



FIRST STEPS

KENTUCKY'S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

SPRING 2014

STATE LEAD AGENCY UPDATE

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SPP/APR

The FFY2012 SPP/APR was submitted to the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in January.

- Kentucky continues to have a high rate of performance in almost all indicators.
- Indicator 5, the participation rate for children ages birth-1, continues to be problematic; however, there was a slight improvement in this indicator.
- Indicator 6, participation rate for children birth to 3, did not meet target for the first time since FFY07.

This will be the first year that OSEP will include results indicators as a factor in the determination of whether or not a state meets the IDEA requirements. The results indicators include child and family outcomes (Indicators 3 and 4), services in the natural environment (Indicator 2), and the two participation indicators (Indicators 5 and 6). State determinations are announced in June.

FFY 2012 APR At-A-Glance

Indicator	Status	2012 Data	Target
1. Timely IFSP services (within 30 days)	<u>Did not meet target, improved</u>	99.61%	100%
2. Services primarily in home or community-based settings	<u>Exceeded target</u>	99.56%	98.7%
3. Child Outcomes A. Positive social outcomes B. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills C. Use of appropriate behaviors to meet needs	<u>Exceeded all targets</u>	1. 90%	1. 80%
		2. 73%	2. 62.5%
		1. 93%	1. 85%
		2. 75%	2. 57.5%
		1. 88%	1. 80%
		2. 58%	2. 54.5%
4. Early intervention has helped family: A. Know rights B. Communicate child's needs C. Helped family to help child grow and learn	<u>Exceeded target</u>	a. 95.99% b. 96.95% c. 97.07%	a. 87% b. 80% c. 91.8%
5. Percent of infants B-1 year of age with IFSPs compared to national data	<u>Did not meet target, slight improvement</u>	0.55%	0.71%



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Indicator	Status	2012 Data	Target
6. Percent of infants B-3 year of age with IFSP compared to national data	<u>Did not meet target, slight slippage</u>	2.67%	2.70%
7. 45-day timeline	<u>Did not meet target, slight slippage</u>	98.16%	100%
8. Timely transition: a. IFSPs w/steps and services b. Notification to LEA c. Transition conference	A. <u>Met target</u>	100%	100%
	B. <u>Met target</u>	100%	100%
	C. <u>Did not meet target, slight slippage</u>	99.46%	100%
9. Noncompliance identified and corrected within one year	<u>Met target</u>	100%	100%
10. Mediations that resulted in agreements	No mediations requested/held		

Beginning in May, the state will be working on a new indicator, State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). This indicator is a multi-year, achievable plan that is designed to increase capacity of First Steps to implement, scale up, and sustain evidence-based practices with the goal of improving outcomes for children with disabilities and their families. The SSIP is to be developed in two phases. Through a detailed data and infrastructure analysis, States must assess the capacity of their current infrastructure systems and their ability to enhance this infrastructure to increase the capacity of EIS programs and providers to implement, scale up, and sustain evidence-based practices that will result in improved outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities.

Families, early intervention providers and other interested stakeholders are invited to join the workgroup that will be assisting the State Lead Agency and ICC to develop Kentucky's SSIP. Contact Paula Goff, Part C Coordinator if you would like to be a member of this group.

Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant

Kentucky is one of the recipients of the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant which brings approximately \$45 million dollars to the state over the next four years. The funds are to enhance and expand high quality early childhood care and education programs. Ninety-three percent of the funds will be used to develop and implement a revised quality rating system for child care, state-funded preschool, and Head Start. Another initiative in the grant is Strengthening Families, a framework for supporting families and decreasing child abuse and neglect, which will increase family engagement. The research indicates that young children from nurturing, strong environments are more ready for school at later ages.

Kentucky's Strengthening Families framework identifies six protective factors that reduce child maltreatment—parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of child development, concrete supports in time of need, nurturing and attachment, and social/emotional competence of children. A statewide group of family serving agencies and organizations has been meeting to develop a plan for implementing this framework across communities and state agencies. More information will be shared as the plan unfolds. First Steps in-



State and County Data Profiles Now Available

The Early Childhood Profiles, produced by the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics are compiled to help community leaders, Community Early Childhood Councils and school districts to assist in developing local strategies for helping every child in their community arrive at kindergarten ready. These reports include information about the quality and availability of child care, results from the 2013 statewide kindergarten screener and information about participation in publicly funded preschool, Head Start and child care. Finally, demographic data, participation in public health and social service programs, like First Steps and key indicators of possible obstacles to success for young children and their families are also provided on the profiles.

DEICs may find this data helpful in determining the quality of child find activities as well as support collaboration with community leaders and programs. To view the profiles, go to this website: <http://kcews.ky.gov/Reports/EarlyChildhoodProfile/EarlyChildhood2014.aspx> .



CHANGES TO THE SERVICE PROVIDER AGREEMENT



First Steps regulations require that a service log be entered within 5 days from the date of service. Often, for a variety of reason, the provider is not able to meet this timeline so the TOTS system allows for an additional 5 days for service log entry. Still, there are other factors that prevent the provider from entering their service logs within 10 days of the date of service. At this point the provider must request the assistance of the State Lead Agency (SLA) in order for a service log to be entered. A service log must be entered for the provider to receive reimbursement for services provided.

The FY 2014-2016 Service Provider Agreement contains the provision for prorating the reimbursement when the provider exceeds 10 days for service log entry. When the SLA has to start a service log for the provider the corresponding account payable event is marked as disapproved. Once the provider enters the full service log detail in the correction/addendum box the provider must contact the SLA to let staff know the note has been entered. The corresponding account payable event will then either be approved for payment or a note will be entered that it can be approved once an EOB is received.

The timing of the provider's notification to the SLA is very important and will directly affect the amount of reimbursement the provider will receive. A correction entered and SLA notified within in 5 days will be approved for payment at a \$3 reduction; correction entered and SLA notified within 6 to 10 days will be approved for payment at a \$8 reduction; correction entered and SLA notified within 11 to 15 days will be approved for payment at a \$25 reduction; correction entered and SLA notified within 16 to 30 days will be approved for payment at one half the Maximum KEIS payment; and corrections entered and SLA notified beyond 30 days will not be adjusted for payment.

SLA TRAINING COORDINATOR UPDATE

Face-to-Face Provider Orientation

April 17

April 24

May 6

Face-to-face orientation is held in Frankfort

R.E.A.L. TALK



P.O.E. managers:

The **Resourceful Engaging Assembly Linking First Step** P.O.E. managers is about to happen. Throughout the year, you will either receive a **R.E.A.L.** email from me with helpful information or we will have a scheduled **R.E.A.L. TALK** via conference call. The results of the survey on what is important to you will drive my plans. Please feel free to email or call me with any suggested topics that you feel are vital. Your input will be appreciated.

Yours working together,
Calvonia

EVERY
CHILD IS A
different KIND OF flower,
AND ALL TOGETHER,
MAKE THIS WORLD
A Beautiful
GARDEN.

A simple line drawing of a blue flower with five petals and a green stem with two leaves, positioned to the right of the text.