

****Sent June 29, 2018 on behalf of Vanessa Winborne, Michigan Part C Coordinator****

Dear Special Education Directors, *Early On*[®] Coordinators and Business Officials,

The recently signed Fiscal Year 2019 State School Aid Act includes a new line item, Section 54d, providing \$5,000,000 in state funding for *Early On*! We are extremely excited to share this news with you and to celebrate this accomplishment toward enhanced *Early On* services for Michigan's infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. These funds will help to strengthen our supports and services for eligible infants and toddlers and their families and provides a great opportunity to analyze specific parts of local systems and focus on system level improvements.

Use of these funds must meet the requirements of the [Early On Michigan State Plan](#). These funds must be used to increase *Early On* services and resources; ensuring that appropriate levels and types of services are delivered by qualified personnel, based on the individual needs of the children and their families. An increase in services may be demonstrated by:

- increasing the frequency and/or intensity of services to eligible children;
- broadening the array of services provided to eligible children; and/or
- conducting additional child find activities to identify, evaluate and serve additional eligible children.

In addition to increasing *Early On* services, the funds may be used to ensure provision of services by qualified personnel or appropriateness of services. This may be demonstrated by, but is not limited to:

- additional funds used for salaries and benefits to hire personnel with higher levels of education;
- training of personnel; or
- providing services in natural environments.

Section 54d funding will be allocated to Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) by applying the same formula that the Department uses to distribute the federal IDEA Part C funds. A list of the allocations by ISD is attached and will be posted on the MDE website (www.michigan.gov/earlyon) soon. These funds are in addition to the federal IDEA Part C allocations.

An application for these new funds is being developed in the Michigan Electronic Grants System *Plus* (MEGS+). We are anticipating that the application will be available in August or early September and will be due on or prior to October 1, 2018. Although the details of the application have not yet been finalized, at this point plans include:

- MEGS+ application consisting of a budget supplemented by an uploaded workplan/narrative description

- drawdown of funds through the Cash Management System (CMS)
- expenditures allowed beginning October 1, 2018
- expectation that funds are expended between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019, with carryover allowed if necessary
- Final Expenditure Report (FER) completed in CMS

The required workplan/narrative description will need to address how the ISD plans to increase *Early On* services provided by qualified personnel.

The legislation includes a statement that the funds must not be used to supplant existing services or resources that are currently being provided. Guidance is being developed regarding how this requirement will be implemented and monitored.

The legislation also includes a statement that ISDs receiving these funds must maximize the capture of Medicaid funds to support *Early On* early intervention services to the extent possible. Guidance on meeting this requirement is also being developed.

There will be data collection requirements associated with the receipt and use of these funds. Data will be needed to demonstrate increased services and that qualified personnel provide the services. In order meet these needs, MDE will utilize existing data where possible and will attempt to minimize new collection requirements; however, additional data collection requirements are likely. Further details regarding data collection requirements will be made available when they are established.

Please begin planning for the use of these state *Early On* funds. Watch for additional communication from our office regarding the use of, and requirements regarding, these funds. Be sure to share this information with all appropriate people in your local service area.

Questions may be directed to Vanessa Winborne, State Part C Coordinator, or the MDE *Early On* Consultant assigned to your ISD:

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