

Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers  
July 7, 2015

**Family Outcomes Overview**

Background:

The IDEA requires Part C lead agencies to report annually on family outcomes resulting from families' participation in early intervention. Specifically, states must report the extent to which families report that early intervention helped them:

- a) Know their rights;
- b) Effectively communicate their child's needs; and
- c) Help their children develop and learn

Prior to the revision of IDEA to measure and report family outcomes, states were surveying parents/families that were mostly focused on satisfaction with services. After the introduction of the required parent/family outcomes (Indicator 4), states turned to surveying for impact. In other words, did the parent/family perceive that they benefited from the services they received, and if so, in what ways and to what extent? With the introduction of Indicator 4, outcomes for families were established and states were required to determine to what extent these outcomes have been attained. Determining the impact of early intervention services on Family Outcomes is more challenging than determining family satisfaction with services. The attention turned to ways states could gather the data. The National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring (NCSEAM), funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), developed a survey instrument for parents to rate the extent they perceive that a range of family outcomes have been achieved and is used by the Early Steps system to address this federal reporting requirement.

Annual Steps for Lead Agency for Family Outcomes Process:

- Select a measurement tool
- Establish a sampling plan
- Select mode of administration
- Work out details of the data collection process
- Train Local Early Steps on the distribution process
- Collect and analyze data
- Develop state and local improvement strategies for results and response rate
- Measure representativeness of respondents
- Create reports
- Report results to the feds and the public
- Implement improvement strategies
- Report results of improvement strategies