

Early Intervention Advisory Council Meeting

08/13/2025



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



AGENDA

- General program updates
- Technical Assistance (TA) and Practice Advancement updates
- Professional Development updates
- Activity – Developmental Specialist (DS) Certification rule
- Partner updates

GENERAL PROGRAM UPDATES

- FFY23 Determination
- EI team at DCY
- Early Intervention Data System (EIDS) move to DCY
- EI Family Questionnaire
- EI grants/allocations
- EI numbers – referrals and child counts
- Central Intake Southern region change
- Children and Youth Advisory Council

OHIO PART C FFY23 DETERMINATION

- Meets requirements (highest rating) for the 9th consecutive year
 - A copy of Ohio's FFY23 APR submission and determination information is available on the [Federal Reporting and Postings](#) page of EI website
 - Thank you to our EI field for all of their hard work and contributions to this rating!
- As a reminder, county APRs and determinations were distributed December 12, 2024 and are available on the [County Data](#) page of EI website

EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM AT DCY – NEW HIRES

Policy: Laura Graf, Deputy Director	Technical Assistance and Practice Advancement: Diane Fox, Deputy Director	Professional Development: Diane Fox, Deputy Director	Data and Federal Reporting: Nathan DeDino, Chief Data Officer	Contracts: Matt Cunningham, Deputy Director
Cindy Ricketts, Bureau Chief	Sophie Hubbell, Bureau Chief	Janene Kehl, Bureau Chief	Kristine Monroe, Bureau Chief	Tracy Gothard, Senior Financial Manager
Taylor Hammond, Part C Coordinator	Shelly Palumbo, Team Coordinator	Melissa Courts, Project Manager	Kat Ingles, Data Supervisor	Traci Keesee, Financial Program Manager
Erin Hale, Monitoring Consultant, Open Position - Monitoring Consultant	El Program Consultants: Karen Kincaid, Lindsey Jay, Tracy Misencik, and Whitney McHue, Cory St. Myers	Megan Shuler, Human Services Program Manager 3	Brier Gallihugh	Vanessa Reilly, Financial Program Manager
	Coming soon! - El Funding Specialist	Anni Monks—El Specialist (PD)		

EIDS MOVE TO DCY

- Went live the evening of Thursday, June 26
- No changes to the application or data entry
- Only minor changes to the login process
 - New instructions for requesting access to EIDS are available on the [Data System](#) page of the EI website

2025 EI FAMILY QUESTIONNAIRE

- 2025 Family Questionnaire is complete
- Extended the timeline and accepted responses through July 14
- Response rate of 29.35% (just below 29.78% last year)
- Quantitative reports sent July 31
 - Document with all reports posted on the EI website and individual reports will be posted in the coming weeks
- We are reviewing these responses to the open-ended items and de-identifying where applicable
 - These reports will be distributed to counties upon completion but will not be posted on the EI website

SFY26 EI SERVICE COORDINATION GRANTS

- EISC grants
- Provider grants
 - Hearing provider change
 - COGs & DCPs – updated process

EI REFERRALS

Month	SFY18	SFY19	SFY20	SFY21	SFY22	SFY23	SFY24	SFY25	SFY26
July	2,190	2,525	2,686	2,388	2,886	2,754	2,706	3,049	2,935
August	1,723	3,009	2,761	2,351	2,797	3,085	3,174	2,931	
September	2,699	2,490	2,708	2,545	2,757	2,919	2,848	2,836	
October	2,296	2,868	3,024	2,501	2,705	2,792	3,121	3,040	
November	2,082	2,412	2,453	2,117	2,648	2,750	2,700	2,453	
December	1,977	2,032	2,365	2,101	2,404	2,315	2,362	2,315	
January	2,393	2,838	3,082	2,611	2,681	3,217	3,061	2,970	
February	2,063	2,582	2,769	2,514	2,805	2,848	2,965	2,692	
March	2,474	2,798	2,204	3,030	3,596	3,384	2,919	2,968	
April	2,483	2,956	1,526	2,891	3,133	2,779	3,174	2,997	
May	2,503	2,893	1,804	2,591	2,869	3,092	3,123	2,859	
June	2,196	2,637	2,317	2,812	2,747	2,990	2,595	2,732	
SFY Total	27,079	32,040	29,699	30,452	34,028	34,925	34,748	33,842	

EI CHILD COUNTS

Month	SFY19	SFY20	SFY21	SFY22	SFY23	SFY24	SFY25	SFY26
July	10,828	11,783	11,121	11,288	13,311	14,246	14,574	
August	10,754	11,733	10,615	11,315	13,254	14,134	14,555	
September	10,545	11,796	10,495	11,427	13,271	14,068	14,287	
October	10,712	11,727	10,496	11,595	13,274	13,983	14,313	
November	10,896	11,986	10,382	11,692	13,352	14,046	14,427	
December	11,112	11,995	10,371	11,870	13,480	14,063	14,422	
January	11,064	11,955	10,283	11,988	13,502	14,010	14,275	
February	11,119	11,985	10,328	12,103	13,642	14,079	14,286	
March	11,129	12,049	10,460	12,196	13,748	14,155	14,284	
April	11,308	11,943	10,716	12,603	14,032	14,140	14,457	
May	11,596	11,608	10,868	12,899	14,164	14,443	14,711	
June	11,727	11,372	11,062	13,131	14,335	14,561	14,746	
SFY Average	11,066	11,828	10,600	12,009	13,614	14,161	14,445	
Cumulative Served	23,438	23,349	22,811	25,733	28,450	29,622	29,681	

CENTRAL INTAKE SOUTHERN REGION CHANGE

- The Pike County Board of Developmental Disabilities (PCBDD) no longer serves as the Help Me Grow Central Intake & Referral (CIR) provider for the Southern region. As of July 17, the counties from the Southern region were redistributed into the Central, Southeastern, and Southwestern regions:
 - Action for Children (AFC) in the Central Region is now covering 10 counties, adding Fairfield and Pickaway.
 - Butler County Educational Service Center (BCESC) is now covering 13 counties, adding Lawrence, Pike, Ross, and Scioto.
 - Noble County Health Department (NCHD) is now covering 19 counties, adding Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, and Vinton.
- Bright Beginnings emailed EI and Home Visiting (HV) providers and referral sources this information on July 16 and the Help Me Grow website has been updated to reflect the new [map](#).
- Please email provider@helpmegrow.org with any referral questions and communications@helpmegrow.org with any outreach questions.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

- DCY stakeholder group - Established this budget cycle
- Early Intervention will be part of a subcommittee of this council
- All requirements for the state interagency coordinating council, as described in 20 U.S.C. 1441 will be met
- Details, including schedules and membership, for the council and subcommittees are being finalized and will be communicated upon completion
- We anticipate the November 5 EI Advisory Council meeting to occur as planned

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El Technical Assistance (TA) and Practice Advancement Updates

EI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) AND PRACTICE ADVANCEMENT

- Program Consultants (PC)-Updates
 - Principles of Service Coordination (POSC) Module 3- All EISC, EISC Supervisors, CMs required to complete by Dec 31, 2025
 - System of Payment
 - Review and Revise the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) guidance Documents along with other Guidance Document revisions
 - TA and Training Plans will include IFSP and Teaming Process And Assessment Practices
 - Regional program consultants- Map changes to be announced October 1st
 - Assessment practices

POSC MODULE 3

- POSC Module 3 – Training Requirement
- All EISCs, EISC Supervisors, and Contract Managers must complete POSC Module 3 (EI-042) by December 31, 2025.
- New hires must complete all POSC modules, including Module 3, as part of the EISC credentialing process.
- Completion data will be collected in the SFY26 mid-year program report.
- Agencies are encouraged to plan ahead to ensure timely compliance.

SYSTEM OF PAYMENT

- Hearing, Nutrition, and Vision Services
- Department Contracted Providers
- Assistive Technology
 - New Early Intervention Funding Specialist (EI Resource Coordinator)

IFSP GUIDANCE DOCUMENT AND OTHER GUIDANCE

- IFSP Guidance Review – Update
 - Program Consultants are reviewing the IFSP guidance and related documents
 - Focus: Clarity and alignment with recent rule changes
 - Updates will be shared once the full review is complete
 - Making only necessary changes
 - Releasing updates all at once
 - Ensure the entire field is using the most current and accurate guidance

PROGRAM CONSULTANT MAP

- Consultant changes:
 - Cory St. Myers the new Program Consultant will begin reaching out to counties in the coming weeks.
 - Warm hand-offs
 - PCs are scheduling joint visits, trainings, and discussions to support a smooth transition
 - Once the regional map changes, an updated version will be shared with the field.
- Mentorship
 - As part of our onboarding structure (a year long process) new hires will:
 - Work with a mentor throughout their first year
 - Spend 4 months with each existing Program Consultant for guided mentorship

ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

- Focus for SFY26
- Collecting data
 - SFY25 final program reports – tools, challenges, support needed
 - SFY26 Program Narratives – local assessment processes
- Tailored TA depending on county needs
 - Incorporated into TA and training plans as applicable
- Donuts with Di series



EI Professional Development Updates

DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

UPDATES

Developmental Specialist (DS) certification processing transitioned to OCCRRA through the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR) on March 3, 2025.

Type of DS Certification	Number of Certification issued through the OPR from March 3, 2025 – July 30, 2025	Number of DODD-Issued Certifications Still Active
Developmental Specialist – 5 Year	58	543
Developmental Specialist – 1 Year	32	33

DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION UPDATES

- Several PIPs have been issued recently due to DS certifications that have expired
 - Issued when DS fails to meet requirements and/or apply for recertification prior to the expiration date of their certification
- DS certification is a 2 Step Process
 - Creation of OPR Profile and upload of required documents (30 days)
 - Submission of DS application (additional 30 days)
 - Reminders went out in Tuesday Times and [DS FAQ Document](#)

DS Application resources, including webinar recordings and User Guides, can be found on the [Developmental Specialist Landing Page](#) on the EI website.

UPCOMING FY26 TRAININGS

- DCY is finalizing FY26 training vendor contracts for:
 - Bayley-4 Scales of Infant and Toddler Development
 - Battelle Developmental Inventory-3, and
 - Newborn Behavioral Observation System
- Trainings dates will be shared via the EI Biweekly Program Update within the DCY Tuesday Times.
- Trainings will be posted on EI Website in the “Training” section and on the EI Events Calendar

DONUTS WITH DI

- Webinar 1**, 07/21/2025: Enhancing Observation Skills for Assessment
- Webinar 2**, 10/20/2025: Effective Record Review in Early Intervention
- Webinar 3**, 01/21/2026: Interviewing Techniques for Comprehensive Assessments
- Webinar 4**, 03/23/2026: Using Assessment Tools and Standardized Measures
- Webinar 5**, 06/15/2026: Integrating Assessment Findings into Individualized Plans



TRAINING DATA MAY 2025– JULY 2025

Training Title	Training Date	Number of Attendees
Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development	5/14/2025	6
Battelle Developmental Inventory	6/18/2025	24
Doughnuts with Di: Understanding and Addressing Lead Exposure in Early Childhood	6/20/2025	98
Doughnuts with Di: Enhancing Observation Skills for Assessment	7/21/2025	298

ACTIVITY – DS CERTIFICATION RULE

1. How well do current DS certification requirements support the overall quality of EI services in Ohio?
2. Do the certification standards help ensure a qualified, competent workforce? Are there new or emerging competencies you feel should be added to the rule?
3. Have you experienced difficulties recruiting, hiring, and/or retaining qualified personnel as a result of certification requirements? If yes, please describe.
4. Is the Evidence-Based Practice Coaching requirement for newly certified DSs adequate and feasible within your program's capacity?



PARTNER UPDATES



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CONNECT WITH DCY



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