

Ohio Early Care and Education

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS AND CONTRACT INFORMATION

Purpose of This Document

This guidance is designed to help Ohio early care and education providers and programs understand **who, when, why, and how** to access technical assistance from key statewide partners.

Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (CCR&R)

Who Can Access:

- Child care centers
- Family child care providers
- Anyone interested in starting a child care center or home-based child care
- School age child care providers

Why Access Technical Assistance:

- Supports Early Care and Education providers in implementing Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) requirements
- Provides curriculum guidance and evidence-based instructional practices
- Assists with the implementation of the Early Learning Assessment (ELA)
- Offers coaching and professional development for administrators and teaching staff
- Helps implement strategies for practice improvement and family engagement

When to Access:

- When a program is starting or advancing in SUTQ
- When staff need training or coaching
- When it's time to plan professional development
- When questions arise about curriculum and assessment practices

How to Access:

Go to <https://occrra.org/ccrr-membership/> to find an interactive map to locate each CCR&R and the programs and counties that they support.

State Support Teams (SST)

Who Can Access:

- School districts
- Public charter schools
- Nonpublic schools that provide preschool

Why Access Technical Assistance:

- Helps with implementing IDEA compliance requirements
- Supports transition planning for children with disabilities
- Assists schools to serve children with IEPs
- Supports schools with implementing SUTQ requirements

When to Access:

- When children with developmental delays/disabilities need support
- When promoting active and meaningful participation in the classroom environment
- When strengthening school district collaboration
- When there are questions about curriculum and assessment
- When answering questions about the science of reading
- When questions arise about learning environments

How to Access:

- [SST Region Map and Contact List](#)
- Contact your region's SST Early Learning Consultant directly

Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Consultants

Who Can Access:

- Early care and education providers
- Early Intervention teams via their Early Intervention Service Coordinator/IFSP Team

Why Access Technical Assistance:

- Trains providers on social-emotional development strategies
- Supports teachers and caregivers to address challenging behavior
- Provides trauma-informed and healing-centered practices
- Offers staff development on early childhood mental health topics

When to Access:

- When a child is at risk of expulsion due to social-emotional concerns
- When a family expresses mental health concerns or trauma
- Whenever there is need for preventive, trauma-informed supports

How to Access:

- Call the HOPE Line: 844-678-2227
 - Available Mon–Thu: 8 a.m.–7 p.m.; Fri: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
 - After-hours calls returned by 10 a.m. next business day
 - [HOPE Responding Agencies Map](#)
- Infants and Toddlers eligible for Early Intervention access IECMH services through the EI Service Coordinator and/or IFSP Team.
- Additional [resources available on DCY website](#)

OCALI Early Development and Learning Support Specialists

Who Can Access:

- Early care and education providers
- Preschool special education providers
- Early Intervention programs

Why Access Technical Assistance:

- Helps providers with a child who is at risk of expulsion or unable to participate in part or all of their early childhood environment
- Trains staff to implement inclusive practices and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to increase meaningful participation and decrease interfering behaviors
- Provides curriculum support kits (Braille, large print, assistive tech)
- Collaborates on complex medical and behavioral needs
- Offers professional development including book studies, communities of practice, and trainings
- Supports programs with participating in Ohio PROMISE Program Designation and Professional Credential

When to Access:

- When a child needs accommodations or assistive technology.
- When cross-sector team planning is needed.
- When educators need training related to serving young children with diverse developmental and learning needs, including Autism and other low-incidence disabilities.
- When a program needs individualized coaching and technical assistance to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.

How to Access:

- Visit: [OCALI.org](https://ocali.org)
- Email: earlychildhood@ocali.org
- For direct support from the Early Learning Development Specialist complete the [ECI TA Request Form](#)

Department of Children and Youth (DCY) Licensing Specialists

Who Can Access:

- Any licensed early care and education provider in Ohio.
- Anyone interested in starting a licensed program

Why Access Technical Assistance:

- Helps with understanding licensing requirements
- Supports inspection preparation
- Assists with corrective action plans and compliance

When to Access:

- When in need of general licensing information or resources
- When opening a new site or changing ownership
- When preparing for an inspection
- When addressing licensing citations

How to Access:

- Contact your Licensing Specialist at Firstname.Lastname@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov
- Email: childcarepolicy@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov
- DCY Help Desk: 844-234-5437

Department of Children and Youth (DCY) Early Care and Education Operational Support

Who Can Access:

- Early care and education providers who provide publicly funded child care
- Early Childhood Education Grantees

Why Access Technical Assistance:

- Provides technical support related to Ohio Childcare Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS)
- Helps with the Time, Attendance, and Payment (TAP) system

When to Access:

- When there are technical questions about OCLQS
- When questions arise regarding using the TAP system

How to Access:

Email: cc-operational-support@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov

County Agency-Department of Job and Family Services

Who Can Access:

- Families
- Early care and education providers who provide publicly funded child care
- Early Childhood Education Grantees

Why Access Technical Assistance:

- Provides information about eligibility for early care and education services (publicly funded child-care, child-care choice voucher program and early childhood education), cash assistance, food assistance and medical

When to Access:

- When there are questions before and during the application process
- To request help with the application process
- When a family needs more hours of service
- When a family's income decreases
- To ask about other services the agency may provide

How to Access:

- Find your local county agency [Local Agencies Directory](#)

How Families Apply for Benefits:

- [Ohio Benefits Self Service Portal](#)
 - Online: [Self Service Portal Home Page](#)
 - In-Person (paper): [odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/](#) JFS 07200
 - Mail or Fax: [jfs.ohio.gov/about/local-agencies-directory/local-agencies-directory](#)
 - Phone: 844-640-OHIO (6446)
- [Find Quality Rated Early Care and Education | Ohio Child Care Search](#)

Need Help Navigating Technical Assistance Options?

Although all DCY technical assistance partners operate using a “no wrong door to access support” philosophy, the DCY Help Desk serves as the single point of contact for the agency and can direct you to the best resource for your needs. Contact the DCY Help Desk if you’re unsure which technical assistance provider can address your questions. Preschool special education providers

- Phone: 844-234-5437
- Email: info@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov

They Can:

- Answer questions about child care rules
- Research issues and assist with resolution
- Document complaints for DCY or county agencies
- Provide guidance on applying for Publicly Funded Child Care, Child-Care Choice Voucher Program and Early Childhood Education Grant
- Direct you to the just-right resource