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

### Comprehensive Child Find System

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

§308.11 Child find.

(a) General. (B) The State must have in effect policies and procedures to ensure that—

(1) 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

(2) A practical method is developed and implemented to determine which children are actually being served and which children, because of disability, are not being served, or are in need of special education and related services.
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
- ensure rigorous standards for identifying infants & toddlers with disabilities for early intervention services that will reduce the need for future services

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

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

Head Start
- SSI program
- Child protection & child welfare programs
- Child care programs in the State

Public Awareness Program
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

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

   especially hospitals & physicians

   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 & 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...

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
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