



Minnesota’s Preschool Development Birth through 5 Grant Creating Connections for Minnesota Families

Preschool Development Grant activities:



Connections for Minnesota Families



Fund Help Me Connect



Pilot 4-10 local, cross-agency hubs



Invest in community solutions

Minnesota families with young children often report the process of accessing services for their child is confusing and overwhelming. Families may provide the same information over and over in different ways to different offices with the goal of helping their children thrive. Our systems can and should operate with the child and family’s interest at the center.

You are asking for coordination

“There are so many hoops. You have to tell them about your entire life before you can access just a little bit of help. I only go for help when I really, really need it.”

Minneapolis Parent

“[We] have to go to several different people to get what is needed and filling out the same applications for each one.”

Parent, Fond du Lac Tribal Nation

We could, “help tailor the best supports that best meet the family. A family would apply for support once and then the system connects the family to what they need, putting the burden on the system not the low-income family.”

Nonprofit service provider

“So many have paved the way trying to figure out systems and it’s still really complicated and exhausting to find the routes – everyone has to keep repaving.”

Parent and Educator, Detroit Lakes

“Disjointed systems and communications lead to families’ distrust of all our systems. Our systems don’t communicate between each other.”

County Staff



We are taking action

Minnesota families, we hear you.

In working with the Children’s Cabinet, through the Preschool Development Grant (PDG), the Departments of Education (MDE), Health (MDH), and Human Services (DHS) are responding by:

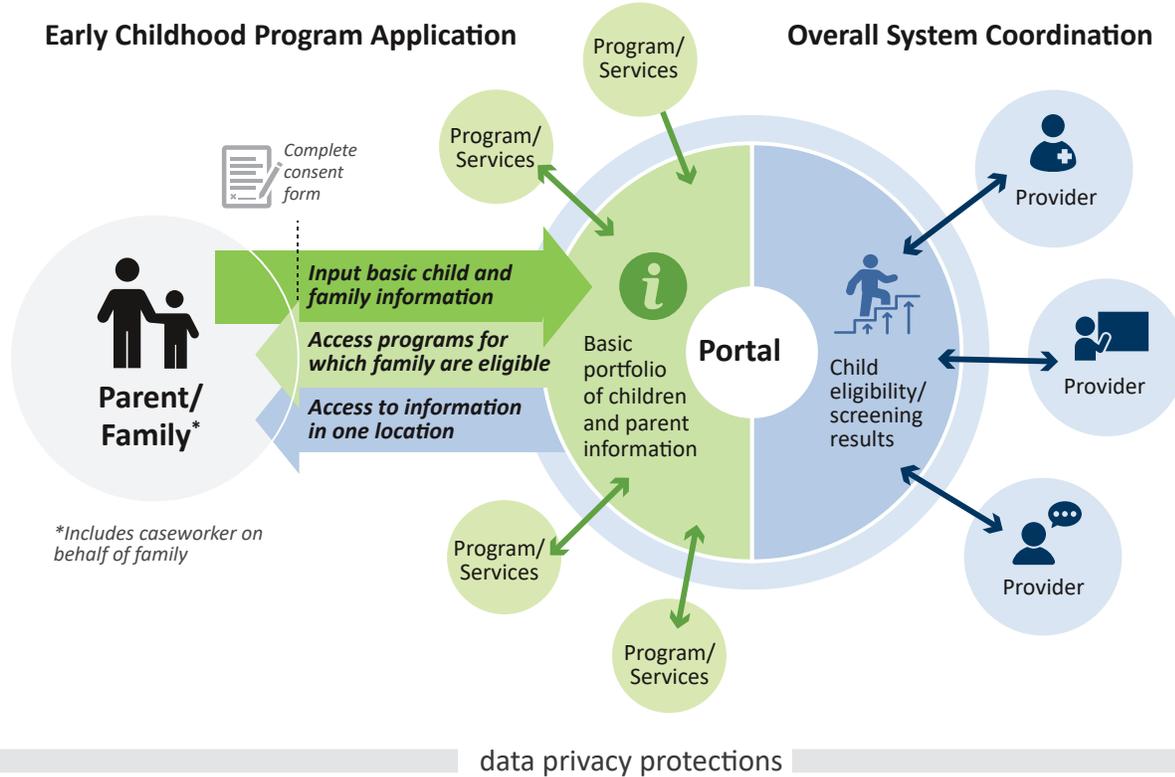
- ✓ Committing DHS, MDH, and MDE to make it easier for families to apply for and receive services.
- ✓ Clarifying perceived barriers to coordination and referral of services for counties and other local governments.
- ✓ Creating tools that all programs can use so that you don’t have to fill out the same information on different forms

These efforts aim to:

- ✓ Make it easier to know what you’re eligible for
- ✓ Improve your access to services intended to serve you.
- ✓ Reduce your paperwork and create a more coordinated, streamlined process.
- ✓ Better coordinate outreach
- ✓ Improve coordination across your service providers

What we plan to do next

Our vision: To reach our goals, Minnesota needs a new technology tool to help programs work better together—and it should be built with you, the community, involved along the way. The tool needs to work in the ways shown below, although this is just one idea of what it might look like. Minnesota received federal funding to build this type of tool through the three-year Preschool Development Renewal Grant.



Over the course of the Preschool Development Grant (January 2020-December 2022), the state will reach these goals by:

- ✓ Hiring and dedicating staff to develop a system with a focus on continual improvement (build, test, repeat) and work across the state agencies that administer the many early childhood programs
- ✓ Establishing Data Governance and Workgroups to engage cross-sector program staff and community members in the development of solutions and technology that works for families and providers
- ✓ Building local partnerships for families through contracts with community-based partnerships to create Hub models.
- ✓ Providing ongoing community engagement, communication and learning

You can take part and stay in the know



Learn more on the [Preschool Development Grant webpage](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/early/preschgr/) (https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/early/preschgr/). If you are interested in taking part in a work group please share your email address in the [Interest in Early Childhood Data Portal Governance survey](https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/5398779/Interest-in-Early-Childhood-Data-Portal-Governance) (https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/5398779/Interest-in-Early-Childhood-Data-Portal-Governance), and we'll let you know when to apply.