



PDG B-5 Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Summit

July 16–17, 2024

Embassy Suites Denver
Downtown Convention Center
Denver, CO



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Early Childhood Development

Application Information

Mental health supports are a key component of all high-quality, inclusive early childhood settings and professional development systems that prepare professionals to care for young children and their families. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) have recently focused several efforts on increasing awareness and have emphasized the importance of supporting the mental health of young children, their families, and early childhood caregivers.

In 2022, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education (ED), HHS issued a [*Joint ED and HHS Dear Colleague Letter*](#) on the importance of ensuring all young children and their caregivers have equitable access to high-quality resources that support social-emotional development and mental health. Also in 2022, HHS issued a [*Letter on Children's Mental Health*](#) to encourage states, tribes, and jurisdictions to maximize efforts to support children's mental health and well-being through collaboration across multiple agencies.

ACF's Office of Early Childhood Development (ECD) recognizes that Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) recipients and their partners are very much aware of the challenges early childhood systems have in supporting infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH). Many PDG B-5 grantees have made solving these challenges a top priority and recognize more needs to be done to take their system of care to the next level.

ECD is hosting a **2-day IECMH Summit planned for July 16–17 in Denver, Colorado**. This meeting is designed for state teams that have demonstrated a significant commitment to supporting the mental health of young children, families, and the early care and education workforce. ECD is offering grant recipients an opportunity to strengthen and advance IECMH efforts through a process of focused attention.

Space is limited and an application process and pre-meeting commitment from PDG B-5 team members is required. Applicants will identify a team of 4–6 members. Representatives on the team should represent and speak from multiple program perspectives, have decision-making authority over relevant systems, and a

commitment to ongoing investments or system improvements to strengthen IECMH supports across their systems.

Teams should articulate and expand on an existing focus on systems-building and planning around IECMH in one or more of the following areas:

- 1) **Workforce:** Investing in the workforce—including early care and education workforce wellness—to support IECMH
- 2) **Partnerships:** Effective collaboration and communication with families and providers to support information about children’s mental health and access to services
- 3) **Access to supports and services:** Building cross-agency systems of mental health promotion, prevention, screening, referral, and increased access to behavioral health services.

The Summit will provide teams with collaboration time and support from experts to focus on building on state/territory efforts.

Teams that participate in the Summit will:

- strengthen relationships with collaborators and partners
- learn from key subject matter experts and other state experiences and apply lessons learned
- create an action plan designed to improve the current systems and support for IECMH in the chosen area(s)

*Due to the facilitated discussions that will take place, we are limited to **approximately 10 PDG B-5** grantee teams to ensure individualized technical assistance and support before, during, and after the PDG B-5 IECMH Summit.*

Who should be on the team?

Grantees should propose 4–6 team members who have decision-making authority for their agency and represent key roles in IECMH and early care and education (ECE). These roles may include:

- PDG B-5 Project Director (required)
- Representative(s) of state/territory level agencies that oversee IECMH services (required)
- Decision-making representative(s) of early care and education (such as CCDF Administrator or representative, Head Start Collaboration Director, Pre-K Administrator)
- Decision-making representative(s) of inclusion of young children with disabilities (such as Part B Coordinator, Part C Coordinator, 619 Coordinator)
- State/Territory Interagency Coordinating Council or Advisory Council parent representative who can share the lived experiences of families accessing services to support children’s mental health
- Decision-making representative of MIECHV services
- Representative from maternal and child health or public health services
- Representative from state/territory ECE professional development/workforce oversight
- Representative from state/territory child welfare or child abuse prevention agencies

Each team member must submit a letter of commitment to attend the Summit and participate in all pre- and post-Summit activities. Team members can submit this letter through the [PDG B-5 IECMH Summit Team Member Commitment form](#).

Application Commitments

By submitting an application, the team is agreeing to the following commitments:

- 1) Participate in or viewing a PDG B-5 technical assistance webinar on resources and supports to promote the mental health of children, families, and the ECE workforce
- 2) Complete pre-work including a virtual planning meeting with a Technical Assistance Specialist.
- 3) Participate in the entire 2-day meeting
- 4) Develop an action plan based on your stated goals and support implementation of the action plan after the meeting
- 5) Participate in post-meeting supports with your Technical Assistance Specialist

**Applications are due no later than midnight eastern daylight savings time,
May 24, 2024**

Selection

Teams will be selected on the basis of:

- 1) Complete application
- 2) Confirmation of commitment from all team members
- 3) Demonstration of an existing focus and progress on system building and planning around IECMH in one or more areas
- 4) Receipt of application before May 24, 2024

Apply now



IECMH Summit Application Questions

Team Member Information

For each team member, identify the following:

Name, Email, Title, Agency, State/Territory, Role in IECMH in Your State/Territory

Demonstration of Existing Focus on IECMH

At the IECMH Summit, we will be addressing 3 key areas of IECMH. Describe up to three specific goals for IECMH that fit into one or more of these areas.

- Professional development to increase access, skills, and knowledge in the ECE workforce related to children's mental health
- Partnerships and effective communication with families and providers to support information about children's mental health and access to services
- Building cross-agency systems of mental health promotion, prevention, screening, referral, and increased access to behavioral health services

For every goal identified, the application should describe:

- The work to date in this area
- The current challenges and/or obstacles to reaching these goals that the team would like to focus on in the meeting
- What the team is hoping to achieve next toward the attainment of these goal
- The current status of efforts on the goal

Are members of your proposed team currently collaborating with each other?

Broader State/Territory IECMH Efforts

- What additional voices, agencies, or partners do you collaborate with to address IECMH in your state/territory?
- What is the current level of broader IECMH collaboration with all partners within your state or territory?

Each team member must confirm their commitment to participate in the summit and additional activities using the [PDG B-5 IECMH Summit Team Member Commitment form](#).

PDG B-5 IECMH Summit

July 16-17, 2024

Dever, Colorado

Draft Agenda

Meeting Objectives

The Summit will provide PDG B-5 state/territory teams with collaboration time and guidance from and consultation with experts to focus on advancing state/territory IECMH efforts.

Teams that participate in the IECMH Summit will:

- strengthen relationships with collaborators and partners
- learn from key subject matter experts and other state experiences and apply lessons learned
- create an action plan designed to advance the current systems and supports for IECMH in the chosen area(s)

Day 1 Agenda – July 16, 2024

9:00 – 9:30	Opening/Setting the Stage
9:30 – 10:15	IECMH Topic 1
10:15 – 10:45	<i>Networking Break</i>
10:45 – 11:45	Team Action Planning with Facilitators
11:45 – 1:15	<i>Lunch</i>
1:15 – 2:00	IECMH Topic 2
2:00 – 3:00	Team Action Planning with Facilitators
3:00 – 3:30	<i>Networking Break</i>
3:30 – 4:45	Team Sharing Preliminary Ideas with Full Group for Feedback
4:45 – 5:00	Wrap-Up Day 1

Day 2 Agenda – July 17, 2024

8:30 – 9:15	IECMH Topic 3
9:15 – 10:30	Team Action Planning
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Networking Break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Sharing Plans and Commitments
12:00 – 1:30	<i>LUNCH</i>
1:30 – 2:15	Additional Tools and Resources on IECMH
2:15 – 3:00	Federal Closing

◆ The summit schedule and agenda topics are subject to federal approval and revisions. ◆