

Policy:

Child Find and Referral

Date Effective:

Approved: July 1, 2019

Updated: April 22, 2022

Federal Authority:

Title 34 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Vol. II, Chapter III, Parts 300-399:

§§ 303.5, 303.10, 300.21, 303.111, 303.115, 303.206, 303.303

Title 20 of the U.S. Code of Law, Chapter 33. §§1400-1499:

§§ 1401(16), 1412(a)(3)(A), 1431-1444

As State Lead Agency under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA; Public Law 108-446), the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will ensure all infants and toddlers with disabilities in the State who are eligible IDEA/Part C services are identified, located, and evaluated, including:

- Indian infants and toddlers with disabilities residing on a reservation geographically located in the State (including coordination, as necessary, with tribes, tribal organizations, and consortia to identify infants and toddlers with disabilities in the State).
- Infants and toddlers with disabilities who are homeless, in foster care, and wards of the State, including those who are:
 - o The subject of a substantiated case of abuse or neglect.
 - o Directly affected by illegal substance abuse.
 - o Experiencing withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure.
 - o Suspected of having a disability or developmental delays.

The comprehensive child find system includes public awareness initiatives, interagency efforts across child-serving agencies, and initiatives at the state and local level including education and training of primary referral sources.

SCDHHS ensures that resources are made available for all geographic areas within the state through contracts with Participating State Agencies and Early Intervention Service providers. All Participating State Agencies and Early Intervention Service providers are required to serve any eligible child within their service area.

Equitable Access and Participation (General Education Provisions Act): South Carolina has taken the following steps to ensure equitable access to, and equitable participation in, the South Carolina Part C statewide system as required by section 427(b) of GEPA:

- In 1991, the South Carolina General Assembly enacted state statute, Act 41 that requires the lead agency to “establish and maintain a statewide BabyNet system of early intervention services pursuant to Part C of the IDEA for eligible children and families of such children.”
- SCDHHS ensures that traditionally underserved groups, including minority, low-income, and rural families, are meaningfully involved in the planning and implementation of all components of the early intervention system and that these families have access to culturally competent services within their local geographical areas with multiple opportunities for public participation and comment throughout each reporting period. South Carolina serves an increasingly diverse population of infants and toddlers and works with the State Interagency Coordinating Council to identify and address potential barriers to access.
- South Carolina has implemented a statewide toll-free number and central referral system to ensure all referrals are documented and evaluations are scheduled with local eligibility offices as soon as possible after referral. All

local eligibility offices coordinators use Language Line services to provide translation in other languages when needed.

- SCDHHS maintains an extensive network of early intervention service (EIS) provider agreements to ensure geographic equity in access to services, and actively recruits enrollment of new EIS providers based on local data and population demographics.
- Intake Coordinators are available to ensure timely eligibility evaluations, and one or more agencies in each of South Carolina's 46 counties have provider agreements in place to provide procedural safeguards; service coordination; family and child assessments; and development and implementation of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for eligible infants and toddlers and their families.