
Ocean	**Berkeley Twp**
	Lakewood Twp
Passaic	**Clifton City**
Somerset	**Bound Brook Boro**
Union	**Linden City**