

January 6, 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

Happy New Year! I hope you were able to rest, relax, and spend time with loved ones this holiday season. We have lots of important updates for you today, so I will keep this short and sweet. I am ready to hit the ground running with all of you and excited to see what we can accomplish together in 2026!

Please feel free to reach out to me at Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov with ideas, questions, or suggestions any time.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Opt-Out Option for Local Family and Children First Council and Impact on Early Intervention Requirements Memo

DCY distributed a [memo](#) on December 22 that 1) provides requirements and guidance to ensure compliance with federal and state Early Intervention requirements when a county dissolves their local Family and Children First Council (FCFC) and 2) supersedes the March 2020 joint memo from Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DOOD), the lead agency for EI at the time, clarifying that DCY will no longer require that the designated EISC agency to be an entity that is a member of the local FCFC. Please see the memo for additional information.

EI Office Hours

The DCY EI team will continue our EI Office Hours series in 2026. The first three office hours sessions have been scheduled. Calls will continue to be from 9:00 to 10:00 AM on the last Monday of the month. See below for registration links for the January, February, and March 2026 office hours.

- Register [here](#) for the January 26 call
- Register [here](#) for the February 23 call
- Register [here](#) for the March 30 call

The January call will focus on DCY's Grants Management System (GMS), and the February call will focus on the fiscal amendment process. We will announce the topics for March and beyond soon. Please reach out any time if there is a topic you would like to have covered on an office hours call!

Pediatrics by the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Dr. Laura Sorg, the medical director for Ohio EI, wrote an article about the benefits of referring early, focusing on Help Me Grow Early Intervention and Home Visiting Services. You can view this article in the Fall 2025 edition of “Pediatrics,” a quarterly newsmagazine of the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, [here](#).

February 1 Local Education Agency (LEA) Notification

As a reminder, the quarterly LEA reporting requirement is coming up at the end of the month. Under Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5180-10-02(L)(1)(a), the EI service coordination agency must notify the LEA of children who will turn three within the next year by the first day of February, May, August, and November.

The February 1 Quarterly LEA Reports are used for the state’s annual compliance analysis related to LEA notification. DCY sent an email explaining the LEA reporting requirement to all EI contract managers and FCFC coordinators on January 5. DCY is responsible for issuing findings of noncompliance in this area where appropriate.

This report is available in the EI Data System (EIDS) in both Excel and PDF formats. You may use either version, but please remember the following:

- The February 1 LEA report must be run no earlier than January 22 and no later than February 1.
- It is expected that child information will be updated in a timely manner so that the LEA reports in EIDS are accurate.

These quarterly reports must be provided to the LEAs no later than February 1. Only the sections of the report that are relevant to a particular LEA should be sent to that LEA, not the entire report. If you are not sure which LEA should be selected for a specific child, we encourage you to contact the relevant educational service center (ESC) for clarification. Contact information for all of the ESCs and public school districts, along with a map of districts, is available [here](#).

Because the February 1 reports are used for the state’s annual LEA notification compliance analysis, you must submit a copy of the full report to DCY no later than Monday, February 2. Please submit reports to Erin.Hale@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov and Rebecca.Muntean@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov. You are strongly encouraged to retain a copy of the report in case it is needed later for monitoring purposes.

State Fiscal Year 2026 Transition Compliance

DCY extracted compliance data for the State Fiscal Year 2026 (SFY26) Transition Steps and Services and Transition Planning Conference (TPC) compliance analyses on December 15. Initial analyses have been completed, and data inquiries will be sent to applicable counties on January 8. All inquiries and requested documentation are due back to DCY January 23. Please reach out to the EI Policy and Monitoring consultants, Erin Hale (Erin.Hale@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov) and Becca Muntean (Rebecca.Muntean@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov), with any questions about the SFY26 transition compliance analyses.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center Topical Series on Transition

The Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center and the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy) announced a new topical series focused on basic Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements related to early childhood transition and accurate reporting in the SPP/APR. Designed for early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education (ECSE) leaders, the series will also highlight the content and use of effective interagency and intra-agency transition agreements and memoranda of understanding (MOUs) to promote agency collaboration. The series is a great professional learning opportunity for partners new in their roles supporting early childhood transition and for those seeking to refresh and expand their knowledge in this critical area:

- **Session 1: Early Childhood Transition Basics: Roles and Responsibilities** will focus on IDEA requirements related to early childhood transition and the respective roles and responsibilities of Part C and Part B, Section 619 personnel.
- **Session 2: Agency Collaboration: Creating and Implementing an Effective Transition Agreement/MOU** will focus on the content and use of effective interagency/intra-agency transition agreements/MOUs to promote agency collaboration.
- **Session 3: Accurate Annual Reporting for C8 and B12** will highlight key resources to aid in state planning, facilitation, and reporting related to the early childhood transition.
- **Session 4: Final Reflection and Listening Session** will culminate the series, focusing on related topics such as state definition of potentially eligible, opt-out policies, and state-specific practices.

Register for this series [here](#), for sessions on February 5, April 2, May 28, and July 30 from 3:00 to 4:00 PM. The first two sessions are most applicable to EI Service Coordinators (EISCs) and local EI program leadership. Continuing Professional Developmental Units (CPDUs) will be available for EISCs who complete session 1 and/or session 2.