

Suggestions | Getting Involved with Your State's RDA & SSIP Efforts



Webinar Handout
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Parent Centers can play an influential role in bringing the parent voice to their State's activities related to improving results for children with disabilities. Results-driven accountability—RDA, for short—is new to everyone, so getting involved now is both timely and strategic.

This sheet suggests ways that Parent Centers can get involved in their State's RDA activities as they unfold—especially the writing of the State's plan.

Homework First

Be as informed as you can be about the basics of RDA. Those basics include:

- the **data analysis** that States must do;
- selecting the **target for improvement**; and
- writing the **SSIP**, the State's plan.

The resources listed in the box can help. Feel free to share them with others at your Parent Center and beyond.

Planning as a Center

Center staff may find it helpful to meet as a group and discuss the basics of this new approach to State accountability, what's going on in your State, and how to get involved. Key issues to discuss include:

- Who's the contact/lead at the State level for RDA planning and SSIP activities related to early intervention (Part C)?
- Who's the contact/lead for Part B planning and activities?
- What strikes the group as a reasonable target for improvement in Part C? in Part B? What improved results for children with disabilities do you think are most important?

Resources

A Guide to RDA for Parent Centers

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/rda-guide-for-parent-centers/>

A Guide to RDA for Parent Leaders & Advocates

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/rda-for-parent-leaders-advocates/>

Catching up with RDA (infographic)

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/groups/>

Sign up/register at the Parent Center Work Spaces. Join the RDA, SSIP, and Parent Center group. The infographic is posted there, as is the resource below.

Adventures in RDA

Webinar & PowerPoint presentation.

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/adventures-in-results-driven-accountability/>

Also as a center, you may wish to:

- decide who will take the **lead** for your center in communicating with the State offices involved in analyzing the data and writing the SSIP;
- look through the suggestions on this handout and decide which make sense for your center and who will be responsible for what;
- brainstorm your own list of ways to get involved as stakeholders in the RDA process;
- come up with "first steps" or a beginning plan of action.

Are There Other Parent Centers in Your State?

If so, communicate with those centers and trade information about what's going on in the State, SSIP-wise. Might as well not start from scratch if you don't have to. And, of course, consider how your centers might team in getting the word out to other stakeholders, especially to other disability and parent groups in the State.

Use Your Website to Advantage

If your center has a website, then you know it's a mighty tool for sharing info with the families you serve and other stakeholders in the disability community. For example, you might:

- spotlight your State's activities in analyzing key data, selecting the State target for improvement, and writing the SSIP;
- offer information on RDA in general and your State's SSIP efforts in particular;
- provide a sign-up spot for folks who wish to receive email alerts about going's-on in RDA and the SSIP;
- dedicate a page or prominent space to "announcements" about upcoming public meetings where stakeholders can share input about the State's activities or plans.

What about Social Media?

Is your center on Facebook? Twitter? Other social media venues? Then you know what to do here. Use your social media tools to get the word out to followers. And what a great place to post even last-minute news of public meetings where the State is seeking public input from stakeholders.

Share News with Other Disability & Parent Organizations in Your State

Consult your lists of other parent and disability groups in your State—including the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Part C), the Special Education Advisory Council (Part B), and other groups such as the DD Council and the Protection and Advocacy community. All are stakeholders and points of influence for Parent Center involvement. Who else in your State has a stake in what's planned and what, eventually, is achieved?

Share Strategies within Parent Center Network

Many minds make great work, as they say, and many hands lighten the load. So please share your RDA successes, challenges, and updates in the private shared workspace dedicated to SSIP and RDA on the CPIR's website. We'll also post helpful resources there for downloading. Address? Here you go. And we'll see you there!

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/groups/rda-the-SSIP-and-parent-centers/>

Questions? Concerns?

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