

**March 31, 2026**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR**

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Happy Spring! This newsletter is packed full of important information including updates about the federal fiscal year 2026 Part C Application, the State Fiscal Year 2027 service coordination grant allocations, a study about the impact of EI on future academic outcomes, the 2026 Ohio Early Childhood Conference, and an upcoming project related to the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act (CARA) and the associated Plan of Safe Care (PoSC).

On this last day of March, I also wanted to acknowledge the end of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This month focuses on fostering community inclusion, celebrating diversity, and promoting advocacy. With awareness efforts continuing all year, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) launched the [We're Here Then, Now, Always campaign](#) this month to recognize that people with developmental disabilities have always been part of our communities and always will be. This campaign acknowledges how far we have come with engaging and supporting, while reiterating the importance of our continued commitment to improving outcomes for, the disability community.

You can also check out videos from Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day [here](#) and [here](#). Thank you for being a part of this awareness and advocacy each and every day!

Please feel free to reach out to me at [Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov) with ideas, questions, or suggestions any time.

## **PROGRAM UPDATES**

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### *Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Part C Application*

The Department of Children and Youth will be applying this upcoming fiscal year for federal Part C funds. Ohio's draft Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (FFY26) Part C application is available on the EI website [here](#). The department will accept public comment on the application through April 19, and the application will remain posted through May 19. Please submit any comments about the application [here](#) by April 19. Email [ei@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:ei@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov) with any questions.

## *SFY27 EI Service Coordination Grant and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities Designated Funds Allocations*

DCY distributed a [memo](#) regarding the SFY27 EI Service Coordination (EISC) grants and allocations to designated EISC agencies and EI Contract Managers on March 12. All [SFY27 EISC grant applications](#) must be completed in [DCY's Grants Management System \(GMS\)](#). The deadline to apply is April 16. The DCY contracts team sent additional information related to the SFY27 EISC grants on March 12 and March 16 and will hold office hours April 2 and April 9 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM to support EISC grant applicants and answer questions about the application process. Access the April 2 office hours [here](#) and April 9 office hours [here](#).

## *State Fiscal Year 2026 Compliance Analyses*

The State Fiscal Year 2026 (SFY26) Transition Steps and Services and Transition Planning Conference (TPC) analyses are complete. Results memos were sent to applicable counties March 26.

Activities related to the State Fiscal Year 2026 (SFY26) Timely Receipt of Services (TRS) baseline analysis continue. Compliance inquiries were sent to included counties March 17 and are due back to DCY March 31. DCY will be reviewing submitted information and sending any applicable clarification requests in the coming weeks.

Activities related to the SFY26 45-Day baseline compliance analysis will begin soon. To help programs prepare, the EI Policy and Monitoring Team hosted a webinar on March 26 that reviewed the 45-day timeline requirements, the documentation needed to verify compliance with required activities, and key steps programs can take to prepare for the process. If you were unable to attend or would like to revisit the information, the webinar slides and recording are available [here](#).

The SFY26 baseline calendar, including a list of counties in each group, is available on the [Monitoring page](#) of the Ohio EI website. Please contact EI Policy and Monitoring consultants, Erin Hale ([Erin.Hale@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:Erin.Hale@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov)) and Becca Muntean ([Rebecca.Muntean@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Muntean@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov)) with any questions about the SFY26 compliance analyses.

## RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### *Study Shows EI May Improve Outcomes by Third Grade for Children with Developmental Disabilities*

According to a study by researchers at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and the New York City Health Department, children who received EI services before age three were more likely to meet third-grade academic standards in Math and English Language Arts (ELA). This study is among the first to offer population-level evidence that EI participation is associated with measurable improvements in later school performance. The full article is available [here](#) and the findings are published in [JAMA Network Open](#).

### *2026 Ohio Early Childhood Conference*

The 2026 Ohio Early Childhood Conference is being held at Kalahari Resort April 23 to April 25. Multiple sessions of the conference have been approved for Early Intervention Service Coordinator (EISC), EISC Supervisor, and Developmental Specialist continuing professional development units (CPDUs), including all sessions of the Inclusion Track. Click [here](#) to view a list of sessions that have been approved for EI CPDUs and [here](#) for more information about the conference.

### *CARA Plan of Safe Care Survey*

DCY is leading a statewide initiative supporting the federal Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act (CARA) and the associated Plan of Safe Care (PoSC) requirements. To support this effort, DCY contracted with Dr. Ira Chasnoff to assist in project development. The initial phase includes surveys and participation in a leadership institute designed to assess current practices, cross-system coordination, and knowledge related to prenatal substance exposure.

Surveys will be distributed to key partners, including courts, Public Children Services Agencies (PCSA), treatment providers, and early intervention programs. The purpose is to better understand how cases involving prenatal substance exposure are currently identified, managed, and coordinated across systems.

All information collected will be used exclusively for program planning and systems improvement. The survey does not constitute human subject research. Responses will be anonymous, and no personal/identifiable information will be collected or analyzed. To receive the survey, please complete this brief [Microsoft Form](#). Upon submission, the survey will be forwarded to you for completion.

Important: Please **DO NOT** share this on social media outlets (LinkedIn, X, Facebook, etc.). Public distribution has previously resulted in bot-generated responses, which compromises data integrity. Thank you for your time and partnership in advancing this important work.