

**Policy:**

Public Participation and Public Hearings

**Effective:**

Approved: July 1, 2019

Updated: December 20, 2019

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

§§ 303.208

Title 20 of the U.S. Code of Law, Chapter 33. §§1221; 1231;1400-1499:

§§ 1221(e)(3); 1231(d); 1437(a)(8))

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will solicit public participation and input as follows for applications, and state policies, and procedures.

***Application***

At least 60 days prior to being submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, each application for funds under this IDEA/Part C (including any policies, procedures, descriptions, methods, certifications, assurances, and other information required in the application) must be published in a manner that will ensure circulation throughout the State for at least a 60-day period, with an opportunity for public comment on the application for at least 30 days during that period.

***State Policies and Procedures***

Each application will include a description of the policies and procedures used by the State to ensure that, before adopting any new policy or procedure (including any revision to an existing policy or procedure) needed to comply with IDEA/Part C statute and regulations, SCDHHS will:

- Hold public hearings on the new policy or procedure (including any revision to an existing policy or procedure);
- Provide notice of the hearings at least 30 days before the hearings are conducted to enable public participation; and
- Provide an opportunity for the general public, including individuals with disabilities, parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities, Early Intervention Service (EIS) providers, and the members of the South Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council (SCICC), to comment for at least 30 days on the new policy or procedure (including any revision to an existing policy or procedure) needed to comply with the federal statute and regulations for IDEA/Part C.
- This policy also applies to policies and procedures revisions made prior annual posting of the grant application.