



**October 14, 2025**

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

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We recently sent each county a file including open-ended responses provided by families in their county on the 2025 EI Family Questionnaire. Additional information about these files is included in today's first update. I wanted to again thank you all for all of your work in engaging families in this process, and, more importantly, the work you do to support these children and families each and every day. As I have said before, the Family Questionnaire is one of my absolute favorite aspects of this job, especially reading the open-ended responses. I have shared a handful of quotes below (with identifying information removed) from responses we received to this year's questionnaire that particularly highlight the incredible impact your work makes on the children and families we serve.

*"My daughter has a lot of uncertainty surrounding her medical care and diagnosis. EI helped me first and foremost focus on the development of my child and to prioritize her care. Our development specialist came to our house to help my daughter's development, but supported our entire family with education, resources, experience, and confidence to be comfortable with the unknown."*

*"The camaraderie of the entire team has been both extremely welcoming and helpful. I truly felt welcomed onto a team and it was a group I felt genuinely cared about my child and his development. Coming into our home felt comfortable and easy while also being highly effective. Everyone on our child's care team were extremely good at their jobs while also being all around good humans. Our experience has been nothing but positive and we are very thankful for the program and the people within it!"*

*"EI has been hugely beneficial to my family in simply helping me better understand my child's diagnosis and what her strengths and weaknesses are surrounding it. They have helped prepare me for little things I should expect and been a great support for me with any questions or concerns I have. They are proactive in helping me meet personal goals with my daughter and also at meeting goals set in our IFSPs. They never rush and are always available if I need them during our visits or even just via text. I feel like our service providers are an extension of our family!"*

*"The entire experience has been amazing. From the compassionate providers to the personalized support, every part of the program has helped our family feel seen, supported, and empowered. The way our son is met with patience and understanding has truly made all the difference."*

*“One of the things that has worked really well for our family in early intervention has been having a consistent team that truly listens and collaborates with us. The individualized support, especially from our therapists and coordinators, has made a huge difference in helping us understand some of our child’s needs and how to support her progress at home. Having regular check-ins, goal setting that actually reflects our concerns, and strategies that fit into our daily routine have all helped reduce stress and build confidence.”*

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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### *2025 EI Family Questionnaire Comment Files*

The Department of Children and Youth (DCY) sent files to each Contract Manager and FCFC Coordinator on October 8 that included the comments provided by respondents to questions #14, 15, 16, and the “Additional Comments” section of the 2025 EI Family Questionnaire. Comments were deidentified if the respondent did not provide consent to share comments as written. If the parent consented to share comments as written, the comments were not edited in any way. These files containing parent comments will not be posted on the EI website and are not intended to be shared or posted publicly. Please contact Brier Gallihugh at [Brier.Gallihugh@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:Brier.Gallihugh@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov) with any questions.

### *EI Office Hours*

Thank you to everyone who attended our inaugural EI office hours on September 29, covering the EI System of Payments (SOP), and introducing a new form to be used for requesting the support of Councils of Government (COGs) or Department Contracted Providers (DCPs) for evaluations and assessments or ongoing EI services. The slides and recording from this event will be available on the EI website in the coming weeks.

We will have two more EI Office Hours sessions this year on October 27 and November 24. During the October office hours, we will continue our discussion around the new Request for COG or DCP Support form. The topic for the November office hours will be announced soon. Register [here](#) for the October 27 office hours and [here](#) for the November 24 office hours.

### *New Mandated Reporter Training*

As indicated in the September 30 EI Program Update, DCY created a new mandated reporter training that EI Service Coordinators (EISCs), EISC supervisors, and Developmental Specialists (DSs) will be required to take to meet their initial credential training requirement. Beginning November 1, the DCY Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Mandated Reporting Requirements training will replace EI-067 in MyLearning and will be and will be [available here](#).

### *November 1 LEA Reporting*

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. This report can be accessed in the EI Data System (EIDS) in both Excel and PDF formats. Either version may be used, but please remember the following:

- The November 1 LEA report must be run no earlier than October 22 and no later than November 1.
- It is not acceptable to physically change the LEA report before sending it to the school district, such as crossing names out or adding a name by hand. All changes must be made in EIDS.
- It is expected that child information will be updated in a timely manner so that the LEA reports in EIDS are accurate.
- 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: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/Ohio-Educational-Directory-System-OEDS>. This quarterly report must be provided to the LEAs no later than Saturday, November 1. A copy of the report does not need to be submitted to DCY, but we encourage you to maintain a copy of the report in the event that it is needed at a later date for monitoring purposes. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Hale at [Erin.Hale@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:Erin.Hale@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov).

### *Developmental Specialist Certification Rule Survey*

As a reminder, the DCY EI team currently has a [survey](#) open to collect input as part of the five-year rule review for the Developmental Specialist (DS) Certification rule. We are collecting responses through October 17, so please complete the survey by this date if you would like to provide input.

#### *Ohio Association of County Boards 2025 Annual Convention*

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) annual convention will be held November 19 through 21. At this year's convention, developmental disabilities professionals and advocates from across Ohio will come together to share ideas, spark innovation, and celebrate the impact of our work. From fresh strategies to inspiring stories, you'll leave energized and ready to keep moving our system forward for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

In addition to the standard in-person convention in Columbus, a total of eight breakout sessions will be broadcast live as hybrid virtual sessions for those who are unable to attend in person. Register for each of these sessions in [MemberConnect Events](#). The registration deadline is November 11.