



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

February 26, 2007

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education

From: Mike Flanagan, Chairman 

Subject: Approval of Criteria for a Competitive Grant for Child Find, Public Awareness, and Information and Referral for FY 2007-2008 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 2007-2008 federal application, up to \$490,000 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 through age 26 who have disabilities. First year funds must be obligated by September 30, 2008.

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.

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Page 2
February 26, 2007

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 2007-2008 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as presented in the Superintendent's memorandum of February 26, 2007.

MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for a Competitive Grant for Child Find, Public Awareness, and Information and Referral for FY 2007-2008 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal "Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students." In addition, the State Board has adopted the following five Strategic Initiatives to implement the goal:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Ensuring Excellent Educators | • Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy |
| Elevating Educational Leadership | • Integrating Communities and Schools |
| Embracing the Information Age | |

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will include priority consideration of the Strategic Goal and the Strategic Initiatives.

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.

LEGISLATION

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

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

This grant will provide the federally mandated public awareness, central directory, referral and child find system required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This grant additionally supports improved strategies identified through federal monitoring. This grant supports the State Board of Education goals for special education to provide support for early identification and intervention to reduce academic failure in the early grades.

CRITERIA

- Defined in Legislation Defined in Department's Grant Proposed by Staff

An applicant must

- 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 nonprofit organizations and agencies, advocacy organizations, institutions of higher learning, and others with appropriate expertise and experience.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Up to \$490,000 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.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services

Director:	Lindy Buch, Ph.D./Jacquelyn Thompson	1-3592/3-9433
Program Contacts:	Reneé DeMars-Johnson, Supervisor	1-0162
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