

Priority: Early Intervention

Goal: Increase the access and utilization of early intervention services.

What is Early Intervention and Why is it Important?

The Early Intervention Program serves one of the most vulnerable populations in New York – infants and toddlers from birth to age 3 with disabilities and delays, and their families. The mission of the Program is to identify and evaluate as early as possible those infants and toddlers whose healthy development is compromised and provide appropriate intervention to improve child and family developments.

A child's first years provide a critical window for intervention. Research shows that the earlier a developmental delay or disability is identified, and the sooner services begin, the less likely it is that the child will need more intensive and expensive special education services later. Young children missing these opportunities for early intervention services are potentially at greater risk of significant developmental and learning delays.

To identify those children who are not meeting their developmental milestones and get the help they need to develop and grow, it is vital that both caregivers and primary health care providers know about the Early Intervention Program and how to make a referral for a child. In 2022, only 23.8% of parents of NYS children aged 9 months to 35 months reported that they received a standardized developmental screening using a parent-completed screening tool, compared to 34.4% nationally.⁴⁶⁹

Additionally, only 28.2% of NYS parents reported that their child's doctor or health care provider asked if they had any concerns about their child's learning, development, or behavior for children aged 0-5 years, compared to 34% nationally. As such, some children who would benefit from the Program aren't receiving services.

In addition, there are disparities across the state in the referral and inclusion of children into the Program, as well as in the availability of providers and access to Program services. Equity is also an issue, with White children generally being referred at a younger age than children of most other races and ethnicities.



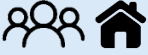


It is important to look at children's access to the Program and to identify and address barriers to equitable access to the Program. Increasing the access and utilization of early intervention services not only positively impacts the individual child, but also their family.⁴⁷⁰ By promoting equitable access and utilization of the Early Intervention Program, NYS can ensure that the positive impacts of this program extend to the most vulnerable populations.

SMART(IE) Objective:

39.0 Increase the percentage of children under 3 years old who have Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs) from 8.3% to 11.0%.

39.1 Increase the percentage of Black, non-Hispanic children under 3 years old who have Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs) from 7.0% to 10.0%.

Desired Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Population	Baseline	Target
Increase the percentage of children who receive Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs) by age 3.	Percentage of children under 3 years old with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)	NYS Early Intervention Program (NYS EIP) Data System (NY Early Intervention System (NYEIS/EI-Hub))	Children under 3 years old	8.3% (2021)	11.0% (2030)
			Subpopulation of Focus	Baseline	Target
			Black, non-Hispanic Children under 3 years old	7.0% (2021)	10.0% (2030)

Interventions	Population of Focus	Age Range	Intermediate Measures
 <p>Featured Intervention: Increase developmental screening in nonclinical settings (day cares, early childhood learning centers, etc.) by promoting the use of standardized developmental surveillance tools through social media, digital marketing, and traditional marketing and partnership.^{471,472}</p> 	Children eligible for Early Intervention (EI)	Ages 0-3	Increase in referrals from non-clinical setting to EI
 <p>Featured Intervention: Educate parents and caregivers of young children about the Early Intervention Program by providing primary care providers with materials to get in the hands of parents.⁴⁷³</p> 	Children eligible for EI	Ages 0-3	Increase in family-generated EI referrals
 <p>Engage with health care providers to increase developmental screenings through quality improvement incentives,</p>	Children eligible for EI	Ages 0-3	Increase in the number of screenings provided

Interventions	Population of Focus	Age Range	Intermediate Measures
partnership/relationship building, and communications. ⁴⁷⁴ 			
 Educate primary care providers about the Early Intervention Program and using developmental surveillance tools to identify children with developmental delays and disabilities earlier. ⁴⁷³ 	Children eligible for EI	Ages 0-3	Increase in the number of screenings provided
 Implement the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." program in pediatrician offices and primary care settings. ⁴⁷⁵ 	Children eligible for EI	Ages 0-3	Number of organizations that implement the program and provide educational materials to families
 Promote the use of the Bright Futures Periodicity Schedule. ⁴⁷⁶ 	Children eligible for EI	Ages 0-3	Number of primary care settings that indicate adherence to the periodicity schedule
 Utilize social media to increase awareness of, access to, and enrollment in the Early Intervention Program. ⁴⁷⁷ 	Children eligible for EI	Ages 0-3	Number of organizations that post about EI program, access, etc. in a year, number of interactions with posts about EI
 Create transition plans for children who are aging out of the Early Intervention Program to ensure they continue to receive the services they need. ⁴⁷⁸ 	Children in the EI Program	EI Program participants - especially those aging out of the program (Ages 0-3)	Increase in the proportion of children with a timely transition from EI

Lead Partner Agencies and Organizations

[State Department of Health](#)

[State Office of Children and Family Services](#)

[State Education Department](#)

American Academy of Pediatrics

NYS Council on Children and Families and their partner agencies

Early Intervention Programs

Home visiting programs

Childcare providers

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program

Help Me Grow NY

Prenatal care programs

Secondary and postsecondary schools, trade unions, local businesses

Health care providers (pediatric, primary care and obstetric offices), health plans, insurance brokers

Implementation Resources

[CDC - Learn the Signs. Act Early](#)

[NYSDOH - Early Intervention Program](#)

Early Intervention Citations

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