



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 24, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

To: State Board of Education

From: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

Subject: Approval of Criteria for a Competitive Grant for Child Find, Public Awareness, and Information and Referral for FY 2011-2012 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides assistance to states for special education as well as the development and implementation of an interagency system of early intervention services to infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities or developmental delays and their families.

Per federal statute, a statewide public awareness initiative is essential to Child Find, a system of information and referral for *Early On* and special education. This grant emphasizes early identification of infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities through statewide publication and dissemination of information directed to all primary referral sources, including parents. Meeting these system requirements also supports State Board of Education priorities for early childhood services and supporting families.

With the approval of the Michigan FY 2011-2012 federal application, up to \$340,000 will be designated for the IDEA Child Find, Public Awareness, and Information and Referral Grant to provide activities that lead to identification of individuals from birth to age 3 who have disabilities. First year funds must be obligated by September 30, 2013.

Eligible applicants include local and intermediate school districts, human service agencies, private non-profit organizations and agencies, advocacy organizations, institutions of higher learning, and others with appropriate expertise and experience. A Request for Proposals will be released upon approval of criteria for this grant award. Following an interagency and stakeholder review of submitted proposals, recommendations for the award of the grant funds will be presented to the Superintendent for approval. Criteria for this grant award are presented in the attachment.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for a Competitive Grant for Child Find, Public Awareness, and Information and Referral for FY 2011-2012 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as presented in the Superintendent's memorandum of January 24, 2011.

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MICHIGAN  
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Criteria for a Competitive Grant for Child Find, Public Awareness, and Information and Referral for FY 2011-2012 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The State Board of Education has adopted as its goal "Significant and meaningful improvement in the academic performance of all students/children with major emphasis on the persistently lowest achieving schools and students."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal, and the Board's Vision and Principles of Universal Education.

**PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT**

The Child Find, Public Awareness, and Information and Referral Grant will address the Board's goal by providing timely and accurate information for intervention services to support children's development and academic achievement. All activities of the *Early On* system address the tenets of universal education and promote early childhood literacy and school/community relationships.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT**

Competitive     Formula     New     Continuation

The Child Find, Public Awareness, and Information and Referral Project will provide child find, public awareness, information, and referral support to intermediate school districts for services for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities eligible for support under IDEA. This grant emphasizes early identification of all children with disabilities through statewide publications and dissemination of information directed to all primary referral sources, including parents. Information will be made available in multiple languages.

**CRITERIA**

Date criteria were last approved: March 13, 2007

Defined in Statute     Defined in Department's Approved Grant Application to the Funder     Proposed by Staff

An applicant must:

- Implement the public awareness campaign for *Early On*<sup>®</sup> Michigan;
- Promote and manage the components of a child find system;
- Create and publish in electronic and paper formats a continuously updated central directory of IDEA resources in Michigan; and
- Create and continuously update a communication network with state and national special education information centers, organizations, and associations.

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT**

Eligible applicants include local and intermediate school districts, human service agencies, private nonprofit organizations and agencies, advocacy organizations, institutions of higher learning, and others with appropriate expertise and experience.

**TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

Up to \$340,000 is available for the following grants: public awareness, child find, and central directory. This is a five year project with annual renewal contingent upon performance and availability of funds.

**STATUTE**

The governing legislation is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, specifically CFR 303.300, 303.320, 303.321, 300.125, and 300.111.

**OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT**

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