



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 27, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education

From: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Flanagan'.

Subject: Approval of Criteria for a Competitive Grant for the Support to the *Early On*[®] Field under Part C of 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 a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, 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. A statewide comprehensive system of personnel development is also essential to an infant and toddler early intervention system. 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. It is also designed to provide technical assistance and training to improve the delivery of early intervention services.

With the approval of the Michigan FY 2012-2013 federal application, up to \$930,000 will be designated for the Support to the *Early On* Field under Part C of IDEA Grant.

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 the Support to the *Early On* Field under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as presented in the Superintendent's memorandum of February 27, 2012.

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Criteria for a Competitive Grant for the Support to the *Early On*[®] Field under Part C of 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 Support to the *Early On* Field Grant supports the Board's expectation of achievement for all children by providing the early intervention support needed to achieve improved outcomes for children and families, and also addresses 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

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the infant and toddler early intervention services system, provides assistance to states for the development and implementation of a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of early intervention services for children from birth to three years of age with disabilities or developmental delays, and their families.

A statewide comprehensive system for personnel development is essential to an infant and toddler early intervention system. The personnel development component is designed to provide technical assistance and training to improve the delivery of early intervention services. This is a federally required component under Part C of IDEA.

The child find, public awareness, information, and referral component provides support to intermediate school districts for services for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities eligible for support under IDEA. This component 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 N/A

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

An applicant must:

- Coordinate, implement, and manage inservice training for professionals, open as well to parents, as part of the statewide *Early On* comprehensive system of personnel development;
- Provide and coordinate technical assistance to the 57 service areas;
- Identify, enhance, and promote methodology for integrating knowledge and understanding of Part C into preservice curricula in institutions of higher education;
- Implement the public awareness campaign for *Early On* 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 non-profit organizations and agencies, advocacy organizations, institutions of higher learning, and others with appropriate expertise and experience.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Up to \$930,000 is available for the grant. This is a five year project with annual renewal contingent upon performance and availability of funds.

STATUTE

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

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of Great Start/Early Childhood Education and Family Services		
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