Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Highlights:

Governor Matt Bevin designated the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood (GOEC) to apply for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) on Nov. 6, 2018. The GOEC was awarded $10,620,000.00. This is a one year grant that focuses on planning with the opportunity to apply for more funding for the years two-four in 2019. Kentucky was one of six states to be awarded the highest amount of $10.6 million.

Per the federal requirements, five specific activities must be addressed. Below you will find those activities with strategies Kentucky has put forth to accomplish the goals. The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) and its sub-committees, along with inter-agency collaboration, will work together in order to aid and assist the children and families of Kentucky with an emphasis on highly vulnerable children.

Activity One: Statewide Needs Assessment Plan
- Define the scope and develop a work plan.
- Collect, compile, and present data.
- Complete a systems analysis.
- Finalize a written Needs Assessment.

Activity Two: Statewide Strategic Plan
- Define the scope of the strategic plan.
- Review needs assessment data and stakeholder input and create goal and strategy statements.
- Develop a data strategy that identifies strategic plan indicators and data sources, which will allow the state to track progress on the plan at state and county levels.
- Incorporate ECAC feedback and submit a final plan for approval.

Activity Three: Maximizing Parental Choice and Knowledge
- Outreach & education campaign on the importance of early childhood learning.
- Local evidence-based family engagement and support initiative.
- Early Childhood Transitions and Transition to Kindergarten.
- State coordination of health, mental health and wellness supports.

Activity Four: Sharing Best Practices
- Develop state clearinghouse for best practices in early childhood.
- Update Kentucky’s Early Childhood Standards and Related Materials.
- Update the Professional Development Framework.
- CECC Support and Infrastructure.
- Foster and support high-quality, blended, mixed delivery service models.
- Infant, Toddler and Expectant Families Initiative.

Activity Five: Improving Overall Quality of Early Childhood Care and Education
- Kentucky All STARS Continuous Quality Improvement.
- Workforce Development/Apprenticeship.
- Leadership Development/School Readiness Summits.