

Early Steps State Plan



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Early Steps Legislative Report

Section 391.308(5), Florida Statutes

- Annually prepare and submit a report that assesses the performance of the Early Steps Program:
 - Address performance standards, and
 - Report actual performance compared to the prior fiscal year.

Early Steps State Plan

Section 391.308(2)(c), Florida Statutes

- Annually develop a state plan that must:
 - Assess the need for early intervention services,
 - Evaluate the extent of the statewide need that is met by the program,
 - Identify barriers to fully meeting the need, and
 - Recommend specific action steps to improve program performance.

Stakeholder Involvement

- Five stakeholder workgroups were identified – one for each goal in the plan,
- Includes parents, local program administration and staff, providers, FICCIT, Institutes of Higher Education, local and state partners, state office staff, and other stakeholders,
- Each group is co-facilitated by a member of the Early Steps State Office and a stakeholder on the group.

State Plan Goal 1

Monitor and track the population referred to and served by the Early Steps Program, including infants and toddlers at risk of developmental delay.

State Plan Goal 1

Extent of the Need:

- Referrals from a variety of sources,
- Eligibility criteria for developmental delay determined by each state, including children at-risk, and
- Expansion of program's eligibility criteria.

State Plan Goal 1

Barriers:

- Referrals for infants and toddlers who do not meet eligibility criteria,
- Lack of referrals for infants and toddlers who meet eligibility criteria, and
- Varying outreach efforts to primary referral sources.

State Plan Goal 1

Action Steps:

- Educate state and local entities on the Early Steps Program's eligibility criteria to ensure appropriate referrals for potentially eligible infants and toddlers, and
- Collect data to monitor eligibility patterns and trends for referral infants and toddlers, especially those at risk of developmental delay.



State Plan Goal 2

Ensure compliance with state and federal requirements and indicators through development of an accountability system that strengthens local and state resources and capacity.

State Plan Goal 2

Extent of the Need:

- 2017-2018 Compliance Indicator Data:
 - Evaluation/IFSP provided within 45 days: 84% (*12% decrease from prior year*),
 - Services initiated within 30 days of consent: 89% (*same as prior year*), and
 - Transition conference at least 90 days but not more than 9 months before the 3rd birthday with steps and services: 91% (*2% decrease from prior year*).

State Plan Goal 2

Barriers:

- Local program processes that result in late eligibility determination and IFSP development, and
- Availability of existing number of providers and provider types to ensure adequacy.

State Plan Goal 2

Action Steps:

- Monitor LES contracts with enhanced provisions related to compliance,
- Implement an on-site monitoring component that includes the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process as an approach to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, quality, performance, processes, capacities, and outcomes of the Early Steps Program, and
- Determine the LESs that have exemplary practices and those that require technical assistance related to meeting the 45-day, 30-day, and 90-day timelines and provide focused assistance to achieve and maintain 100% compliance.

State Plan Goal 3

Increase the percentage of infants and toddlers demonstrating improved developmental outcomes upon exiting the program and the percentage of families reporting that their participation in the Early Steps Program enhanced their capacity and confidence to support their child's development and learning.



State Plan Goal 3

Extent of the Need:

- Results driven accountability system that focuses on improved results for infants and toddlers, and their families.

State Plan Goal 3

Barriers:

- Early Steps did not meet the child outcome targets in 2017-2018 (2/6 maintained performance while 4/6 decreased performance), and
- Business rules used to assign children to progress categories are more conservative and rigorous than other states using the BDI-2.

State Plan Goal 3

Action Steps:

- Review Florida's Progress Category Rules to determine necessary revisions to the rules,
- Explore the feasibility of implementation of the Child Outcomes Summary (COS) process and determine the effects on child outcome percentages when multiple methods and sources of information, including parent/provider observation, progress on IFSP outcomes, and results from direct assessment are used,
- Participate in technical assistance opportunities available through national centers funded by the U.S. ED to evaluate and improve the Early Steps Program's child and family outcome measurement system.

State Plan Goal 4

Implement the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) to increase the percentage of infants and toddlers who exit early intervention with an increased rate of growth in positive social emotional skills.

State Plan Goal 4

Extent of the Need:

- Requirement for the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP),
- Priority of SSIP: *“Increase the percent of infants and toddlers who exit early intervention with an increased rate of growth in positive social emotional skills”, and*
- Necessary infrastructure to ensure and sustain quality by providing evidence-based practices.

State Plan Goal 4

Barriers:

- Lack of qualified providers,
- Adequate screening tools and practices,
- Parent awareness and engagement in social emotional skill development,
- Lack of coaches with expertise in evidence-based practices, and
- Workforce focus on motor and communication delays.

State Plan Goal 4

Action Steps:

- Establish and implement a framework for professional development to promote positive social-emotional development for infants and toddlers based on identified evidence-based coaching practices from demonstration sites,
- Oversee and support SSIP demonstration sites to implement Phase III of the SSIP, in partnership with subject matter experts, to build the foundation needed to ensure evidence-based practices across the state, as well as, a process for data collection, analysis and reporting in order to test and determine feasibility of implementation strategies and practices, and
- Participate in technical assistance opportunities available through national centers funded by the U.S. ED, including the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center, funded to increase the implementation of effective practices, and enhance outcomes for young children and their families.

State Plan Goal 5

Collect programmatic and fiscal data to support effective and efficient management of the Early Steps Program.

State Plan Goal 5

Extent of the Need:

- Required data for local, state, and federal reporting, and
- Necessary local and state data for program improvement and data-informed fiscal decisions.

State Plan Goal 5

Barriers:

- Current data system does not have capability to capture detailed information, and
- Unable to track local resources and funding streams to ensure Part C is payor of last resort.

State Plan Goal 5

Action Steps:

- Execute, manage, and monitor contract for a robust Early Steps Data System that collects valid and reliable programmatic and fiscal data on the current status and projected needs of the Early Steps Program, and
- Participate in technical assistance opportunities available through national centers funded by the U.S. ED that provide technical assistance to build capacity within states for collecting, reporting, analyzing, and using high quality IDEA data.

Next Steps

- Continue engagement with stakeholders through workgroups,
- Gather data and compile Annual Legislative Report,
- Convene meeting of stakeholder groups to review Annual Legislative Report and identify priorities for 2020 State Plan,
- Develop 2020 State Plan through an inclusive stakeholder process,
- Request updates from FICCIT member of each workgroup at each quarterly FICCIT meeting
- Assess the Early Steps Program ongoing together with stakeholders.



Questions?

