

Ohio Phase III, Year 2 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 new EI website. As implementation and evaluation of Ohio's SSIP continues over the next two years, DODD will continue to keep the EI field informed about the progress of the SSIP, continue to seek active stakeholder involvement, and incorporate stakeholder feedback in ongoing implementation.

Activities to Achieve Short-Term and Intermediate Outcomes

Because the activities needed to achieve short-term outcomes were primarily foundational, the bulk of activities completed during the previous reporting year centered around increasing access to useful resources. As Ohio shifted focus to activities needed to meet intermediate outcomes—the crux of the SSIP—the state began to employ activities with the intent to increase knowledge and improve practice at the local level, as well as to improve equity of access to EI services across the state. Specifically, the state

- Continued to evaluate the impact of the new SOP rule
- Began to identify which changes are needed to the state's in-person COS training
- Continued to gather information about the quality of IFSP outcomes
- Began to determine how and where evidence-based practices targeted at acquisition and use of knowledge and skills could be incorporated into new and existing trainings

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 will ultimately be compared to similar data 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
- 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:

- Implementation of Ohio's new system of payments (SOP) rule
- Continuation of the Supporting Ohio's Service Coordinators (SOSC) process
- New and continuing professional development opportunities (including Parent and Physician modules, "Tough Conversations: Making the Most of Difficult Situations" training, Supporting Ohio's New Service Coordinator Community of Practice, Debbie Ashley's Family-Centered Practices webinars, Lee Ann Jung's Functional Assessment Course, and Donuts with Di)
- Continuation of the Southern Ohio Council of Governments (SOCOG) Pilot
- Hearing and Vision Services contracts