

Public Awareness Program & the Central Directory

IDEA 2004's Part C Regulations

Handout 5



Subpart B—State Eligibility for a Grant and Requirements for a Statewide System

§303.116 Public awareness program.

Each system must include a public awareness program that—

- (a) Focuses on the early identification of infants and toddlers with disabilities; and
- (b) Provides information to parents of infants and toddlers through primary referral sources in accordance with §303.301.

§303.117 Central directory.

Each system must include a central directory that is accessible to the general public (i.e., through the lead agency's Web site and other appropriate means) and includes accurate, up-to-date information about—

- (a) Public and private early intervention services, resources, and experts available in the State;
- (b) Professional and other groups (including parent support, and training and information centers, such as those funded under the Act) that provide assistance to infants and toddlers with disabilities eligible under Part C of the Act and their families; and
- (c) Research and demonstration projects being conducted in the State relating to infants and toddlers with disabilities.

Pre-Referral Procedures—Public Awareness Program and Child Find System

§303.301 Public awareness program— information for parents.

(a) *Preparation and dissemination.* In accordance with §303.116, each system must include a public awareness program that requires the lead agency to—

(1)(i) Prepare information on the availability of early intervention services under this part, and other services, as described in paragraph (b) of this section; and

(ii) Disseminate to all primary referral sources (especially hospitals and physicians) the information to be given to parents of infants and toddlers, especially parents with premature infants or infants with other physical risk factors associated with learning or developmental complications; and

(2) Adopt procedures for assisting the primary referral sources described in §303.303(c) in disseminating the information described in paragraph (b) of this section to parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities.

(b) *Information to be provided.* The information required to be prepared and disseminated under paragraph (a) of this section must include—

(1) A description of the availability of early intervention services under this part;

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(2) A description of the child find system and how to refer a child under the age of three for an evaluation or early intervention services; and

(3) A central directory, as described in §303.117.

(c) *Information specific to toddlers with disabilities.* Each public awareness program also must include a requirement that the lead agency provide for informing parents of toddlers with disabilities of the availability of services under section 619 of the Act not fewer than 90 days prior to the toddler's third birthday.