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KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSC, DFASAM Commissioner

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IN REGARD TO NEW JERSEY'S

FFY 2024 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER PART C, INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

DATE: March 18, 2024

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 2024 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. 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 and reporting including a State Performance/Annual Performance Report and State Systemic Improvement Plan;

- 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 (March 14 to May 14, 2024) and accept written public comment for at least 30 days (April 1 – May 1, 2024). There are no proposed State Plan amendments requiring public hearings for this application.

The proposed grant application can be viewed during the public comment period online at <a href="https://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/eis">https://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/eis</a> and at the Regional Early Intervention Collaboratives and/or the Service Coordination Unit in each county. Comments may be made in writing (email or postal mail) for consideration and review by the DOH.

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 comments will be received through May 1, 2024, in order to receive public input regarding DOH-NJEIS grant application for continued participation in the Part C (NJEIS) program. Comments should be sent to:

## Josephine Shenouda, Part C Director

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