

Module 3

Pre-Referral and Referral Activities

Produced by NICHCY, 2014

In this module, you'll learn about:

- Each State's obligation to **locate & identify** infants and toddlers with disabilities
- **Components** of how a State meets that obligation



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- ✓ Child find system
- ✓ Public awareness activities
- ✓ Central directory
- ✓ Referral system

Comprehensive Child Find System

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Each State system must include a **comprehensive child find** system...

...that ensures that all infants & toddlers with disabilities eligible for EI services are...

- identified,
- located, &
- evaluated



Comprehensive Child Find System

Each State's **child find** system must...

- be consistent with Part B of IDEA



§ 300.111 Child find.

- (a) *General.* (1) The State must have in effect policies and procedures to ensure that—
- (i) All children with disabilities residing in the State, including children with disabilities who are homeless children or are wards of the State, and children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disability, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated; and
- (ii) A practical method is developed and implemented to determine which children are currently receiving needed special education and related services.

Comprehensive Child Find System

Each State's **child find** system must...

- be consistent with Part B of IDEA



- include a **system for making referrals** to the lead agency or EIS providers



- ✓ timelines
- ✓ participation of primary referral sources

Comprehensive Child Find System

Each State's **child find** system must...

- be consistent with Part B of IDEA
- include a system for making referrals to the lead agency or EIS providers



- ensure **rigorous standards for identifying** infants & toddlers with disabilities for early intervention services that will reduce the need for future services

Populations of concern: Infants & toddlers with disabilities who are...

- **Native Americans** living on reservations geographically located in the State

- the subject of a substantiated case of **child abuse or neglect**



- **homeless, in foster care, and wards** of the State

- directly affected by **illegal substance use or withdrawal symptoms** from prenatal drug exposure

Coordination with Other State Efforts

The lead agency* must ensure that the State's child find system...

- is coordinated with all **other major efforts** to locate & identify children conducted by other State agencies
- is coordinated with the efforts of **multiple other entities and programs**



* with the assistance of the State Interagency Coordinating Council

And there are a **LOT** of other efforts going on!

- ✓ Part B program
- ✓ Maternal & Child Health
- ✓ EPSTD
- ✓ Programs under DD Act

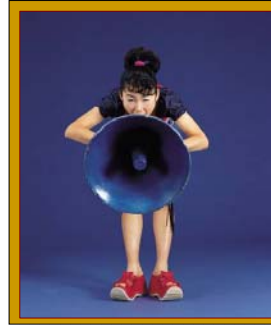
- ✓ Head Start
- ✓ SSI program



- ✓ EHDI systems of CDC
- ✓ Programs under Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
- ✓ CHIP

- ✓ Child protection & child welfare programs
- ✓ Child care programs in the State

Public Awareness Program



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Each State system must also include a **public awareness program** that:

- focuses on the **early identification** of infants and toddlers with disabilities
- provides **information to parents** of infants and toddlers through primary referral sources

The public awareness program requires the lead agency to:

- 1 | Prepare information on the availability of early intervention and other services



example from Illinois

The public awareness program requires the lead agency to:

- 1 | Prepare information on the availability of early intervention and other services

especially hospitals & physicians

- 2 | Disseminate to all primary referral sources the info to be given to parents of infants and toddlers

especially parents of..

- premature infants
- infants with other physical risk factors associated with learning or developmental complications

The public awareness program requires the lead agency to:

1 | Prepare information on the availability of early intervention and other services

2 | Disseminate to all primary referral sources the info to be given to parents of infants and toddlers

3 | Adopt procedures to assist primary referral sources in disseminating the info to parents of infants & toddlers with disabilities



What Information Must Be Provided?

The public awareness materials must:

- describe the availability of early intervention services
- describe the child find system & how to refer a child under the age of 3 for an evaluation or early intervention service
- include the central directory



About the Central Directory

Each State system must include a **central directory** that is accessible to the general public...

...and includes accurate, up-to-date information about...

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About the Central Directory

Public and private **early intervention** services, resources, and experts in the State

Professional & **other groups** that provide assistance to eligible infants & toddlers with disabilities and their families

Research & **demonstration** projects in the State relating to infants & toddlers with disabilities



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What *Other* Information Must Be Provided?

Information specific to toddlers with disabilities



The lead agency must also inform parents of toddlers with disabilities...

not fewer than
90 days before the
toddler turns 3

that services are available
under section 619



Roundup Time!