

PDG-R CoP/Coaching Expansion

The purpose of this project is to expand Florida's early childhood Communities of Practice (CoP) activities in support of Office of Early Learning (OEL) key goals and priorities. Building on the work completed with the 2019 Preschool Development Grant (PDG-19), the OEL through the PDG-R will purchase services from the UF Lastinger Center to expand and improve certified technical assistance and coaching services to early childhood education programs in Florida and to purchase training and services to expand access to CoPs to the UF Lastinger Center certified coaches and community-based participants.

The UF Lastinger Center shall accomplish the following:

Coaching and Technical Assistance

- Develop recommendations on research-based, best practices for implementing quality coaching practices in local communities (e.g., caseload, frequency, dosage) to maximize the impact of coaches' time with educators.
- Certify 75 new coaches through an online, virtual coaching certification process.
- Recertify 250 current UF Lastinger Center-certified coaches utilizing a UF Lastinger Center recertification model.

Community of Practice (CoP)

- Design and facilitate CoP sessions among certified coaches and community-based participants to cultivate reflective practice and shared learning on key goals such as improved adult-child interactions, strengthened teaching practices, and trauma-informed care.
- Build the capacity of current CoP facilitators and certified coaches training through the OEL/Lastinger partnership to support improved practices through virtual and other supports.