Requester Information

Legislator Name: Okerlund, Clinton

Created Date: January 27th 2026 **Submitted Date:** January 27th 2026

Section 1: Requester Details

Description:

The Utah Pyramid Model (UPM) builds the capacity of Utah's early childhood workforce and families by providing training and coaching that support children in developing lifelong learning skills and establishing a strong foundation for literacy. We promote family-centered practices and support the healthy development and well-being of Utah's young children and their families. This work is grounded in building strong, trusting relationships with early childhood practitioners and families through practice-based coaching to improve instructional quality and child outcomes. The UPM provides targeted support to early care and education programs to implement evidence-based practices with fidelity and to sustain those practices by strengthening internal capacity. By investing in both system-level sustainability and individual practitioner capacity for supportive, high-quality interactions with children, we ensure early learning experiences can be maintained and expanded over time.

Legislative designee contact information:

Name: Amie Andelin

Organization: Utah Pyramid Model IDRPP USU

Position: Utah Pyramid Model Project Coordinator

Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

Category	One-time		Ongoing
Personnel Services	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $373,000.00	$0.00

Category	One-time		Ongoing
In-State Travel	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $12,000.00	$0.00
Out-of-State Travel	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Supplies and Equipment	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $15,000.00	$0.00
Technology Purchases	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00

Expenditure Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
$0.00	**$400,000.00**	**$0.00**

Funding Sources:

General Fund

Amount Requested:

2026 (One-time)	$0.00
2027 (One-time)	$400,000.00
2027 (Ongoing)	$0.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
$0.00	$400,000.00	$0.00

Is this a multi-year project?

Yes

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

Yes

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled?

If we are awarded less than the requested amount, we will continue to support the early childhood workforce and families. We would need to reduce the intensity of services or identify alternative methods to provide support, which could limit overall reach and impact.

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

Economy

01533

Agency:

600 / Workforce Services

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding:

Government Not For Profit

Grant recipient

Yes

Requested Direct Award Grant Recipient

Institute for Disability Research Policy and Practice at the Utah State University

Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement

Who would benefit the most from this request (who is the target audience)?

The request will benefit Utah's early childhood workforce, families, children, and communities. The Utah Pyramid Model (UPM) supports 1,400 early childhood professionals, including teachers, assistant teachers, home visitors, early interventionists, and related service providers across 500 classrooms, helping address staff turnover, a primary concern for program directors, and preventing program closures. Over 10,000 children in early childhood settings and 1,200 households are supported through center-based, home, and community programs, ensuring families have access to reliable, high-quality care that allows parents to remain in the workforce, and promotes children's early learning and development. Communities across the state also benefit, with 41 active implementation sites including preschools, childcare centers, family childcare homes, early intervention, and home visiting programs operating in 27 counties. Investments in early care and education provide strong economic and social returns to the state, creating a more stable workforce, thriving children, and healthier communities. Our external coaches build the capacity of program-based internal coaches to teach children essential social skills and emotional competencies that support kindergarten readiness, improve literacy and numeracy outcomes, and contribute to lifelong success. Through this model, early childhood practitioners and families are equipped with practical strategies to intentionally build these skills with children. As programs progress through the Pyramid Model, they become increasingly self-sufficient and require less support from external coaches. This allows us to begin implementing new programs and continue expanding our reach across the state of Utah.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

The Utah Pyramid Model strengthens Utah's early childhood workforce, especially in rural and underserved communities, by stabilizing programs and reducing closures that leave families without reliable care. A strong, stable early childhood system protects Utah's economy by enabling parents to remain in the workforce while ensuring children are prepared with essential lifelong learning skills, including the ability to engage in instruction, persist through challenging tasks, and learn to read. When teachers are supported, they experience greater job satisfaction, which reduces turnover and helps create a stable early childhood workforce. A stable childcare system keeps programs in operation, enables parents to access high-quality care necessary to maintain employment, and strengthens local economies.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

The Utah Pyramid Model collects and stores data in the Pyramid Model Implementation Data System (PIDS). Data collected over the past three years show that implementation sites have increased practitioners' use of Pyramid Model practices, children's use of positive social skills and emotional competencies, and practitioners' job satisfaction. Data collection will continue to document programs' ability to meet intended outcomes and overall purpose, demonstrating progress through the stages of implementation and achievement of program-wide fidelity.

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language Documents

Previous Funding Documents

Full Time Employees

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