



Ohio's Part C Early Intervention

A summary of Ohio's Part C Early Intervention System

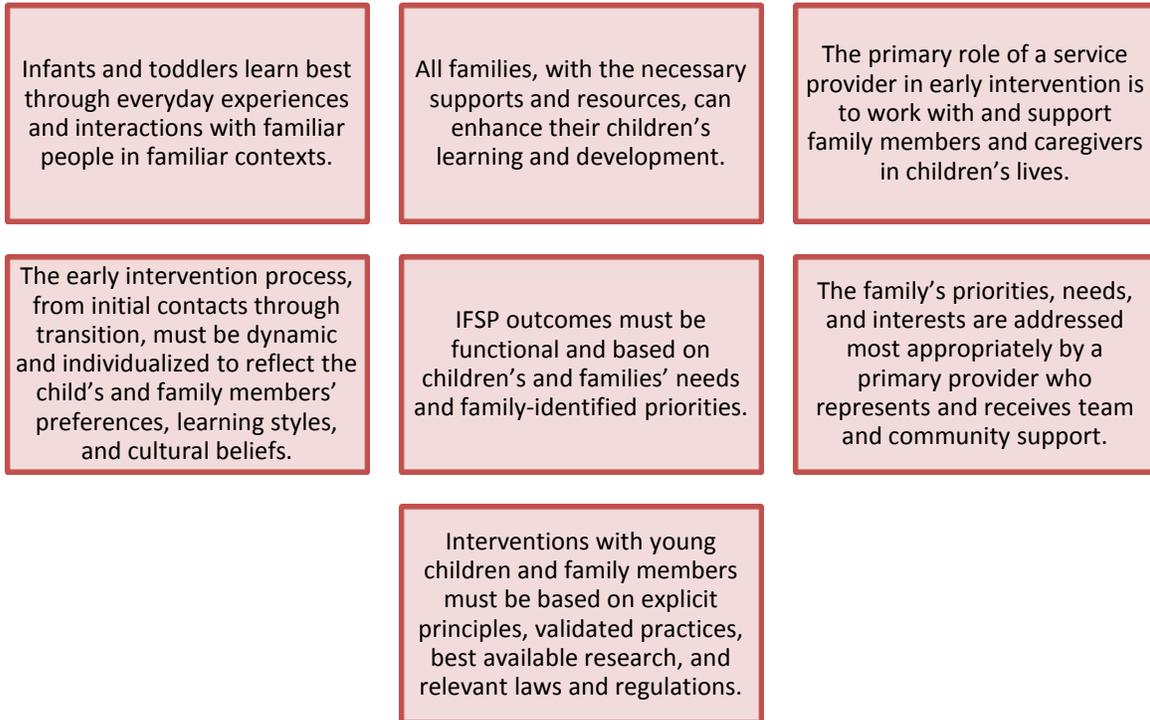


Department of
Developmental Disabilities

Part C Early Intervention

Part C early intervention builds on and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers in enhancing children’s learning and development through everyday learning opportunities.

Key Principles



~ Workgroup on Principles and Practices in Natural Environments, OSEP TA Community of Practice: Part C Settings (2008, March). *Agreed upon mission and key principles for providing early intervention services in natural environments.*

History

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is the lead agency for Ohio’s Help Me Grow (HMG) program. The program, through an Executive Order of the Governor, serves children pre-natal to age three (the third birthday) and their families. The HMG program provides services to two targeted populations: 1) Home Visiting , working to ensure Ohio’s children and families are healthy, supported, and successful; and, 2) children birth to age three with developmental delays and/or disabilities. ODH administers the program through 88 county Family & Children’s First Councils (FCFC), which are responsible for providing the following services with state and federal funds:

- Service Coordination
- Centralized Intake & Referral
- Project Direction
- Clinical Supervision
- Evaluation & Assessment
- Family Support

FCFCs also are responsible for making sure that all early intervention services are provided in alignment with Federal Part C of IDEA requirements. The program for children with delays and disabilities is federally mandated and administered through the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Federal Law and Regulations for Help Me Grow Part C

All states and United States territories are able to apply for federal Part C funds. Part C is governed by the Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities as enacted in 1986 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA; 20 U.S.C. Section 1431 et seq.).

IDEA later was reauthorized by Congress in 1997 with the law becoming effective July 1, 1997. Final federal regulations became effective March 1999 and are found in Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 303. The law outlines expectations, and the regulations guide implementation, administration, and monitoring of the state program.

Help Me Grow Rules/State Law

[OAC: 3701-8 Help Me Grow Program](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3701-8) (<http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3701-8>)

County Boards of Developmental Disabilities

[Chapter 5123:2-1-04 Early Intervention](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/5123:2-1-04) (<http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/5123:2-1-04>)

Overview: Part C Early Intervention Services

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) share a coordinated plan for ensuring comprehensive, coordinated, and statewide delivery of Early Interventions Services through Part C of the Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Act (IDEA). These essential services continue as Ohio's Help Me Grow program with a commitment to providing building blocks to success for Ohio's families.

In addition, both ODH and DODD continue to support coordinated efforts to ensure Early Intervention services are based on the science of how the development of infants and toddlers is best supported, and adheres to the tenets and requirements of IDEA, Part C including:

- Providing services in natural environments and within everyday routines
- Meeting critical timelines and procedural safeguards
- Beginning a lifetime expectation of inclusion and participation in community activities with one's family and peers
- Ensuring a comprehensive, coordinated, and statewide system

Improved Stakeholder Coordination

Improved coordination among stakeholders - including parents, professionals, agencies, advocacy groups, and the Help Me Grow Advisory Council - helped identify areas where oversight and leadership coordination could be improved so that local agencies and providers can better serve families. To accomplish that, in 2013, ODH and DODD announced a coordinated strategy to better clarify roles and responsibilities of both agencies. The roles for each department are as follows:

| ODH Primary Leadership | DODD Primary Leadership |
|---|--|
| Public awareness program Comprehensive child find system | Timely, comprehensive evaluation and assessment |
| Referral procedures | IFSP development, in concert with ODH service coordination |
| Service Coordination services | Early intervention services (with the exception of service coordination) |
| Procedural safeguards, including Dispute resolution | Evidence-based early intervention services in natural environments |
| Data system | Comprehensive system of professional development |
| Rules, forms, technical assistance, monitoring, and guidance related to the above | Rules, forms, technical assistance, oversight, and guidance related to the above |
| General supervision and monitoring (including data monitoring) of the Early Intervention system | |
| State Inter-agency Coordinating Council | |

This plan came in response to stakeholder requests for Ohio to redesign its early intervention system, including:

- County Family and Children First Councils (FCFC) recommendations during statewide Ohio FCFC forums (July 2008)
- “Future Directions for Ohio’s Part C/Early Intervention Program” (2010; see the ODH website, www.odh.ohio.gov, under the Early Intervention tab)
- Ohio Implementation study recommendations (2011; see the HMG website ohiohelpmegrow.org/professional/~media/32855012403C4B7087EB1B3780077BFC.ashx)

Additionally, a 2011 request to the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) from The Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB) and the Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (SCBDD) for a re-designation of lead agency led ODH and DODD to meet and create an operating protocol for working together to administer Ohio’s Early Intervention program. Our ultimate goal in working together is to access each agency’s expertise and experience to create a better Early Intervention system of supports and services for children and their families in Ohio.

Ohio's Current Identified Needs

Through this work, six needs were identified. The following sections offer more information about how we will address these needs.

1. •Ohio needs a consistent and clear message about the purpose of and process for delivering Early Intervention services
2. •As the federal law intends, Ohio needs to implement a truly collaborative approach between DODD and ODH that requires joint planning, trust, and shared responsibility and authority to make decisions about the EI program
3. •Ohio needs meaningful engagement of a broad range of state and local partners to achieve a comprehensive, collaborative, coordinated, and sustainable system of Early Intervention
4. •Ohio needs to increase state and local agency efficiencies in governing EI
5. •Ohio needs to expand its Comprehensive System of Professional Development (CSPD)
6. •Ohio needs to maximize funding for Early Intervention

Ohio's Current Activities

Ohio's Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), also known as the HMG Advisory Council, is comprised of individuals appointed by the Governor. The ICC is established in accordance with the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Part C). The mission of the ICC is to advise and assist the lead agency in administering, promoting, planning, coordinating, and improving the early intervention system of services.

The Stakeholder Advisory Group is made up of Help Me Grow Advisory Council members, and additional parents/family members and representative from provider and state agencies. The stakeholders were jointly determined by ODH and DODD to include a diverse cross section of stakeholders (including parents) and build on the commitment of stakeholders from past EI stakeholder activities. The purpose of all stakeholder meetings will be to provide input into plans for all of the following ongoing activities:

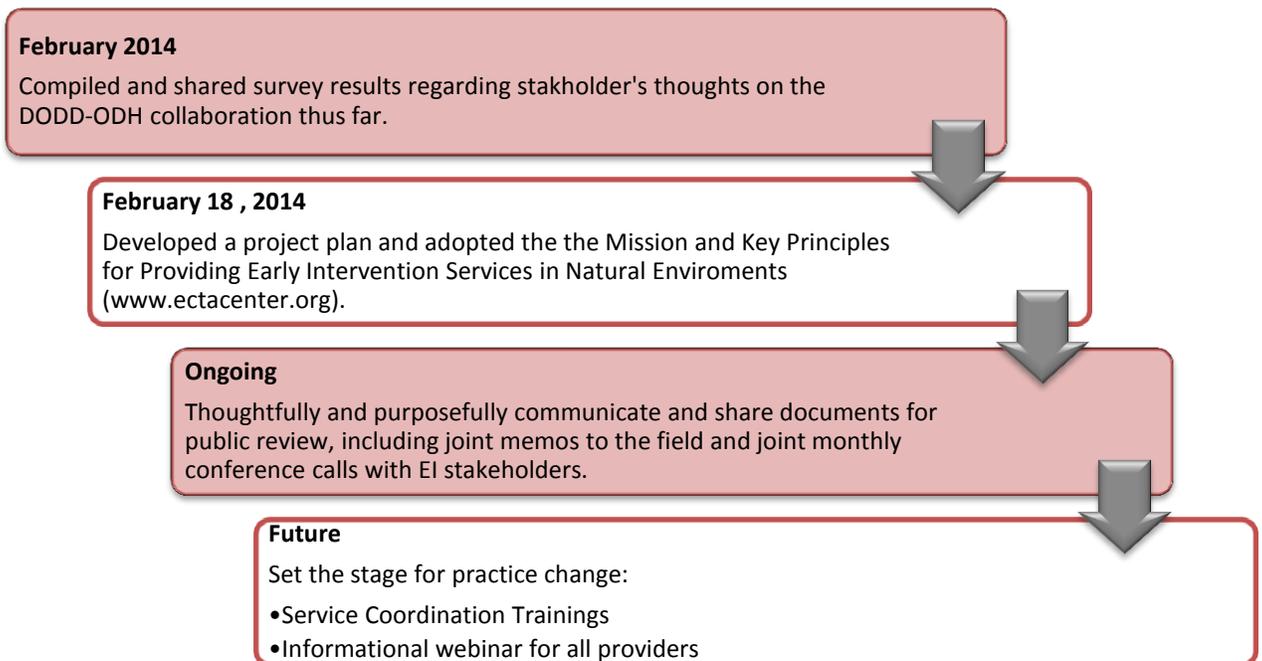
- Articulation of mission and approaches to Early Intervention
- Public awareness efforts (outcomes, features/components, evidence)
- Implementation timelines and evaluation measures

- State, regional, and local infrastructure changes (including funding) to support and sustain efforts
- Training, technical assistance, and professional development
- Measurement of program-wide consistency and fidelity
- Alignment of state and local processes for oversight, monitoring, reporting, and supports
- Efforts to ensure sustainability, including financing, infrastructure, fidelity, and quality
- Alignment/coordination with Ohio Health Transformation efforts

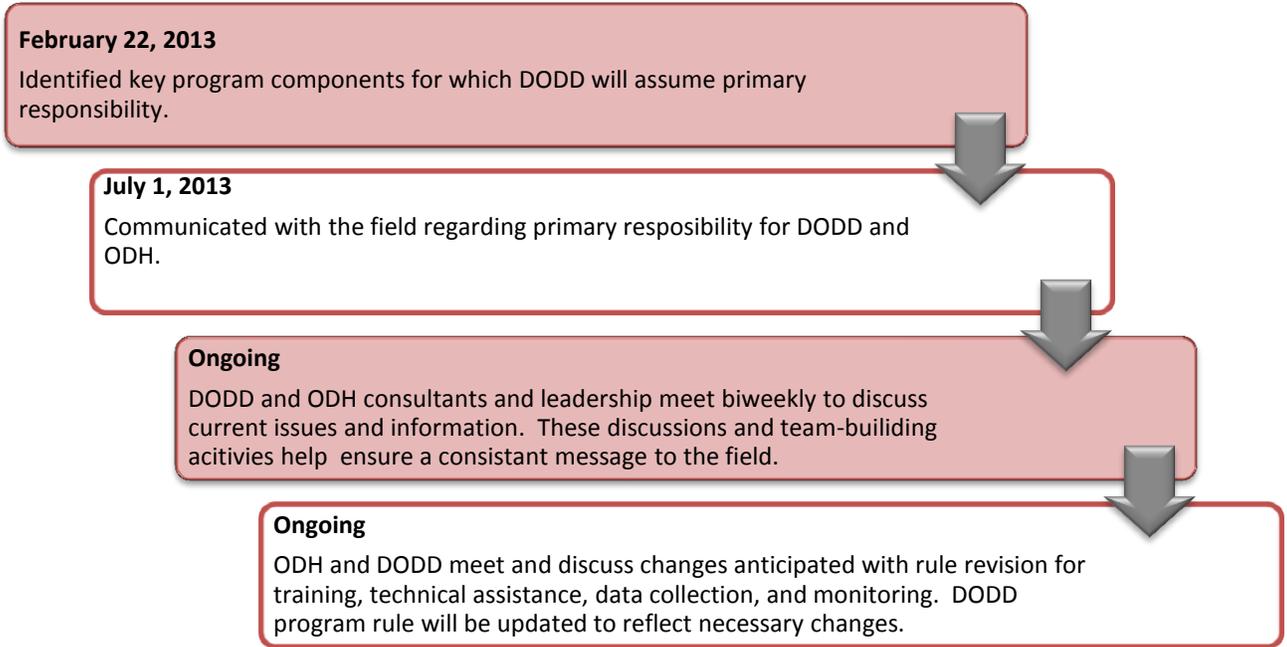
Activities Based on Identified Needs

The following section outlines completed, current, and planned activities to address identified needs.

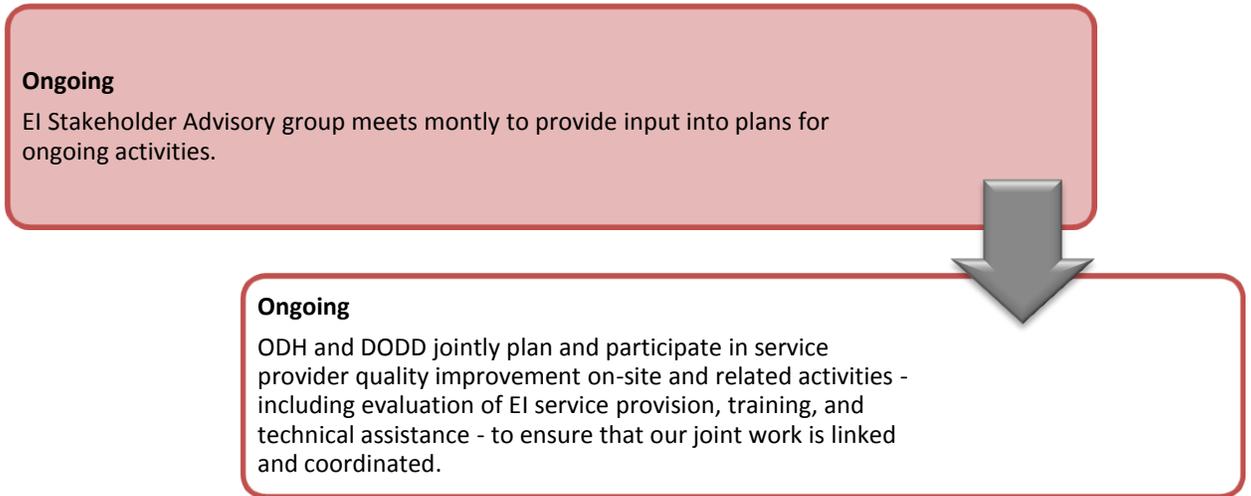
1. Ohio needs a consistent and clear message about the purpose of and process for delivering Early Intervention services



2. As the federal law intends, Ohio needs to implement a truly collaborative approach between DODD and ODH that requires joint planning, trust, and shared responsibility and authority to make decisions about the EI program



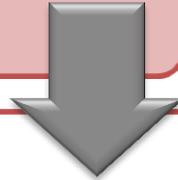
3. Ohio needs meaningful engagement of a broad range of state and local partners to achieve a comprehensive, collaborative, coordinated, and sustainable system of Early Intervention



4. Ohio needs to increase state and local agency efficiencies in governing EI

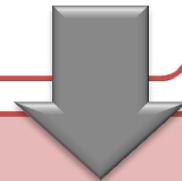
December 30, 2013

Reviewed current ODH, DODD **program rules and forms** to identify needed changes, reductions (including eligibility determination, assessment of child and family, IFSP development, service provision in alignment with the Mission & Key Principles document in natural environments and Federal law and regulations) with CSPD initiatives underway. Final review of all HMG EI rules prior to posting with revisions.



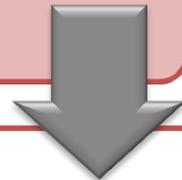
December 30, 2013

Identified and created a plan for evaluating local system processes for child and family Evaluation and Assessment, IFSP outcomes, and determination of service need in order to contribute to the monitoring conducted by the Lead Agency.



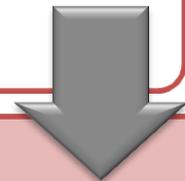
December 30, 2013

ODH reviewed the existing Service Coordination credential for focus on Part C requirements and teaming practices; will engage stakeholders for input.



Future

Discuss and agree upon the parameters of sharing data collected on children and families in Early Intervention.



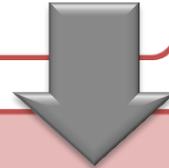
Future

An Early Track development plan and timetable will be agreed upon; changes necessary because of rules, collaboration, or revisions deemed necessary.

5. Ohio needs to expand its Comprehensive System of Professional Development (CSPD)

Ongoing

Develop a strategic plan for comprehensive professional development and a budget for proposed training.



Ongoing

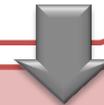
Address Ohio's "Comprehensive system of professional development" through partnerships with higher education, sister agencies and state initiatives (e.g. ELCG RTTT), parents, and other stakeholders and licensing boards.

6. Ohio needs to maximize funding for Early Intervention

May 6-8, 2014

Representatives from ODH, DODD to attend fiscal cohort that will focus on how states can adequately finance Early Intervention.

Scheduled to begin FY 14, and span into FY 15.



Ongoing

DODD to convene necessary state participants to identify viability of Medicaid financing for evidence-based EI services aligned with Federal Part C requirements.



Future

Convene Medicaid Financing stakeholder group with providers of service and other stakeholders.