

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM UPDATES

May 27, 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

As usual, there is a lot moving in the Early Intervention (EI) world. We have a lot of important updates for you today, including information about the Early Intervention Data System (EIDS) move to the Department of Children and Youth (DCY), State Fiscal Year 2026 (SFY26) EI Service Coordination (EISC) grants and allocations, the updated Principles of Service Coordination (POSC) modules, resource and training opportunities, and more.

I am sure many of you are busy in your personal lives, as well, with the school year winding down and the unofficial beginning of summer this Memorial Day weekend. While there is always plenty of work to do, I hope you can take some time to slow down and enjoy the warmer weather and sunshine with family and friends.

Please feel free to reach out to me at <u>Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov</u> with ideas, questions, or suggestions any time.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Early Intervention Data System (EIDS) Move to DCY

As mentioned in the April 1 EI Program Update, work is underway to move EIDS to DCY. The application "go live" data at DCY was originally scheduled for May 29 but has been delayed. We do not yet have a new date, but we will communicate that as soon as we are able. As a reminder, we also expect only minor changes to the login process, and no changes to the application or any current data entry processes. Please check the EIDS message box for real time updates about any additional information regarding this transition. Email eids@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov with any questions.

State Fiscal Year 2026 (SFY26) EI Service Coordination (EISC) Grants and Allocations

DCY distributed a <u>memo</u> regarding the SFY26 EI Service Coordination (EISC) grants and allocations to designated EISC agencies and EI Contract Managers on May 21. Along with this memo, DCY sent budget template and narrative documents to be completed by the local EI program and returned to DCY in order to complete this year's EISC grants. These budget documents are due back to DCY June 4. The state EI team is putting together a webinar with additional information about the SFY26 EI grants. This content will be recorded and posted on the EI website upon completion. Look for additional information about the webinar in the coming weeks.

2025 EI Family Questionnaire

The 2025 EI family questionnaire is being distributed to applicable families this week, so recipients should be receiving it soon. DCY anticipates sending each county a recipient list that includes contact information for the family and the distribution language and method this week. The state EI team held a webinar covering the Family Questionnaire process and tips for engaging families on May 13. The webinar recording and slides are available on the EI website here. The questionnaire response period runs through June 30.

Updated Principles of Service Coordination (POSC) Modules

We are excited to share that the POSC training modules have been revised for consistency with EI rules implemented July 4, 2024 and to better support the work of Ohio's EISCs. Modules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are now updated and live on the MyLearning portal, accessible through the DODD website. Modules 5 and 7 are currently being revised and are expected to be available by June 30.

To ensure you have adequate time to complete the full set of modules, all EISC credentials have been extended through December 31. This means you have six months to register, review, and complete the updated trainings to renew your credentials. These modules contain essential information about your responsibilities as an EISC, so we encourage you to start early. If you encounter any issues accessing or completing the courses, please reach out to your EI program consultant right away.

SFY25 45-Day Baseline Analysis

Activities related to the SFY25 45-Day baseline compliance analysis are underway. DCY sent applicable compliance inquiries to counties participating in the analysis on May 7 and they were due back May 22. DCY is now reviewing submitted documents, requesting clarification as needed, and incorporating submitted inquiry data in preparation for the final analysis.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for Families for the 2025 Division for Early Childhood (DEC) Conference

DEC is offering opportunities for families to attend the 2025 DEC Conference which will be held in Portland, Oregon October 7 through October 10. Family registration waivers are available for families with children with disabilities who are ages birth through 8. Click here to complete an application. DEC will also be offering a limited

number of Family Scholarships in the amount of \$500 to support the conference attendance of families of children ages birth through 8 receiving Early Intervention and/or Early Childhood special education services. These scholarships can be used to pay for costs related to travel, hotel accommodations, or childcare. Scholarship applications close Monday, June 16th, 2024. Learn more and apply here. Learn more about the conference here.

Save the Date! - Return of Donuts with Di

We're putting on the *RITZ*—or maybe just enjoying an *apple fritter*—for the much-anticipated return of Donuts with DI! Join us on June 20 from 10:00–11:30 AM for a meaningful and timely conversation with Dr. Sorg and the Cuyahoga County Early Intervention Service Coordination (EISC) team, featuring Katie Parker and Karen Minzer.

Dr. Sorg will explore the many potential sources of lead exposure beyond the well-known risks associated with housing, such as old paint or contaminated water. She will highlight everyday items that may contain lead, including certain toys, imported or homegrown foods, and other environmental factors that families and providers might not immediately consider. Additionally, Dr. Sorg will present findings from recent research highlighting the critical importance of early identification and intervention to mitigate the long-term consequences of lead exposure. This comprehensive overview will help attendees recognize hidden risks and reinforce strategies for effective prevention and mitigation to protect children's health and development.

Following Dr. Sorg's presentation, Katie and Karen will share how the Cuyahoga County team supports families from intake through ongoing services, with a strong emphasis on family engagement and education. While infants and toddlers with Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLL) may initially appear to be developing on track, lead exposure can have delayed or subtle effects on development that may surface over time. That's why the team prioritizes connecting families with resources, offering anticipatory guidance, and helping caregivers understand the importance of Early Intervention services, even when no delay is currently evident.

Grab your coffee and your favorite donut and join us for this informative and engaging session. Stay tuned for additional information about how to join the webinar.