

Ohio Phase III, Year 1 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 year 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 as well as 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 informed about Ohio's SSIP work thus far via topic-specific focus groups, EI Advisory Council and stakeholder group meetings, other targeted pilot initiatives, the bi-weekly EI program updates, and the new EI website. As implementation and evaluation of Ohio's SSIP continues over the next three years, DODD will continue to seek active stakeholder involvement in addition to keeping the EI field informed of progress on the SSIP.

Activities to Achieve Short-Term Outcomes

Ohio completed numerous activities to achieve short-term outcomes in each of the three improvement strategy areas, with the intent to improve several of Ohio's infrastructure systems. Activities to achieve short-term outcomes were primarily designed to help the state further identify areas of need and to increase access to useful resources. Newly available trainings related to Ohio's short-term outcomes include the following:

- The "IFSP: It's All about the Process" module;
- The "Family-Centered Practices" module;
- The family-centered practices webinar series;
- The "Using a Primary Service Provider Approach to Teaming" module; and
- The "Parent" module, which will be available in early Summer 2017.

Information about how to access each of these trainings was included in every edition of the bi-weekly program updates. In addition, the EI field can access all of the described trainings, as well as numerous other EI trainings, data, and resources through the EI website. Along with providing increased access to the previously described resources, Ohio better identified gaps in services through EI needs assessments and the more targeted SOCOG pilot.

Though Ohio's short-term outcomes were primarily foundational in nature, achieving them was an essential first step to ultimately effecting change in Ohio's chosen SIMR area. As more and more foundational pieces are successfully implemented, the state will begin to refine strategies to address acquisition and use of knowledge and skills in a more direct manner. See Ohio's SSIP Phase III, Year 1 Logic model (Appendix A) for an illustration of outcomes achieved over the past year, along with related inputs and outputs, as well as intended intermediate and long-term outcomes.

Baseline Measures for Intermediate Outcomes

In addition to successfully completing activities and steps needed to achieve the intended short-term outcomes, Ohio collected and analyzed baseline data that will ultimately be compared to similar data to determine whether the intermediate outcomes are achieved. Baseline data for intermediate outcomes were collected utilizing the following:

- **The E&A Process Review** to determine thoroughness of child and family assessment processes, including the extent to which children's levels of functioning are properly identified by the child and family assessment process;
- **EI Services Needs Assessment** data to identify to which services each local program had access;
- **IFSP outcomes** extracted from Early Track to determine whether the ECTA six-step criteria were met as well as whether outcomes were related to acquisition and use of knowledge and skills; and
- **Ohio's 2016 Family Questionnaire** to obtain baseline data regarding families' understanding of and ability to support their child's strengths, needs, and functioning related to acquisition and use of knowledge and skills.