

Family-Centered Early Childhood Policy Pilot

Frequently Asked Questions

What types of activities/strategies can this mini grant support?

The overarching goal of this pilot is to help bridge the gap between families and policymakers to increase awareness of early childhood issues at the local, tribal, and/or state level. Each community will have the flexibility to develop a strategy that best fits the needs of families in their community.

Here is a list of some examples that could be considered:

- Host a home visit, park meet-up, or coffee conversation with area legislators to hear from families.
- Develop an education campaign on a specific issue (e.g., access to early learning, home visiting, prenatal health, child tax credits).
- Present family-centered solutions to local employers.
- Develop a plan to build relationships with local city and/or county commissioners and spread awareness of early childhood needs.
- Develop a plan to address the need for early learning and early literacy services in your community with your local school district.
- Build a strategy to increase parent leadership capacity in your community.
- Build a strategy to create a space for families with young children to connect in your community.
- Develop a strategy to increase parents/caregivers' engagement in local early childhood issues.
- Develop a plan to increase parent participation in a local planning initiative or campaign (e.g., housing project where child care could be co-located, a local ballot initiative to fund early childhood).
- Develop a messaging strategy, reflective of your community, and submit a letter to the editor or Op-ed about opportunities for support you see in your community, as well as any key highlights.
- Any other ideas you have, or current work you would like to expand related to school readiness, supported families, and healthy pregnancies and births.

Who is eligible to apply?

This pilot is eligible to teams within Montana. Already established community-based teams, groups of parents, or individuals at the local level that are looking to build out a core team are eligible to apply.

What will the Zero to Five Montana staff offer participants?

- Support community teams to meet benchmarks of the project, utilizing resources and tools as needed.
- Co-host bi-monthly calls with the core team lead(s).
- Lead planning efforts for in-person convening.
- Organize resource materials and expert contributions to support team activities.
- Facilitate virtual bi-monthly peer learning calls.
- Provide reporting templates.

What are the expectations of participants?

Selected community teams will:

- Complete the formation of a core team of individuals.
- Select 1-2 team members as the Team Lead(s) to serve as point(s) of contact for the Zero to Five Montana staff and attend bi-monthly calls.
- Engage community members, especially those with lived experience, to inform the development and implementation of the action plan.
- Participate in other project elements including virtual peer-learning sessions and an in-person convening.
- Provide feedback on project structure and activities to inform continuous quality improvement.
- Complete reporting documentation as requested.

What is the timeline of this project?

Participants will engage in this project for one year (June 2023 through June 2024).

When is the application due?

Applications are due June 7th by 5pm.

How can I apply?

Complete and submit the form that can be accessed [HERE](#). Paper or phone interview applications are accepted. Contact Alex DuBois directly at (406) 370-8209 or alexdu@zerotofive.org for those options.

What if I do not have an entity to serve as a fiscal agent?

We still encourage you to apply. Our staff can help you find a suitable fiscal agent. Please note this in the comment section of your application.

How much funding will communities receive?

Depending on the amount of applicants, we are planning to provide approved communities funding between \$1,000 to \$5,000.