

Goal of the Grant

To bring the components of the high-quality State Preschool Program to 17 communities through a mixed delivery system of school-based, private provider and Head Start programs, maximizing the learning and development of eligible four-year-old children, including preschoolers in families who at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line.

Strategy

We will continue to use the model that has worked so well for our State Preschool Program, which includes the implementation of the high-quality components of the State Preschool Program, as follows:

- Certified teacher and assistant for each class of 15 children (provider and Head Start teachers will receive scholarships to support their certification);
- Instructional salaries that are comparable to school district salaries;
- Developmentally appropriate and culturally and linguistically relevant comprehensive curricula (districts choose from High/Scope, Tools of the Mind, Creative Curriculum and Curiosity Corner) and assessments (TS GOLD, Child Observation Record, or Work Sampling System), that are aligned with the NJ Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards;
- Professional development that is based on results of evaluations and supported by coaches;
- District/provider collaboration (district/provider contracts);
- Full-day (six-hour educational day), 180-day program;
- Inclusion of children with disabilities with individual accommodations;
- In-class follow-up for PD;
- Support for home languages of English language learners (dual language classrooms whenever possible);
- Support for preschool children with potential difficulties and for children with disabilities (intervention and referral staff);
- Partnerships that promote families’ access to services that support learning and development;
- Comprehensive services for diverse families (family workers, community parent involvement specialists);
- Fiscal monitoring and supports (fiscal specialists);
- Support for healthy children and the use of evidence-based health and safety standards (including nurses); and
- Continuous evaluation and improvement cycle.

Subgrantees Included in the NJ Preschool Expansion Plan	
County	District Name
ATLANTIC	ABSECON CITY, ATLANTIC CITY, EGG HARBOR CITY, GALLOWAY TWP, HAMILTON TWP
BURLINGTON	MOUNT HOLLY TWP
CAMDEN	BELLMAWR BORO, LINDENWOLD BORO
CUMBERLAND	UPPER DEERFIELD TWP
GLOUCESTER	CLAYTON BORO, PAULSBORO BORO

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HUDSON	NORTH BERGEN
MONMOUTH	FREEHOLD BORO
OCEAN	BERKELEY TWP, LAKEWOOD TWP
PASSAIC	CLIFTON CITY
SOMERSET	BOUND BROOK BORO

Funding

\$17.5 million a year for four years (95% of the funding goes to the school districts).

Targets

- Serve an additional 1,248 eligible children in high-quality preschool programs; and
- Improve existing slots for 729 eligible children and 338 other children in high-quality preschool programs by meeting the program standards that are part of the state's high-quality preschool program.