The Preschool Development Grants (PDG) Program supports 18 grantees (13 expansion and 5 development) nationwide. Each grantee state uses their funds in a unique way to extend and expand high-quality preschool to children most in need. This Grantee Snapshot focuses on the five development grantees (Alabama, Arizona, Hawaii, Montana, and Nevada) working to implement and sustain high-quality preschool programs in high-need communities. Visit www.pdgta.org to learn more.
The Alabama Office of School Readiness uses reflective coaching and monitoring as the foundation for individualized technical assistance, professional development, and quality support. Data collected on pre-K teachers and programs is integrated into coaching and mentoring tiers, enabling regional coaching specialists to differentiate frequency, time, and intensity of support.

Working with its community partners and school districts, the Arizona Department of Education is strengthening its early childhood education infrastructure in three ways: providing scholarships for high-level coursework leading to teacher certification; working with institutes of higher education to build capacity of instructors and counselors; and participating in and effectively using the state longitudinal data system.

Hawaii has two official state languages: English and native Hawaiian. The state is using its grant to establish high-quality preschool programs in public charter schools. The preschools are supporting the resurgence and sustainability of the native Hawaiian language and cultural practices. Two of the four public charter schools are Hawaiian language immersion programs where Hawaiian is spoken throughout the day and all materials are in Hawaiian. Families are provided with ongoing opportunities to learn the Hawaiian language and cultural practices and encouraged to speak the native language at home.

Montana uses a quality improvement process to assure programs address three key elements: promoting understanding of state program standards and requirements; supporting ongoing review of program implementation and compliance; and providing easy access to resources. Communities complete a self-assessment in eight areas: leadership, early learning content standards, curriculum, instruction, assessment, physical and learning environments, child guidance, and family and community engagement. Eight communities are located on Indian reservations.

Nevada, the seventh largest state, is sparsely populated with many families living in rural communities. Nevada is braiding multiple funding streams to expand high-quality preschool to children and families in the most remote frontier counties of Nye, Lyon, and Churchill. Children have greater access to preschool opportunities in these communities and children with disabilities now have options to play and learn together with their peers in these inclusive classrooms.