Project Startup Report

Submitted to Project Oversight on 12/08/2023

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Name: Early Childhood Integrated Dataset

Agency Name: Health and Human Services

Project Sponsor: Jessica Thomasson

Project Manager: Jenna Buksch/Ramya Mogili

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

An Early Childhood Integrated Dataset (ECIDS) integrates, maintains, stores, and reports information from various early childhood programs across multiple organizations that serve children and families from birth through the age of five (and in some cases, birth to age 8).

North Dakota is pursuing an ECIDS to strengthen the quality, coordination, and alignment of its Early Childhood Experience (ECE) programs and services in ways that will ultimately inform policy that will improve child outcomes. With siloed data, providers find it difficult to coordinate their efforts, policymakers struggle to find answers, and families may encounter childcare related challenges. An ECIDS will help North Dakota address each of these challenges and better support its children and families.

North Dakota has already developed important data system components and begun to build data readiness for an ECIDS through several past and ongoing data initiatives. However, much of the work has been isolated in disparate systems and therefore, is not being used to its full potential. The ECIDS project will leverage the work of several array of parallel initiatives to accelerate the implementation of an early childhood data layer.

BUSINESS NEEDS AND PROBLEMS

The DHS Early Childhood division needs to be able to access data from several disparate data collection systems to inform policy decisions and recommendations. A functioning ECIDS, combined with parallel data governance efforts underway within DHS, will be a primary means of delivering on the business need. DHS would like to solve the issues of:
1. providers finding it difficult to coordinate their efforts
2. policymakers struggling to find answers
3. families encountering childcare related challenges

PROJECT BASELINES

Project Start Date	Baseline End Date	Baseline Budget	Funding Source
01/18/2022	3/26/2025	$927,597.00	General and Federal

Notes:

$500,000 was appropriated in the 21-23 legislative session. $500,000 is funded through COVID Relief Funds.

This project has been baselined through the known work at the time which is the architecture, design, strategy, and technical documentation. This was due to there being too many unknowns with the data sources and access to be able to accurately estimate the project timelines for the rest of the schedule. The startup report will be updated once the entire project can be baselined.

OBJECTIVES

Business Objective	Measurement Description
DHS is able to answer at least one policy question that they were not able to answer before.	Within 6 months of implementation, DHS is able to use integrated data from at least two data sets in the system to understand a policy question DHS was previously unable to answer.
DHS is able to identify any necessary process improvements to better coordinate provider efforts and better assist families.	Within 6 months of implementation, DHS is able to use integrated data from at least two data sets in the system to understand process improvements for providers and families.

KEY CONSTRAINTS AND/OR RISKS

Constraints:

- The federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund (aka Covid relief funds) obligation date is September 30, 2023. The liquidation date is September 30, 2024.
- DHS, including the Early Childhood Division, is managing multiple work streams in parallel.

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