

Hello Early Childhood Colleagues and Champions,

Arizona was recently notified that our PDG B-5 Renewal Grant application was not selected for funding. We, along with several other states, were informed that “This competition was highly competitive, and the number of very high scoring applications far exceeded the available funds”. The Arizona Department of Education is heartbroken that our application was not selected and that we will not receive additional funding to help move our initiatives forward.

We want to acknowledge all the hard work of the members of our seven Local Regional Planning Committees (LPCs), The ADE Early Childhood Education (ECE) Staff, and ECE system partners. Arizona began this process with the belief that every child deserves an excellent education, every step of the way. Throughout the planning process each LPC group leveraged the needs assessment and strategic plans of its system partners so that they could share lessons learned from data, analyze results, and design the next stage of implementation work for their community. This process allowed LPC members to develop and enhance their local strategic plans, clearly articulating how they would build upon previous strategic planning efforts to improve coordination and collaboration. We thank you all for your commitment and expertise throughout this process.

This work is valuable, and the need is still great. Moving forward the Arizona Department of Education Early Childhood Education Unit will determine the strategies outlined within the grant application that we are able to move forward with support from system partners and in what capacity. We will continue to seek other possible funding opportunities that will help Arizona to further progress the work around ECE systems building.

Thank you all for the work that you do on behalf of Arizona’s youngest children, their families, and their champions.

Sincerely,

*Lori Masseur*

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Deputy Associate Superintendent

Arizona Department of Education Early Childhood Unit