Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services
Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention

Child Find Policy

Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention will conduct regular Child Find activities to:

- Assure the early identification of eligible infants and toddlers
- Improve the early identification and referral of infants and toddlers with a high probability for a disability
- Improve the access to Early Intervention services for underrepresented and underserved populations.
- Improve parents’, referral sources and the public’s awareness of and use of Regular Developmental Screening for children who meet the At-Risk Tracking criteria.
- Increase parents’, referral sources and the public’s awareness of and use of Early Intervention services for eligible children.
- Provide information and Child Find materials on the availability of EI services to the public and parents of infants and toddlers through primary referral sources.
- Inform referring agencies and parents of infants and toddlers about how to make a referral to Early Intervention.
- Use the Reach & Risk Report and other data sources (e.g., U.S. Census) to inform Child Find planning and activities, including the identification of high risk populations including children who are premature, from immigrant families, affected by illegal substance abuse and children experiencing other physical risk factors associated with learning and development.
- Track and monitor data collected about referrals received and plan child find activities to balance referrals according to county statistics
- Provide information to parents of eligible toddlers of the availability of transition services not less than 90 days prior to the toddler’s third birthday.
- Some Philadelphia County Child Find activities will involve the Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC). These activities will be outlined in Joint Technical Assistance/Training Plan and the Interagency agreement with the Philadelphia Preschool Early Intervention Program.
- Address (through the development of a plan of corrections) any specific areas relative to child find that are outlined as deficits by Federal, state or Local compliance monitoring.


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Practices and Procedures

1. Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention (IT EI) implements a Child Find Plan that is updated annually. Philadelphia IT EI coordinates the implementation of the Child Find Plan and supports the activities that are conducted by the following:
   • Child Find Coordinator, Intellectual disAbility Services – coordinates Child Find activities, outreach and awareness and collaborates with partners including:
     o ChildLink, PHMC - Child Find activities, outreach and awareness
     o Partnership for Community Supports - Child Find activities, outreach and awareness
     o Supportive Housing Project, PHMC – Child Find in 10 plus Supportive Housing sites in Philadelphia
     o KenCrest – Child Find activities in Public Health Centers, NICUs, pediatric practices, outreach and awareness

2. Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention actively participates in the Philadelphia Interagency Coordinating Council (PICC), and implements coordinated Child Find activities as per an annual PICC Agreement. A non-duplicative Child Find system is coordinated with the following programs:
   • Infant, toddler or preschool Early Intervention programs
   • Maternal and child health programs
   • Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Programs
   • Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Training (EPSDT)
   • Head Start and Early Head Start programs
   • Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
   • Child protection and child welfare programs including foster care
   • Early learning programs (Southeast Regional Key)
   • Programs under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
   • Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) systems
   • Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
   • Health Department (children exposed to lead)

3. In addition to the agencies identified in §4226.24(b) (1-6), Local Infant/Toddler EI Programs shall coordinate Child Find efforts with the following:
   • Local County Children and Youth Agencies
   • Child care programs
• Programs that provide services under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (42 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) such as programs preventing family violence and family domestic shelters
• Department of Health Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) systems
• Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
• Other state or federally funded early childhood or home visiting programs

4. Additionally, we will work to enable the referral, identification and evaluation of all eligible children, specifically children who:
• Are experiencing homelessness
• In foster care and wards of the state
• Living in residential facilities
• Premature
• From migrant families
• Involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect;
• Directly affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure
• Experiencing other physical risk factors associated with learning or developmental complications

5. In order to achieve this, our Primary referral sources will include in addition to those identified §4226.24:
• child welfare agencies; including child protective service and foster care
• homeless family shelters; and domestic violence shelters and agencies
• schools
• child care and early learning programs
• public health and/or social agencies
• physicians and social work/nursing staff in hospital and pediatric clinics
• Other clinics and health care providers

6. Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention Child Find will:
• Use reports such as OCDEL’s Reach & Risk Report and the US Census Reports to assist in the identification of high risk populations.
• Conduct outreach and training to identify and refer children in need of early intervention services
• Provide presentations and information to families through family-friendly child development pamphlets at health fairs and other neighborhood resources and agencies.
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- Develop and distribute information and materials to families, agencies/organizations and staff who come into contact with children and the general public about child development
- Facilitate the installation of colorful, multi-language (including low literacy materials) posters for child development/concerns in public transportation as needed
- Provide up to date information about how to make a referral on websites including Philadelphiaicc.org and DBHIDS.org
- Provide links to other child development and children’s health and development related websites and program sites
- Target geographic areas considered to be at risk and low EI referral to conduct to increase Child Find, awareness and outreach
- Collaborate with the City Departments to screen or refer children being served in other Philadelphia systems who are between the ages of 0-3.
- Maintain a record of all child find activities/presentations conducted during the fiscal year.

7. Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention will:
   - Disseminate information about new or updated Child Find procedures to staff within the Infant Toddler Early Intervention community (Early Interventionists, service coordinators) as well as partners in the community, including referral sources. This dissemination will occur through direct written communication, and in-person meetings and presentations.
   - Offer direct training or disseminate information about new or updated Child Find procedures to staff within the Infant Toddler Early Intervention community (Early Interventionists, service coordinators) as well as partners in the community, including referral sources. This training will occur through direct written communication and in-person meetings and presentations. On-line training resources will also be used.