

May 12, 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

I am excited to announce that we have launched a new page on the EI website dedicated to EI Communication! This page is an effort to streamline and organize information that has been communicated in different ways. We will continue to build upon and edit this page, so we welcome any suggestions you have. Please see below for additional information.

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

PROGRAM UPDATES

El Communication Page of EI Website

There is a new page dedicated to EI communication available on the EI website. The bi-weekly EI program updates have been moved to this page. You can also find recordings and slides from past EI office hours (now named EI Breakfast Club) and registration links for future EI Breakfast club sessions, EI memos and procedure letters, and information about the Children and Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) Early Identification, Inclusion & Home Visiting subcommittee on this page. Check this new page out [here](#).

2026 Annual EI Family Questionnaire

The 2026 EI annual EI family questionnaire is being distributed, so applicable families should have received the questionnaire or should be receiving it soon. The state EI team held a webinar covering the Family Questionnaire process and tips for engaging families on May 6. The webinar recording and slides are available [here](#). DCY sent each county an email that includes information about this year's family questionnaire and a recipient list that includes contact information for the family and the distribution language and method last week. The questionnaire response period runs through June 12.

State Fiscal Year 2026 Compliance Analyses

The EI policy and monitoring team is wrapping up the SFY26 Timely Receipt of Services (TRS) compliance analysis. Results memos are scheduled to be sent by May 21.

Activities related to SFY26 45-Day baseline compliance analysis continue. Data inquiries were sent May 7 and will be due back to DCY May 22.

Please contact EI Policy and Monitoring consultants, Erin Hale (Erin.Hale@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov) and Becca Muntean (Rebecca.Muntean@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov) with any questions about SFY26 compliance analyses.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Act Early Ohio Summit 2026

Act Early Ohio is hosting a summit June 3 at the conference center at Nationwide Children's Hospital from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This Summit will include a brief history of early identification in Ohio, a panel of EI families, an overview of Act Early, roundtable discussions around successful family engagement, and information about family supports and resources. View the more [detailed agenda](#) and [click here to register](#). Three hours of continuing professional development unit (CPDUs) are available EI Service Coordinators and Developmental Specialists who attend.

Developmental Specialist (DS) Certification Reminders

In June, there will be an uptick in the number of Five-Year Developmental Specialist (DS) certification expirations, which may lead to higher application volumes in the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR). To prepare for this, please review the following reminders.

1. Individuals currently holding an active DS certification that was **issued by DODD** must upload a PDF copy of their DODD-issued certification into the "Credential" tab of the OPR profile. This allows the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA) to open the renewal application so that the next DS certification application can be processed correctly.
2. Applicants must also upload an official copy of their college transcripts to the "Education" tab in their OPR profile.
3. All verification of documents as well as applications may take up to 30 business days to process in the OPR. Applications will not open until college transcripts and DODD-issued DS certifications are verified by OCCRRA, so it is important to upload these documents **at least 60 business days** prior to the expiration date of your current certification.

The [DS Certification User Guide for Current DODD-Issued DS Certification Holders](#) contains more information and instructions regarding the application process. Questions regarding OPR functionality or the status of submitted documents can be sent to credential@occrra.org. Questions regarding renewal requirements can be sent to eitraining@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.