

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**HB Section(s):** 2.245

**Quality Assurance Report & Preschool Development Grant**

**Program is found in the following core budget(s): Early Childhood Coordination**

**1a. What strategic priority does this program address?**

Early Learning & Early Literacy

**1b. What does this program do?**

The Preschool Development Grant (PDG) was awarded in 2019 to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to align and coordinate policies, practices, and professional development across programs that serve children birth to kindergarten entry. The goal of the Preschool Development Grant is to increase efficiency and decrease fragmentation of services for young children (birth to age five) and their families. This grant was a catalyst in creating the Office of Childhood within DESE that consolidates early childhood and afterschool programs into a single state agency.

As part of the grant activities for improving overall quality and service integration, the Quality Assurance Report (QAR) assists child care programs that are licensed, license-exempt, or exempt from licensure, as well as center-based or home-based programs serving children birth to kindergarten entry. The QAR considers common indicators of quality as a way to focus on overall program improvement on a voluntary basis.

**2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.**

The following programs are from DESE, Department of Social Services (DSS), and Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and were consolidated into the Office of Childhood within DESE:

<i>Afterschool Programs</i>	<i>Early Childhood Comp Systems</i>	<i>Parent Link</i>
<i>Child Care Block Grant</i>	<i>Early Childhood Special Education</i>	<i>Preschool Early Learning Programs</i>
<i>Child Care Health Consultation</i>	<i>Educare</i>	<i>Quality Assurance Report Pilot</i>
<i>Child Care Licensing</i>	<i>First Steps (IDEA Part C)</i>	<i>Safe Sleep &amp; Safe Cribs</i>
<i>Child Care Resource &amp; Referral</i>	<i>Home Visiting Programs</i>	<i>State Funded Early Head Start</i>
<i>Child Care Subsidy</i>	<i>Infant &amp; Toddler Specialist Network</i>	<i>Trauma Start</i>
<i>Child Dev Assoc Scholarship</i>	<i>Parents as Teachers</i>	

In FY 2022 and FY 2023, the Department plans to consolidate activities and reduce duplication among programs.

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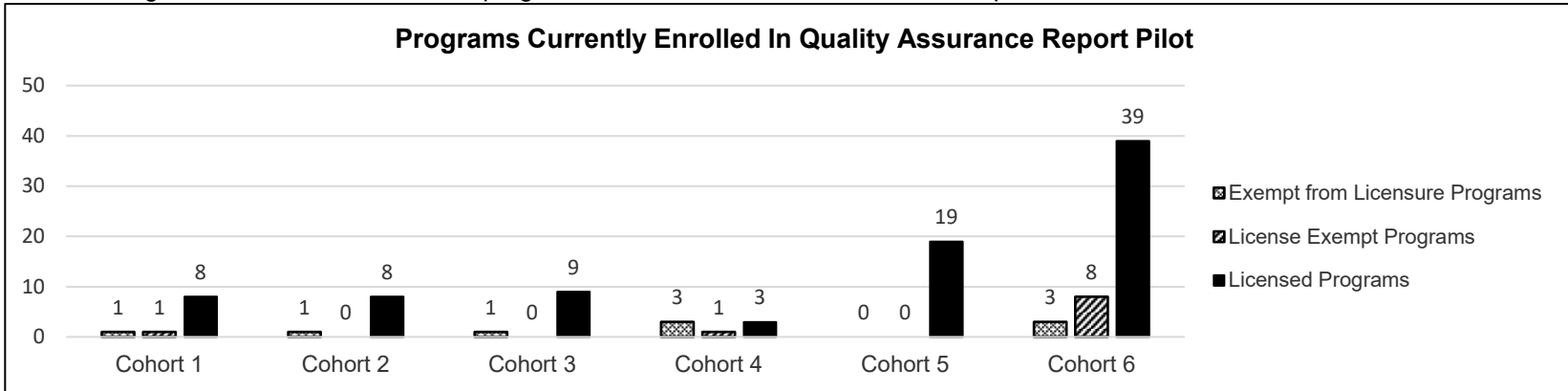
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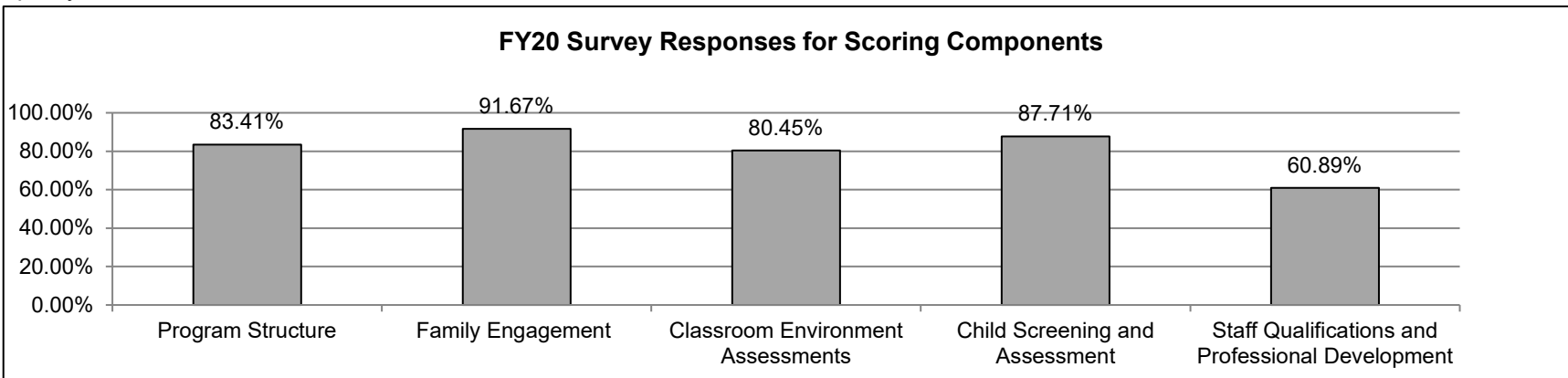
The following chart reflects the number of programs enrolled in each cohort of the QAR pilot.



NOTE: Cohort 6 will begin implementing quality initiatives in January 2022.

**2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.**

The following chart reflects survey responses from practitioners in the field, the responses are used to gather input on indicators to be considered in a quality framework.



NOTE: The survey was completed in collaboration with DESE, Missouri Head Start, and the Department of Mental Health. FY21 survey responses will be available in FY23.

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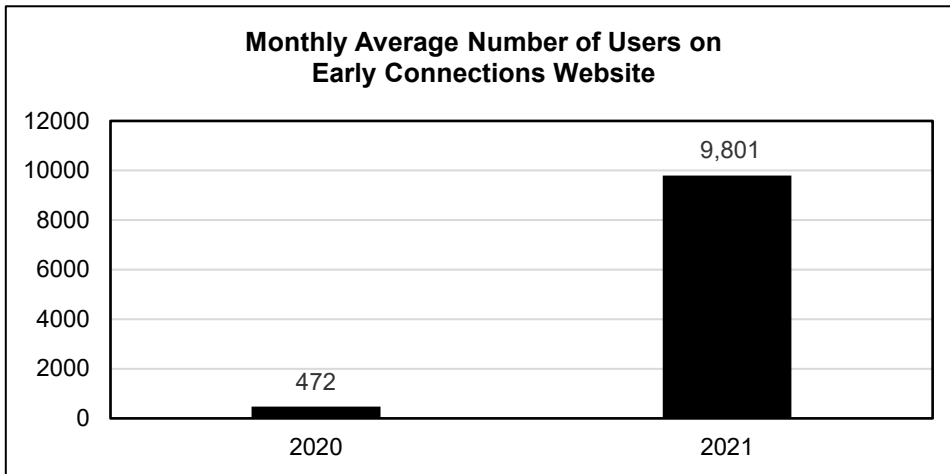
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**2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.**

<b>2019 Survey Results</b>	<b>2021 Survey Results</b>	<b>Survey Indicators</b>
24%	43%	Respondents agree the State is making progress with supporting local connections between state and local system building efforts.
3%	50%	Respondents agree that State policy makers are supportive of early childhood system building efforts.
28%	41%	Respondents agree that most programs and services are working together to support families with children, age birth to five, that have multiple risk factors.

The following chart reflects the growth in the number of users accessing the Early Connections website that was created in August 2020 as part of the PDG grant activities.



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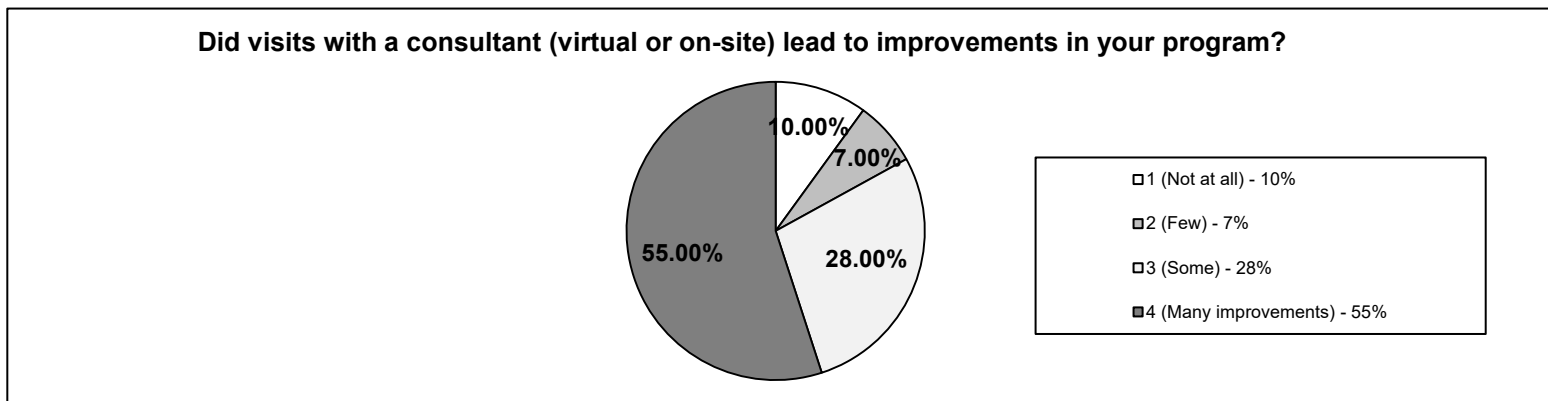
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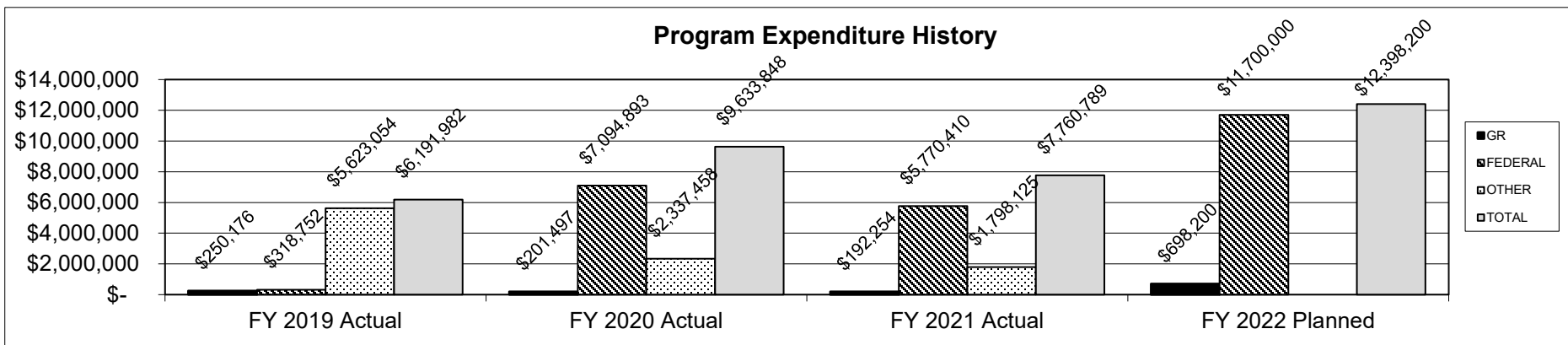
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**2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.**

The following chart reflects the responses of QAR pilot participants using consultative services to improve the quality of the program.



**3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)**



NOTE: PDG grant did not exist in FY19. FY19-FY21 includes Missouri Preschool Program (MPP) funds.

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**4. What are the sources of the "Other" funds?**

N/A

**5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e. federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)**

Section 161.217, RSMo. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in collaboration with the Missouri Head Start State Collaboration Office and the Departments of Health and Senior Services, Mental Health, and Social Services, shall develop, as a three-year pilot program, a voluntary early learning quality assurance report. The early learning quality assurance report shall be developed based on evidence-based practices.

Preschool Development Federal Grant B-5.

**6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.**

Yes, 30% of federal award amount. Match funds come from foundation formula preschool ADA.

**7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.**

No.