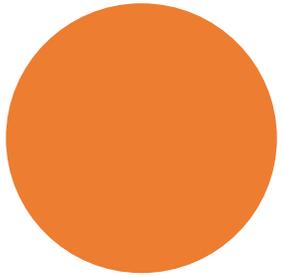


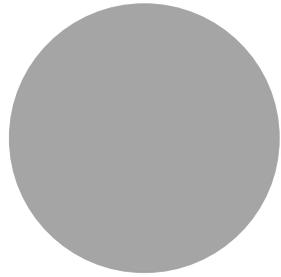
# Strengthening Montana's Early Childhood System

Montana's Application to the Preschool Development Grant Birth  
through Five Grant

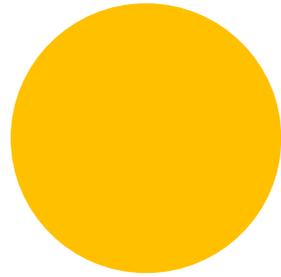
# Funding Opportunity Overview



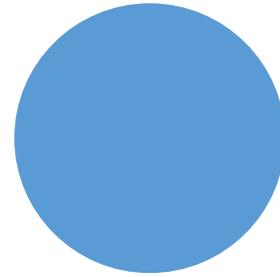
1 YEAR GRANT  
(CALENDAR YEAR  
2019)



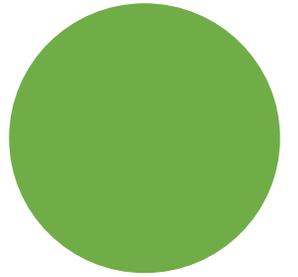
40 STATES AND  
TERRITORIES WILL  
BE FUNDED



\$500,000 - \$15  
MILLION;  
MONTANA TOTAL  
BUDGET ~\$7.7  
MILLION WITH  
~\$5.9 MILLION  
FEDERAL REQUEST



FOCUS ON  
STRENGTHENING  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
SYSTEMS



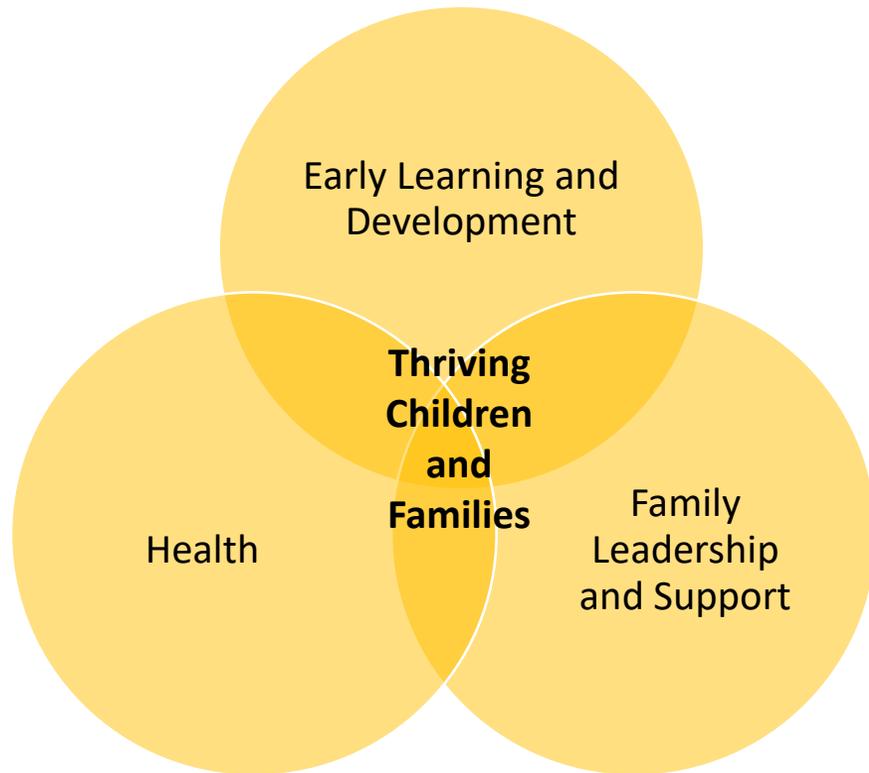
FIVE ACTIVITIES:  
1) NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
2) STRATEGIC PLANNING  
3) MAXIMIZE PARENTAL  
CHOICE AND  
KNOWLEDGE  
4) SHARE BEST  
PRACTICES AMONG ECE  
PROVIDERS  
5) IMPROVE OVERALL  
QUALITY OF ECE

Framework, Overview,  
and Detailed Map

# Montana's Early Childhood System

# Early Childhood System Framework

*Children have the skills and knowledge they need to achieve success in learning and reach their full potential in life*



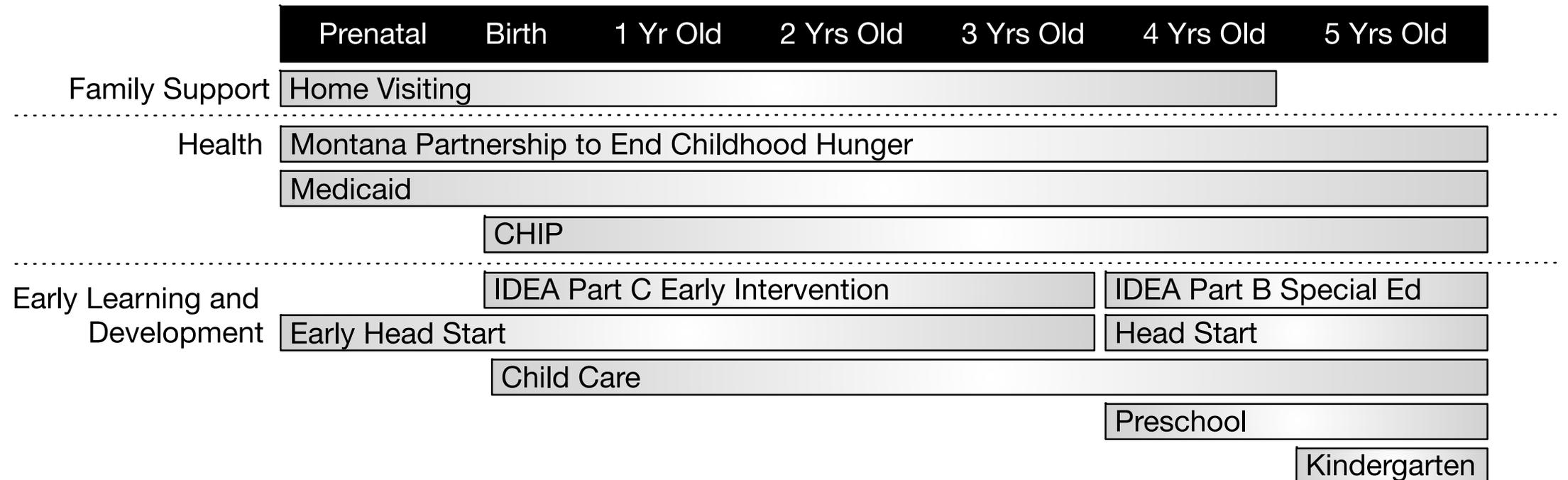
## **Results that a Comprehensive Early Childhood System Should Deliver:**

**EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT:** Nurturing relationships, environments, and enriching experiences that foster learning and development.

**HEALTH:** Comprehensive services that promote children's physical, developmental, and mental health.

**FAMILY LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT:** Resources, experiences, and relationships that strengthen families, engage them as leaders, and enhance their capacity to support children's well being

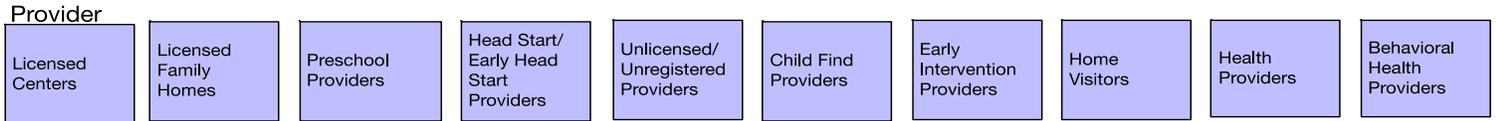
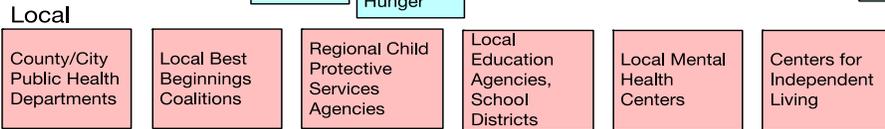
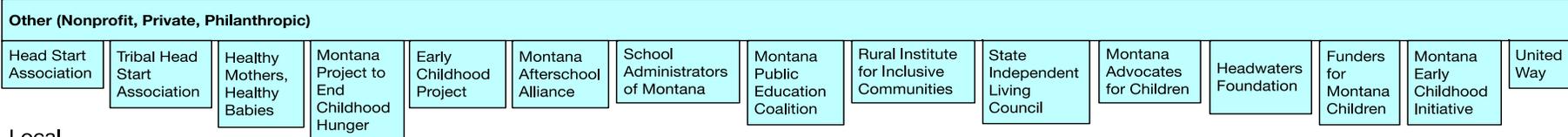
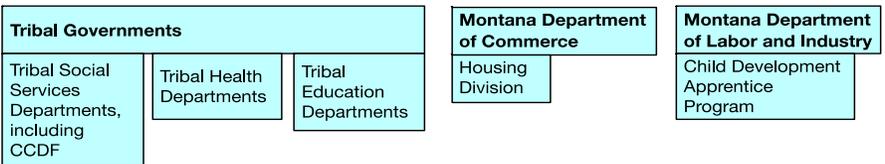
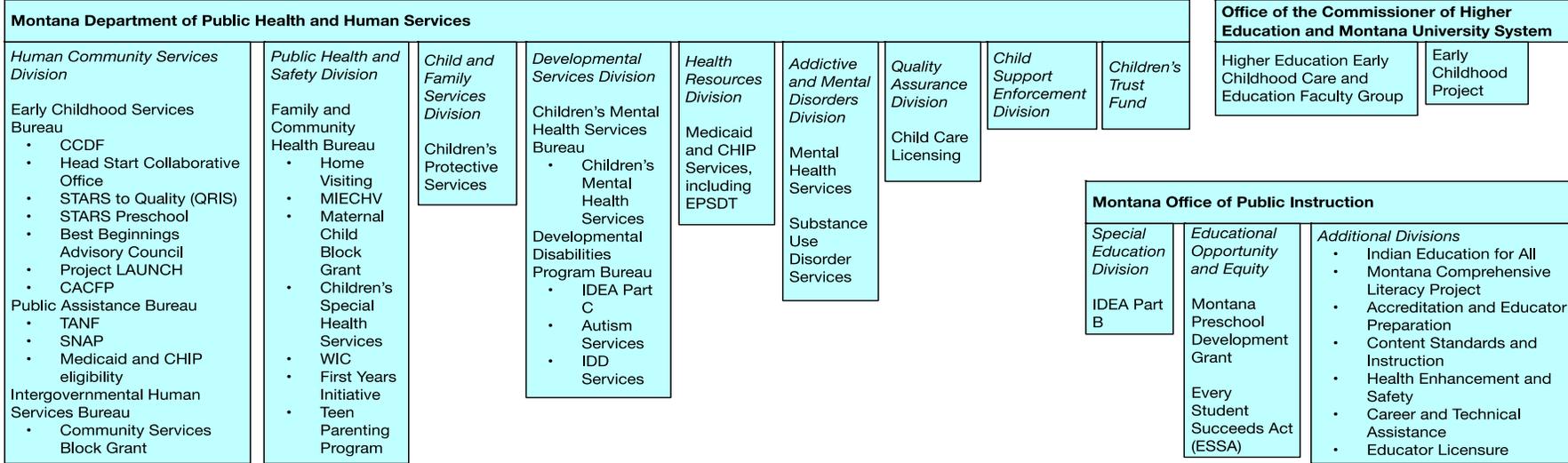
# High-Level Overview of Montana's Early Childhood System



**Federal**



**State and Tribal**



Project Management  
Needs Assessment  
Strategic Planning  
Family Engagement  
ECE Provider PD  
ECE Quality

# Project Activities

# Project Management

- Project kick off
- Early childhood system stakeholder engagement
  - Best Beginnings Advisory Council
  - Early Childhood Community Coalitions
  - Tribal Consultation
- Ongoing project management

# Needs Assessment Research Areas

- System coordination and collaboration (funding, governance, administration, IT, policies, programs)
- Family engagement and support (ECE information sharing, engagement best practices, current engagement level/practices, home visiting reach, SE screening reach, referral processes, transition supports)
- ECE provider professional development (PD best practices, children's developmental and behavioral health needs, trauma-informed approaches)
- ECE quality and reach (availability of ECE in mixed delivery system, quality of ECE, QRIS best practices, school readiness best practices)

# Needs Assessment Approach

- Data collection:
  - Literature review, best practices research (Montana and national, including review of existing needs assessments)
  - Extant/administrative data
  - Community surveys
  - Key stakeholder interviews
  - Community forums and focus groups
- Reliance on ECCCs and BBAC to support data collection processes
- Analysis and reporting

# Strategic Plan Approach

- Review existing plans
- Conduct regional and statewide workshops (review needs assessment findings, prioritize, define early childhood system priorities (goals, objectives, and strategies))
- Create draft strategic plan for BBAC and local coalition review and input
- Develop implementation plan
- Develop evaluation plan, working collaboratively to define shared outcomes and measures aligned with strategic plan

# Family Engagement

- Define family engagement
- Improved, culturally competent information sharing about ECE (outreach campaign and early childhood 'one-stop-shop')
- Investing in family engagement coordinators with a focus on school readiness and transitions
- Improving early childhood resource and referral processes
- Universal screening for social-emotional health

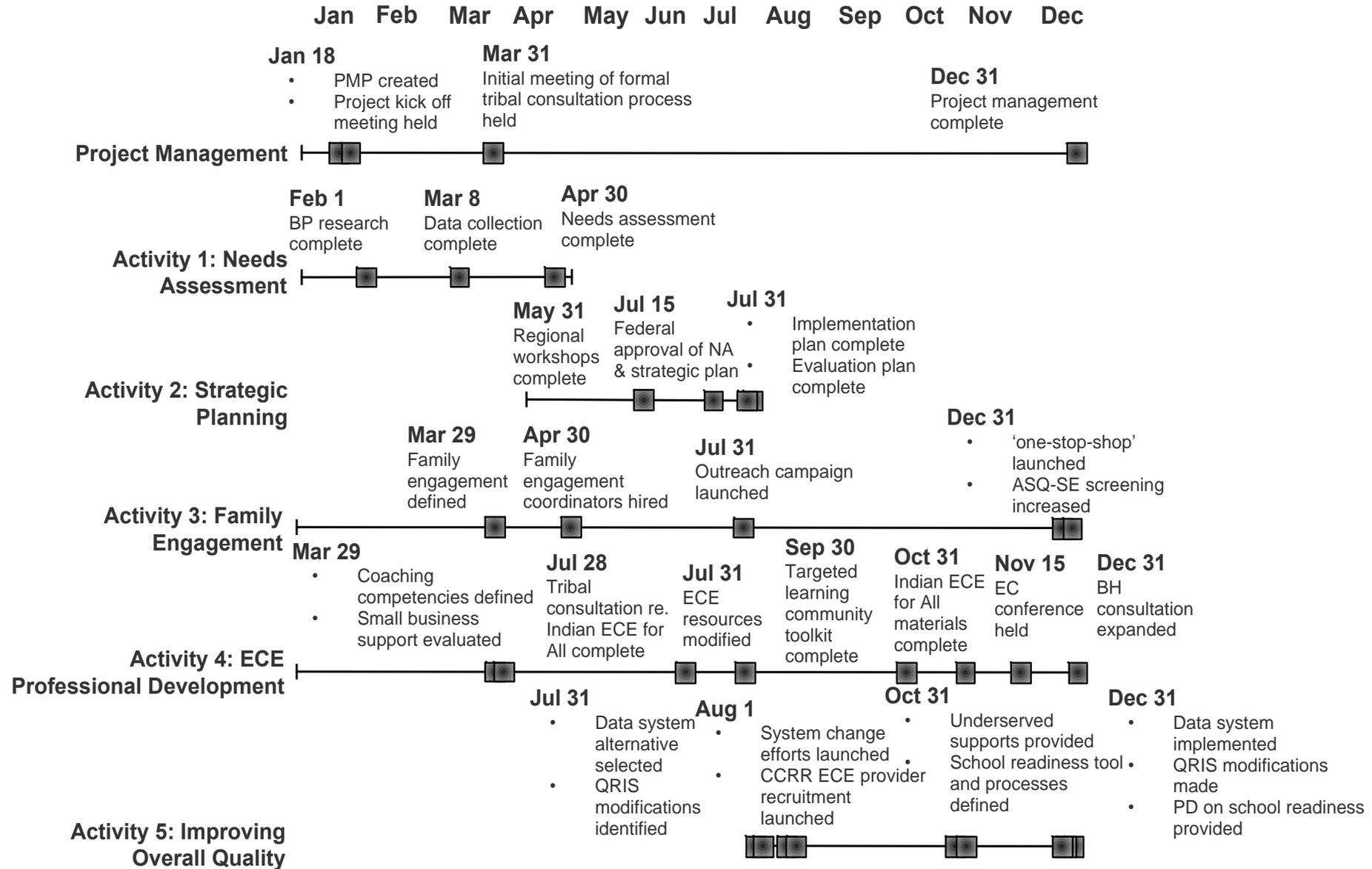
# Professional Development

- Sharing best practices across early childhood system
- ECE provider professional development
  - Define common coaching competencies and certifications across early childhood system
  - Coordinate training of coaches
  - Targeted PD on:
    - Healthy development of infants and toddlers
    - Parent engagement and partnership
    - American Indian cultural competency
- ECE targeted learning communities
  - Child care small business owners, strengthen business practices, explore shared services, support cost modeling, toolkit)

# Quality ECE

- Increasing early childhood system coordination and collaboration based on needs assessment and strategic planning findings/recommendations
- Improving data systems
- Increasing ECE system capacity to improve access and quality for underserved populations and regions
- Improving school readiness and transitions

# Project Timeline



# Project Organization

