

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators
From: Nathan DeDino
Date: March 24, 2023
Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #2306

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

DODD and Ohio Family Children First were pleased to announce new flexibilities related to the EI service coordination grant for SFY24 earlier this week. A joint memo accompanies this communication. These flexibilities support local EI programs in finding creative and efficient ways to organize EI resources in their communities.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

Individuals conducting Early Intervention evaluations and child assessments under Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5123-10-02 must hold an active license, credential, or certification outlined in Appendix B. EI service coordination agencies report on this evaluator and assessor information as part of their Addendum B (“EI Contact Sheet”). Agencies should actively monitor to ensure all evaluators and assessors have a current valid license, credential, or certification. You can learn more here:

<https://dodd.ohio.gov/forms-and-rules/rules-in-effect/5123-10-02+appendix+b>

PROGRAM UPDATES

SFY23 TRS Baseline

The SFY23 TRS baseline analysis is complete. DODD sent results memos to Group 3 counties on March 24.

SFY23 45-Day Timeline Baseline

The SFY23 45-Day baseline process is under way for Group 1 counties. Applicable county inquiries were sent March 14 and are due back to DODD by March 30.

SFY23 Transition Baseline

The SFY23 Transition baseline process will begin at the end of March for Group 2 counties. DODD sent notification emails regarding participation to all counties on March 21. Group 2

counties also received a handout providing an overview of the timeline and data cleaning process. A Transition Baseline Preparation webinar will be held on March 27 from 3:00-4:00 pm. We encourage all EI contract managers and FCFC coordinators to attend regardless of whether your county is part of a particular cohort. You can register here:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/trainings/327>

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Deaf History Month

In 2017, Ohio's General Assembly passed legislation designating March 13-April 15 as Ohio Deaf History Month. In celebration, the Ohio Statehouse will feature an Ohio Deaf History Month exhibit. You can learn more here:

<https://www.ohiostatehouse.org/calendar/event?id=1565>

A variety of resources in honor of this month are also available at the State Library of Ohio's website:

<https://library.ohio.gov/news/ohio-deaf-history-month-begins-march-13th/>

Week of the Young Child

"The Week of the Young Child" (April 1-7) is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the event is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. You can learn more here:

<https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc>

To: Family and Children First Council Directors/Coordinators, Chairs, and Administrative Agents

From: Elisha R. Cangelosi, Executive Director, Ohio Family and Children First
Diane J. Fox, Assistant Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Date: March 20, 2023

Re: Changes to the SFY24 Early Intervention service coordination grant

Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) are pleased to announce new flexibilities to local Family and Children First Councils (FCFCs) for the SFY24 Early Intervention (EI) service coordination grant cycle. Since 2016, DODD has entered into cooperative agreements with the administrative agent of a county's FCFC to complete activities related to EI service coordination. Historically, many administrative agents have simply passed these funds on to another member of council to complete the EI work outlined in the agreement. This dynamic has, at times, created unclear expectations around which entity is providing oversight of the grant funds, who is providing oversight of state and federally required EI activities, and which entity is willing to incur potential federal audit costs associated with accepting federal funds from DODD.

Beginning with the grant year starting July 1, 2023, local FCFCs may delegate an entity other than the administrative agent to receive EI service coordination grant funds from DODD. This entity must be a statutory member of council as defined in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 121.37. Consistent with our longstanding practice, an FCFC may also collaborate with council agencies in other counties to perform EI service coordination grant activities on their behalf.

As part of this change, DODD will clarify in the SFY24 agreements that each subrecipient must specify a person to serve in the role of local EI contract manager. This person will be the primary point of contact with DODD for the county/ies and ultimately responsible locally for maintaining compliance with the terms of the agreement and relevant state and federal EI regulations and responding timely to requests from DODD for information. To ensure local councils are aware of the challenges and successes in their local EI systems, DODD will also require the EI contract manager to complete certain reporting to councils using a mandated template.

These new flexibilities do not require local councils that are satisfied with their current local arrangements to make any changes. We are confident, however, that these flexibilities will be beneficial to many counties' administrative agents who lack the staff and time to provide thorough oversight of the grant funds and EI service coordination requirements. Councils should communicate to OFCF by April 21, 2023 which member of council will be designated as the

recipient of the grant funds and responsible for EI service coordination locally. Please report this information using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xPz4UNiUB0-E6zbtV8fIot1PIIxBabdOhNoc41s1ayhUN0tNMUtZUzVSUExISVBRQ0FDRjhVV05USS4u>.

Thank you for your support in implementing these changes. Do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions.