

State of New Jersey DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIVISION OF FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES

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CHRIS CHRISTIE Governor

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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 28, 2013

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 2013 - 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.

Public Comment

In accordance with the OSEP memorandum for this application, NJEIS "must publish the application for 60 days (February 28–April 28, 2013) and accept written public comment for 30 days (March 18-April 16, 2013).

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 16, 2013 in order to receive public input regarding DHSS-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 P.O. Box 364 50 East State Street Trenton, NJ 08625-0364 Email: <u>Terry.Harrison@doh.state.nj.us</u> Facsimile: (609) 777- 7739