



## Preschool Development Grants

# Expansion Grants

### GRANTEE ABSTRACT

## Maine

### Overview

Maine is well-poised to create/expand high-quality public preschool programs utilizing the strengths on extensive interagency coordination, collaborating with key partners (Head Start, Maine Home Visiting and local child care), implementing requirements outlined in recent legislation, and capitalizing on the excitement about early childhood education throughout the state. The Maine Department of Education engaged thirteen school districts, School Administrative Units (SAUs) in Maine with the highest numbers of children receiving free-and- reduced lunch who had no public preschool or were previously unable to meet the needs of the community. All SAUs have or will have a formal partnership with their regional Head Start grantee to deliver full day, full week programming with the "wrap around supports" Head Start requires to *all* preschool children.

### *Project Objectives and Activities*

The grant will support the development or expansion of fifty- five classrooms by Year 4. Maine's Preschool Expansion grant has eight ambitious, but achievable goals:

**Goal 1:** Use Maine's Early Learning Development Standards across all early childhood sectors and for all children to guide curriculum, instruction and assessment.

#### **Lead Agency**

Maine Department of Education

#### **Year 1 Federal Award Amount**

\$3,497,319

#### **Plan Period**

January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2018

**Preschool Development Grants** will support states to build, develop, and expand voluntary, high-quality preschool programs for children from low- and moderate-income families.

There are two types of grants.

**Development Grants:** For states that currently serve less than 10 percent of four-year-olds and have not received a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant

**Expansion Grants:** For states that currently serve 10 percent or more of four-year-olds or have received a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant

**Goal 2:** Require all public preschool programs to meet Maine's Public Preschool Program

Standards and ensure compliance through a statewide system of monitoring and support.

**Goal 3:** Coordinate preschool programs and services at state and local levels with all sections that support early learning and development.

**Goal 4:** Maine's SLDS will improve linkages from birth-3rd grades.

**Goal 5:** Measure and achieve child outcomes that predict school readiness.

Goal 6: Create new and/or expand high-quality preschool programs in communities with high numbers of children 200% FPL and below during each year of the grant.

Goal 7: Create and sustain strong partnerships between Maine DOE and subgrantees to meet grant requirements.

The Preschool Expansion Grant funding has the potential to transform preschool programming in Maine and make significant progress toward a true birth-3rd grade system for children, families, teachers, and administrators.

**High-Need Communities to be served under Maine's Plan**

<b>Androscoggin</b>	<b>Oxford</b>
<b>Aroostook</b>	<b>Penobscot</b>
<b>Cumberland</b>	<b>Waldo</b>
<b>Franklin</b>	<b>Washington</b>
<b>Kennebec</b>	<b>York</b>
<b>Knox</b>	