



EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Regional Center of the East Bay is a lead agency in implementing California's Early Start Program. The Early Start Program was established to provide a comprehensive, family-centered system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers, birth to three years of age, who have a developmental disability or significant developmental delay(s). The intent of the program is to:

- Help families access the early intervention service delivery system.
- Make best use of all appropriate supports & resources for the child and family.
- Enable the family to promote the growth and learning of their child.
- Ensure that the EI system remains responsive to the needs of parents and infants/toddlers.
- Reduce the chance that children will continue to need special education services when they reach school age.
- Support children being integral parts of their home communities.
- Facilitate planning when the toddler graduates from Early Intervention services.

ELIGIBILITY

Infants and toddlers from birth to age 36 months may be eligible for early intervention services through Early Start if, through documented evaluation and assessment, they meet one of the criteria listed below:

- have a developmental delay of at least 33% in one or more areas of either cognitive, communication, social or emotional, adaptive, or physical and motor development including vision and hearing; or
- have an established risk condition of known etiology, with a high probability of resulting in delayed development; or
- be considered at high risk of having a substantial developmental disability due to a combination of biomedical risk factors of which are diagnosed by qualified personnel

California Government Code: Section 95014(a); California Code of Regulations: Title 17, Chapter 2, Section 52022

Prior to a child turning age three, children in the first category may be evaluated, at parent request, to determine eligibility for ongoing Regional Center services at age three. Eligibility for ongoing services is based on the same criteria as the second category.

There is no citizenship requirement. The child must be a resident of the State of California.

INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT

Referrals can come from parents or from a range of other sources such as professionals/specialists, family members, friends, or acquaintances, with parent consent. To make a referral, contact the Early Intervention Intake Referral line: (510) 618-6195 at the Regional Center San Leandro office.

When a referral is made, with parental consent an intake interview is conducted to gather information from families, physicians, and other involved service agencies to identify the presenting concerns. A developmental evaluation is conducted to determine eligibility and to identify child's strengths and needs. The intake and evaluation process may include some formal testing and evaluation. The evaluations must be family centered and multi-disciplined. Developmental evaluations are conducted by experienced specialists such as child development specialists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists, nurses, physicians, and psychologists. These professionals are responsible for determining eligibility, providing ongoing consultation, assessment and service recommendations as needed.

Within 45 days of referral, eligibility must be determined and an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed.

SERVICE COORDINATION

Each eligible child will be assigned a service coordinator who will work with the family to coordinate the various agencies and programs providing supports and services. The service coordinator will serve as a single point of contact. The service coordinator is responsible for facilitating the development of the

Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). The IFSP is a family-centered, team-driven service planning process, which elicits a family's concerns and priorities. The IFSP process assesses the child's needs and strengths, identifies desired outcomes for the child and family, and coordinates the early intervention services determined to be appropriate to meet the unique needs of the child and family. Periodic reviews of the IFSP are conducted every six months, with an annual meeting to evaluate the IFSP. A transition IFSP is also developed before a child turns three, to plan, identify, and coordinate steps needed for a smooth exit from the early intervention program to local school district services, other community supports, or family resource options.

RCEB provides service coordination through its area offices in San Leandro and Concord. Our intent is that families be well informed, supported, and respected as capable and collaborative decision makers regarding services for their child. Families and professionals join in collaborative partnerships to develop early intervention services which meet the needs of infants and toddlers with developmental delay or disabilities. The partnerships are the basis for the development of services which meet the needs of the culturally and linguistically diverse population of California.

FAMILY COST PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

The State of California enacted the Family Cost Participation Program in 2005 which requires some families to pay part of the cost for RCEB funded Day Care and Respite. In October 2008, the Family Cost Participation Program was expanded to include Early Start and for the purpose of assessing cost participation parents will be required to submit income verification to the regional center. Family Cost Participation Program applies to parents who have an infant or toddler and to whom all of the following applies:

There is an identified need for RCEB funded day care or respite services on the IFSP.

The child does not have a Medi-Cal number. (Children who have a Medi-Cal number are exempt).

The State Department of Developmental Services has developed the Family cost Participation schedule for use by all regional centers to assess the amount the family will be responsible for paying to the service provider. The schedule is a sliding scale with payments ranging from 10% to 100% of the total cost of services per month, adjusted for the level of annual gross income and number of persons living in a family home. Your family income must be above a certain amount before a co-payment is required.

SERVICES

There are a variety of early intervention and community services that might be appropriate for an individual child and family. RCEB may purchase or arrange for necessary services based on policies established by the RCEB Board of Directors, Federal and state laws. Regional Centers must use all readily available sources of general funding (Early Head Start, CCS, Medi-Cal, and private medical insurance, etc...this list is not exhaustive) before the expenditure of Regional Center funds, to ensure cost-effective use of all public dollars utilized. Services might include assistive technology, audiology, family training, counseling, home visits, health services which enable a child to access other early intervention services, nutrition services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychological services, social work services, special instruction, speech and language services, transportation, vision services, and respite services. Early Intervention services are to be provided as part of a family's natural routine and, not to supplant the natural functioning of families.

ANNUAL FAMILY PROGRAM FEE

Effective July 1, 2011, parents of qualifying children under 18 years of age must pay an annual fee based on adjusted gross family income. The annual fee applies to parents whose gross adjusted income is at or above 400 percent of the federal poverty level based on family size who have a child to whom all of the following apply: the child has a developmental disability or is eligible for services under the California Early Intervention Services Act (Title 14 commencing with Section; the child lives with his or her parent; the child or family receives services beyond eligibility determination, needs assessment and services coordination; the child does not receive Medi-Cal. If a family only receives respite, day care, or camping services from the regional center and a cost for participation is assessed under the Family Cost Participation Program, they are not subject to the Annual Fee.