

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators
From: Nathan DeDino
Date: March 27, 2020
Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #2008

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

Your DODD EI team is here to support you in providing services to families. We have released a number of guidance documents and Program Updates during the past two weeks. You can find these with other DODD COVID-19 guidance [here](#). We are also providing some additional resources with this communication.

Please do not hesitate to contact your EI program consultant if you have further questions. Your questions and feedback help us to determine which questions can be answered on a one-on-one basis and which merit guidance for the entire EI field. Thank you for your continued dedication to serving families during this difficult time.

I always invite your feedback. Do not hesitate to contact me at nathan.dedino@dodd.ohio.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

PROGRAM UPDATES

COVID-19 and EI Monitoring

As DODD and EI providers continue to deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we know that adjustments will be necessary to our baseline compliance monitoring calendar and analyses. At this time, we are focused on supporting counties in the all-important work of providing EI services to families. In the coming weeks, we will determine what adjustments are necessary, in conjunction with any guidance we receive from the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Eligibility Guidance during COVID-19

DODD has developed guidance that allows programs to complete the eligibility process, including evaluations, via technology. This detailed document is supplemented with two appendices which provide a more simplified version of the process. It is available here:

<https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/about-us/communication/news/news-early-intervention-eligibility-coronavirus>

If you have any questions about completing eligibility during the state of emergency, please contact your EI program consultant.

SFY 2020 45-Day Analysis (Group 1)

Activities related to the SFY 2020 45-Day analysis are underway. Data were extracted February 24. Applicable missing data and verification requests were sent March 2 and were due to DODD on March 17. Records are currently being reviewed and clarification requests will be sent to counties, as applicable. If you have questions about the process or there are barriers to accessing or providing information during the COVID-19 emergency, please contact Melissa Courts at Melissa.courts@dodd.ohio.gov, and we will work with your county on due dates.

Renewal of Developmental Specialist Certifications and EI Service Coordinator Credentials

Both DODD and OCCRRA have staff working remotely during the state of emergency to process, issue, and renew credentials and certifications. We understand there may be circumstances that prevent you from accessing the necessary paperwork or files needed to submit applications. If you are experiencing difficulty with application submission during the state of emergency, please reach out to your EI Program Consultant and tiffany.madden@dodd.ohio.gov for assistance.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

New Webinar! Strategies for Engaging Families in Tele-EI

Please join Maggie Gons, M.A. CCC-SLP, to learn more about using technology to provide EI services and engaging families in virtual services. Maggie is an Early Childhood Professional Development Manager for Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in the Center for the Young Child. She coordinates and provides training for the state-wide implementation of the Autism Diagnostic Education Program (ADEP) and Play and Language for Autistic Youngers (PLAY) Project in Ohio Early Intervention. She will share strategies and answer your questions.

The webinar will be held April 7 from 8:30-10:00am.

Click the link below to register on GoToWebinar.

If you have questions, please contact Lori Myers, lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov.

Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5689571757661641741>

Tele-EI Resources

DODD is compiling tele-EI resources and will be adding these to a dedicated place on the EI website. We will communicate the location in an upcoming Program Updates. The Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center has many resources here:

<https://ectacenter.org/topics/disaster/tele-intervention.asp>

University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Resources

The University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCCEDD) has compiled a large list of resources related to the COVID-19 pandemic and providing services to people with disabilities. You can access these resources here:

<https://www.ucucedd.org/covid-19/>

Financial Resources for Families with a Child with Down Syndrome

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio is offering help and resources for families with a child who has Down Syndrome who may be experiencing financial or other hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can learn more here:

http://dsaco.net/fap/?utm_source=pix&utm_medium=HPTO