

## Early Intervention Program Updates #2409 May 3, 2024

### MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

---

We appreciated the great work our local partners did last year to significantly boost the response rate to the 2023 EI family questionnaire. As we begin the 2024 questionnaire process, we thank you in advance for your work to further increase the response rate. The federal Office of Special Education Programs continues to emphasize the importance of states hearing from an increased numbers of families who are representative of the families served in their EI program. As in past years, we will provide interim response rates while the questionnaire is open for responses.

I always invite your feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [nathan.dedino@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:nathan.dedino@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov). I look forward to hearing from you.

### PROGRAM UPDATES

---

#### *2024 EI Family Questionnaire*

We are again collecting the majority of family questionnaire responses online via Survey Monkey. If the primary caregiver did not have an email address listed in the EI Data System (EIDS), the questionnaire and a one-page information sheet about the questionnaire were sent via postal mail to the family. This information was also sent via postal mail if the email address was identified as invalid by Survey Monkey or the caregiver had opted out of receiving surveys via Survey Monkey.

We again translated the questionnaire into any language that was identified as the primary language for at least five caregivers on the statewide family questionnaire recipient list. These families—other than those speaking Spanish—will receive a hardcopy of the information sheet and survey via postal mail. If a family's primary language is Spanish, they will receive either an e-mail with the survey link or a hardcopy of the questionnaire via postal mail depending on whether we have a valid e-mail for the family.

We e-mailed the links and mailed hardcopies of the questionnaires earlier this week. Families receiving the questionnaire this year should have already received the surveys or should be receiving them soon. We have e-mailed EI Contract Managers and FCFC Coordinators with information about the questionnaire and a recipient list. Please contact Taylor Hammond ([Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov)) with any questions about this year's EI Family Questionnaire.

### *SFY24 Transition Baseline*

The EI monitoring team extracted data for the Transition analysis on April 23. Data inquiries will be sent to all participating counties by May 7 and will be due back by May 22.

### *Changes to Help Me Grow (HMG) Web Referral Link*

The online HMG web referral form address has been updated to <https://ochids.odh.ohio.gov/public/refer>. The previous link will automatically redirect users to the new address for a period of time, but please update your bookmarks and any local websites to ensure continued access.

### *Website Update Announcement: County Contacts Map*

The Ohio Early Intervention website has been updated to incorporate changes to the County Contacts map feature. These updates will create ease of maneuverability by allowing users to view all of the contacts for multiple resources available in their county on one webpage. Please use the link below to view the updated County Contacts map and direct questions to Anni Monks ([Rhiannon.Monks@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:Rhiannon.Monks@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov)).

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/ei-county-contacts?tags=33>

## **RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

---

### *Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters (PLAY) Advanced Conference: Interaction, Imagination & Emotions, OH MY!*

Join the PLAY Project for their biennial autism conference on May 16. This conference will feature two keynote speakers and morning and afternoon breakout sessions on a variety of topics, which have been approved for early intervention service coordinator/supervisor and developmental specialist continuing professional development units (CPDUs). Tickets to this event cost between \$95 and \$160. You can register and learn more here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/play-advanced-conference-interaction-imagination-emotions-oh-my-tickets-793333731547?aff=oddtcreator>

### *Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) Mobile App*

OCECD has introduced the OCECD App, a dynamic mobile application designed to bring you swift access to a wealth of resources, events, and training information. This app

puts everything OCECD at your fingertips, ensuring you stay seamlessly connected with the support and knowledge you need. You can learn more here:

<https://www.ocecd.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=6YPAGII&dasi=3IU0>

### *Reminder: Important Upcoming Live Events*

There are multiple planned events over the next few months to provide early intervention leaders and teams with information on various topics. Please see the information below and mark your calendars.

#### El Rule Revision Overview

May 30: 9:00-10:30am

Topic: High-level overview of rule changes in OAC 5123-10-01

#### Ohio Early Intervention Eligibility and Assessment Process Overview

June 6: 9:00-10:30am

Topic: Introduction of the new EI-03 Eligibility Determination form and the updated IFSP Form EI-04.

#### Ohio Early Intervention IFSP Process Overview

June 13: 9:00-10:30am

Topic: A closer look at 5123-10-01 and 02 changes, Form EI-04, meeting invites, and Prior Written Notice

#### Ohio Early Intervention Transition and Procedural Safeguards Overview

June 27: 9:00-10:30am

Topic: LEA notification, service coordinator responsibilities, EI records, exiting, and transferring.

These live events will be recorded and available for post-event viewing. All Contract Managers, EI service coordinators and supervisors are required to attend or view the recordings of these webinars, although these events are recommended for all EI personnel. CPDUs will be offered for EI service coordinators and supervisors. Registration links will be provided soon.

## **GENERAL SUPERVISION HIGHLIGHT: DEVELOPMENTAL EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Each child referred to Early Intervention (EI) must have eligibility determined, child and family assessments completed (with consent), and an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed within 45-days of the referral to EI. If the child does not have a confirmed diagnosis likely to result in a developmental delay, an evaluation must be completed to determine whether the child is eligible. In Ohio, children are eligible via an evaluation tool if the tool

shows a delay in any domain (adaptive, cognitive, communication, physical, or social emotional development) of at least 1.5 standard deviations below the mean, or the equivalent as determined by the evaluators' informed clinical opinion (ICO).

The family's EI service coordinator must provide prior written notice (PWN) of and obtain the parent's informed consent for completing the evaluation using form EI-02.

In addition to providing PWN and meeting the timeline described above, there are additional evaluation requirements that must be met:

- Be administered via the use of an approved evaluation tool with at least one evaluator trained to use the tool
- Be conducted by qualified personnel (as defined in OAC 5123-10-02 Appendix C) inclusive of at least two separate licenses/disciplines
- Be conducted in settings and times that are convenient for the family
- Unless clearly not feasible to do so, be conducted in the native language of the child
- Involve taking the child's history, including interviewing the parent
- Identify the child's level of functioning in each of the developmental areas
- Include informed clinical opinion of the evaluator(s)
- Include information gathered from other sources (e.g., family members, other caregivers, medical providers, social workers, and educators) to understand the full scope of the child's unique strengths and needs
- Include the review of medical, educational, or other records

No single procedure may be used as the sole criterion for determining a child's eligibility.

#### *Guidance and Resources*

- OAC 5123-10-02(E)
- Determining Eligibility: a Step by Step Process
- [Ohio Approved Tool List](#)
- [Informed Clinical Opinion \(ICO\)](#)

#### *Materials to Review When Monitoring*

- Evaluation tool and documentation (EI-04 until June 30 and EI-03 after June 30)
- Case notes with evaluation information and date; data entered on the eligibility page in EIDS
- PWN and consent (EI-02 until June 30 and EI-03 after June 30)

## *Tips*

- Ensure qualified personnel completing and scoring evaluations have an applicable, valid, and up-to-date credential/license.
- Remember that at least one evaluator must be present in person to administer the evaluation tool.
- Keep in mind that each evaluation tool has guidelines around how much time should occur between administrations of the tool. Check with the tool's publisher for more details.
- Ensure that PWN of ineligibility (EI-09/EI-03) and PWN of exit (EI-10) are provided to any family whose child is evaluated and determined ineligible (PWN of ineligibility will be documented using Form EI-09 until June 30 and switch to Form EI-03 beginning July 1, 2024).