

Overview: Part C Early Intervention Services

The Ohio Departments of Health (ODH) and Developmental Disabilities share a coordinated plan to for ensuring comprehensive, coordinated and statewide delivery of Early Interventions Services, through Part C of the Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Act (IDEA). These essential services continue as Ohio's Help Me Grow program, with a commitment to providing building blocks to success for Ohio's families.

In addition, both ODH and DODD continue to support coordinated efforts to ensure Early Intervention services are based upon the science of how the development of infants and toddlers is best supported, and adheres to the tenets and requirements of IDEA, Part C, including:

- Providing services in natural environments and within everyday routines;
- Meeting critical timelines and procedural safeguards
- Beginning a lifetime expectation of inclusion and participation in community activities with ones' family and peers;
- Ensuring a comprehensive, coordinated and statewide system.

Improved Coordination

Stakeholders including parents, professionals, agencies, advocacy groups and the Help Me Grow Advisory Council helped identify areas where oversight and leadership coordination could be improved so that local agencies and providers can better serve families. To accomplish that, in 2013, ODH and DODD announced a coordinated strategy to better clarify roles and responsibilities of both agencies:

ODH Primary Leadership	DODD Primary Leadership
Public awareness program Comprehensive child find system	Timely, comprehensive evaluation and assessment
Referral procedures	IFSP development, in concert with ODH service coordination
Service Coordination services	Early intervention services (with the exception of service coordination)
Procedural safeguards, including Dispute resolution	Evidence based early intervention services in natural environments
Data system	Comprehensive system of professional development
Rules, forms, technical assistance, monitoring and guidance related to the above	Rules, forms, technical assistance, oversight and guidance related to the above
General supervision & monitoring, including data monitoring, of the Early Intervention system	
State Inter-agency Coordinating Council	