

# Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention

## Child Find Policy

Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention will conduct regular Child Find activities to:

- Assure the early identification and referral of potentially eligible infants and toddlers
- Improve the access to Early Intervention (EI) services for underrepresented and underserved populations.
- Improve parents', referral sources and the public's awareness of and use of Regular Developmental Screening for children who meet the At-Risk Tracking criteria.
- Increase parents', referral sources and the public's awareness of and use of Early Intervention services for eligible children.
- Provide information and Child Find materials, including those developed by the Bureau of Early Intervention Service and Family Supports, on the availability of EI services to the parents of infants and toddlers, to primary referral sources and to the public.
- Inform referring agencies and parents of infants and toddlers about how to make a referral to Infant Toddler Early Intervention (ITEI).
- Use local and national data sources to inform Child Find planning and activities, including the identification of high-risk populations including children who are experiencing homelessness, living in residential facilities (see Children Newly Admitted and Residing in Residential Facilities [2016] policy), from migrant families, affected by prenatal substance including alcohol, experiencing risk factors associated with learning or developmental complications and experiencing elevated blood lead levels.
- Some Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention Child Find activities will involve the Philadelphia Interagency Coordinating Council (PICC). These activities will be outlined in the PICC agreement.

Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention Intake will respond to referrals within 2 working days. Once the referral is complete, EI Intake will promptly assign the referral to the Service Coordination Entity.

## Procedures

### Child Find Plan

Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention (ITEI) implements a Child Find Plan that is updated annually. Philadelphia ITEI's Child Find Coordinator implements and oversees the implementation of this plan, including the Child Find activities and outreach that are conducted by KenCrest Services for *Early Intervention for Families in Transition (EI FIT)*, which focuses on families who are experiencing homelessness, and by the Service Coordination Entities.

## **Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention**

### Philadelphia Interagency Coordinating Council and Coordination with Programs

Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention actively participates in the Philadelphia Interagency Coordinating Council (PICC), and implements coordinated Child Find activities as per an annual PICC Agreement. A non-duplicative Child Find system is coordinated with the following programs:

- Infant, toddler or preschool Early Intervention programs
- Maternal and child health programs
- Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Programs
- Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Training (EPSDT)
- Head Start and Early Head Start programs
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Child protection and child welfare programs including foster care
- Early learning programs
- Programs under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) systems
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

### Location and Identification of Eligible Children

Child Find enables the referral, identification and evaluation of all eligible children, including children who are:

- Are experiencing homelessness
- Living in residential facilities
- Premature
- From migrant families
- Referred by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services, including children in foster care and are wards of the state
- Affected by prenatal substance exposure, including alcohol
- Experiencing other physical risk factors associated with learning or developmental complications
- Experiencing elevated blood lead levels

A member of the Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention Leadership team participates in the Steering Committee for the development and implementation of Philadelphia's Plan of Safe Care. With the parent's consent, infants referred to Infant Toddler Early Intervention as part of a Plan of Safe Care will be evaluated and if eligible for services, the family will be part of the team that creates an Individualized Family Service Plan. If the family chooses not to have an IFSP or if the child is not eligible for Early Intervention services, the family will be offered enrollment in Regular Developmental Screening (Philadelphia's at-risk tracking and monitoring system).

### Referral Sources

Philadelphia's primary referral sources will include:

## Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention

- Parents and Family Members
- Physician/Healthcare Provider
- Hospital/NICU
- Philadelphia Department of Human Service (local Children and Youth agency)
- Home Visiting/Family Center
- Homeless Shelters
- Child Care
- Other Early Childhood
- Other Medical
- Other Social Service Agency

### Child Find Efforts Specifically Designed to Address Local Needs

Child Find efforts account for the needs and resources in Philadelphia and include:

- Cross-departmental data sharing agreements to assist in the identification of high-risk populations.
- Presentations to families including family-friendly child development pamphlets at health fairs and other neighborhood resources and agencies.
- Installation of colorful, multi-language (including low literacy materials) posters for child development/concerns in public transportation as needed
- Information about how to make a referral on websites including Philadelphiaicc.org and DBHIDS.org
- Targeted geographic areas considered to be at risk

### Dissemination of Child Find Procedures and Training

- Disseminate information about new or updated Child Find procedures to staff within the Infant Toddler Early Intervention community (Early Interventionists, Service Coordinators) as well as partners in the community, including referral sources. This dissemination will occur through direct written communication, and in-person meetings and presentations.
- Offer direct training or disseminate information about new or updated Child Find procedures to staff within the Infant Toddler Early Intervention community (Early Interventionists, service coordinators) as well as partners in the community, including referral sources. This training will occur through direct written communication and in-person meetings and presentations. On-line training resources will also be used.