



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES  
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MARY E. O'DOWD, M.P.H.  
Commissioner

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES  
FROM: NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IN REGARD TO NEW JERSEY'S  
APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER PART C, INDIVIDUALS WITH  
DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)  
DATE: February 12, 2015

The New Jersey Department of Health (DOH), lead agency for the administration of the New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS), is applying to the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for continued participation in the Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program (Part C of IDEA). The purpose of this memorandum is to announce a public comment period.

**Executive Summary of Grant**

**Department, Division, Service, Program Applying for Grant**

Department of Health (Lead Agency), Public Health Services Branch  
Division of Family Health Services, Early Intervention System

**Source of Grant Funds**

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services  
FFY 2015 - Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

**Purpose/Significance**

New Jersey's statewide early intervention system provides services for infants and toddlers, birth to age three, with developmental delays or disabilities, and their families. The Federal funding is provided to support New Jersey in planning, developing and implementing its statewide system of early intervention services in accordance with Federal Part C rules and regulations. (34 CFR Part 303)

This funding will provide necessary support to ensure that New Jersey's statewide system includes the following components:

- Eligibility (definition and determination);
- Comprehensive system of personnel development;
- Policies and procedures for contracting with service providers;
- Central directory of information;
- Comprehensive child find system and public awareness;
- Procedural safeguards;
- Procedures for resolving complaints;
- Interagency agreements;
- Data collection;
- Development and implementation of Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs);
- Policies and procedures related to financial matters; and
- Supervision and monitoring of programs.

**Clarification note:** The DOH has received comments over the past several years identifying a concern that a final restricted indirect cost rate or cost allocation plan has not been approved by the State lead agency's cognizant Federal agency. The DOH as the lead agency for Part C negotiates an annual restricted indirect cost rate with the US Department of Health and Human Services that meets the requirements in 34 CFR 76.560 through 76.569 and maintains current documentation with the Office of Special Education Programs. However, the timing of this public comment period and application submission is prior to the negotiation of an approved indirect that will be effective July 1 and therefore a final approved restricted indirect cost rate is not available when this application is submitted. This is noted and appropriately handled as identified in the application under Section IV. B.

**Public Comment**

In accordance with the OSEP memorandum for this application, NJEIS “must publish the application for 60 days (February 17–April 17, 2015) and accept written public comment for 30 days (March 1 – March 30, 2015). There are no proposed State Plan amendments requiring public hearings for this application.

The proposed grant application can be viewed during the public comment period online at <http://nj.gov/health/fhs/eis/index.shtml> and at the Regional Early Intervention Collaboratives and County Service Coordination Units. Comments may be made in writing, via email or facsimile. If you do not have access to the internet, please call NJEIS at (609) 777-7734 to find a location where you can review the application.

Written, email, and facsimile comments will be received through April 17, 2015 in order to receive public input regarding DOH-NJEIS grant application for continued participation in the Part C (NJEIS) program. Comments should be sent to:

**Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator**

New Jersey Early Intervention System

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50 East State Street

Trenton, NJ 08625-0364

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