

Ohio Phase III, Year 3 SSIP Summary

Background – About the SSIP

The SSIP is a comprehensive, ambitious, yet achievable, multi-year plan for improving the results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. Ohio has completed and submitted work for Phases I and II, as well as the first two years of Phase III. Components of each of the three phases are listed below.

Phase I – Analysis (FFY13/SFY14)

- Data analysis
- Analysis of state infrastructure to support improvement and build capacity
- State-identified measurable result (SIMR)
- Selection of coherent improvement strategies
- Theory of Action

Phase II – Planning (FFY14/SFY15)

- Infrastructure development
- Supports for programs in implementing evidence-based practices
- Evaluation

Phase III – Implementation and Evaluation (FFY15/SFY16 through FFY18/SFY19)

- Implementation of activities and steps needed to achieve outcomes
- Analysis of data related to outcomes to determine progress

Ohio's SIMR

Substantially increase the rate of growth in the percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved acquisition and use of knowledge and skills.

Ohio's Improvement Strategies

Through extensive data and infrastructure analyses in Phase I and significant stakeholder feedback in Phase II, several common themes regarding needed changes within Ohio's EI system emerged. Ohio chose three broad improvement strategy areas for its SSIP work to encompass these themes:

- (I)** Increase the quality of child and family assessments to develop meaningful initial and exit COS statements
- (II)** Improve the quality of IFSP outcomes to address family priorities related to child's acquisition and use of knowledge and skills
- (III)** Increase access to and delivery of needed evidence-based services

Stakeholder Involvement

Stakeholders have been heavily involved in and provided meaningful feedback about Ohio's SSIP work via topic-specific work groups, EI Advisory Council and stakeholder group meetings, other targeted pilot initiatives, the bi-weekly EI program updates, and the EI website. As the implementation and evaluation of Ohio's SSIP continues over the next year, which is the final year of the current SSIP, DODD will keep the EI field informed about progress, continue to encourage stakeholder involvement, and incorporate stakeholder feedback in ongoing implementation.

Activities to Achieve Intermediate Outcomes

Ohio continued implementing numerous activities over the past year, working toward achieving intermediate outcomes and, ultimately, the state's SIMR. The state remained focused on increasing knowledge and improving practice at the local level and improving equity of access to evidence-based EI services across the state. Specifically, DODD:

- Provided additional support around the COS by means of a revised assessment and COS section of the IFSP form, a new COS toolkit, new trainings that incorporated COS content, and individualized support through TA plans
- Continued to evaluate the quality of IFSP outcomes and ensure local programs have easy access to IFSP outcomes in the data system
- Began to monitor and created additional guidance around the SOP rule as well as continued to evaluate other EI financing options
- Continued delivering services via technology to local programs via the SOCOG pilot and considering how to implement similar service delivery options in other areas of the state with limited access to evidence-based services

Ongoing Data Related to Intermediate Outcomes

Ohio's primary evaluation activities over the past year were focused on data analyses related to intermediate outcomes. These data, which will continue to be collected to determine ongoing progress, and ultimately to determine whether the intermediate outcomes are achieved, included the following:

- **Functional Assessment data** collected via ongoing interactions with local programs, using the same items as were included in the functional assessment section of the E&A Process Review
- **EI Service Provider data inquiries** utilized by each local program to indicate which providers were available for each EI service
- **Ohio's annual Family Questionnaire** to measure families' understanding of and ability to support their child's strengths, needs, and functioning related to acquisition and use of knowledge and skills
- **IFSP outcomes** added to IFSPs between January and June 2017 which were again rated using the ECTA six-step criteria

Related Projects and Initiatives

In addition to completing steps and activities to achieve the intended SSIP outcomes, Ohio has begun or continued several other statewide initiatives and projects. Though each of these is systemic in nature, all of them impact at least one improvement strategy area. These other initiatives and projects included:

- Work to implement new EI rules and forms
- An increased focus on supporting Service Coordinators including additional TA in this area, the continuation of a community of practice for new Service Coordinators, and the implementation of new modules as well as a Service Coordinator Curriculum
- New and continuing professional development opportunities including an Evidence-Based EI Course, Trauma-Informed Care trainings, a seminar on teaming in EI, a Newborn Behavioral Observation Certificate training, a module focused on infant and toddler development, and Donuts with Di