

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators
From: Nathan DeDino
Date: February 11, 2022
Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #2203

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

DODD submitted Ohio's Annual Performance Report to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on January 31. This submission included an updated State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). In the last SSIP cycle (2014-21), Ohio focused on substantially increasing the rate of growth in improving children's acquisition and use of knowledge and skills. The state made significant progress in this area over the past seven years, as well as in the broader EI system in implementing the steps and activities needed to achieve the state's identified outcomes in the first cycle. With the ending of that SSIP cycle, DODD reviewed data and engaged with stakeholders about a change in focus to children's social-emotional development for the new SSIP cycle (2021-27).

Both data and anecdotal evidence collected over the past several years suggested that Ohio should place additional emphasis on social-emotional development. In this timeframe, the percentage of children served who substantially increased their rate of growth was lower in regard to positive social-emotional skills than the other two child outcomes areas. In rating IFSP outcomes over the last several years as part of the previous SSIP, it was also recognized that IFSP outcomes addressing social-emotional development generally met fewer criteria for high quality IFSP outcomes than other outcomes. Finally, stakeholders expressed increased interest in more closely focusing on social-emotional development among children served in Early Intervention. The COVID-19 pandemic has only increased this interest.

We welcome input about Ohio's new plan. You can access the plan [here](#). Any feedback will be shared at upcoming meetings of the EI Advisory Council and Stakeholder Group. An executive summary of this year's plan will also be posted in the coming weeks.

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

SFY22 Transition Baseline Preparation Webinar

DODD held the second webinar in the Baseline EI Compliance Monitoring series, which addressed Transition, on February 2. You can access a recording of the webinar here:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/trainings/286>

Bright Beginnings Outreach Webinar

Bright Beginnings will be presenting a webinar on February 24 at 8:30am to provide an update on SFY22 outreach campaigns and resources. You can register for this webinar here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2902670436236835597>

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Caring for Children and Youth with Developmental Disabilities

Cincinnati Children's Medical Center is offering a training for aspiring babysitters with a focus on caring for children with developmental disabilities. You can learn more about the dates the training is offered and how to register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/caring-for-children-and-youth-with-disabilities-spring-2022-tickets-257249128067>

Fatherhood Grants

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood has released a new funding opportunity. The commission will award up to 15 mini-grants to nonprofit organizations and/or government entities that host father-child events in June. Organizations chosen will be reimbursed up to \$4,000 for eligible expenses incurred in June 2022. You can learn more and apply here:

<https://grants.ohio.gov/FundingOpportunityDetails.aspx?detailId=37>