Determination of Annual Eligibility
Approved: July 1, 2019
Updated: January 7, 2020
Who is responsible: Service Coordinators, Early Intervention Service Providers

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Healthy Connections
BABYNET

Criteria for Annual Eligibility

Each child's eligibility must be re-established at least 30 days prior to the annual review of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The following criteria will be used by the Service Coordinator and Early Intervention Service (EIS) providers on the child's IFSP Team when determining ongoing eligibility for IDEA/Part C services:

- Has a diagnosed physical or mental condition (verified by a physician) that as a high probability of resulting in developmental delay: and includes conditions such as chromosomal abnormalities; genetic or congenital disorders; sensory impairments; inborn errors of metabolism; disorders reflecting disturbance of the development of the nervous system; congenital infections; severe attachment disorders; complications of prematurity; and disorders secondary to exposure to toxic substances, including fetal alcohol syndrome.
- Infants and toddlers initially eligible due to significant delays in development continue to be eligible for IDEA/Part C if the present level of performance in the annual IFSP confirms a delay of at least 15% in one or more domains.
- Results of the annual M-CHAT screening for Autism Spectrum Disorder: M-CHAT follow-up interview and STAT indicate high risk for an Autism Spectrum Disorder

Ongoing Eligibility for Children with Established Risk Conditions

Infants and toddlers initially eligible due to an established risk condition remain eligible for IDEA/Part C services until age three, or the parent withdraws participation in IDEA/Part C.

Infants and toddlers initially eligible under the Established Risk Condition of prematurity must be re-determined eligible under the criteria of Documented Significant Delays in Development beginning at age two.

Ongoing Eligibility for Children with Confirmed Developmental Delay

If a child's medical and/or other records indicate that a child continues to meet the state eligibility criteria for developmental delay, including EIS provider reevaluation or reassessment reports, the child does not have to be reevaluated through a separate assessment. The Service Coordinator will seek parent consent to update the family assessment as part of the annual IFSP process.

In the event available documentation is not sufficient to establish the child's continuing eligibility, the Service Coordinator will seek parent consent to also update the child assessment in preparation for the annual review of the IFSP.

Sources of documentation for the present level of performance for the annual IFSP must include up-to-date reassessments from all EIS providers on the IFSP team. EIS providers must use the most recent edition of evaluation or assessment tools.

Procedures for determination of annual eligibility based on developmental delays:

If medical and/or other records are not available, or do not substantiate ongoing eligibility for IDEA/Part C, the Service Coordinator is responsible for providing or arranging for provision of a curriculum-based assessment

(CBA) to determine annual eligibility. (See Procedures for Initial and Annual Child Assessment for use of the CBA results in development/review of the IFSP.)

- Use of approved tool to determine present levels of development:
  - o Hawaii Early Learning Profile
  - o Carolina Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers
- Results of state-approved, re-assessments conducted by EIS providers on the child's IFSP team within 60 days of the annual IFSP.
- A child's relevant medical and other records.

The Service Coordinator will:
- Ensure Prior Written Notice (PWN) of the annual eligibility evaluation has been provided and the parent has provided consent.
- Explain the purpose of the annual eligibility evaluation and how the state-approved assessment tool is administered.
- Administer the state-approved assessment tool using evaluation protocol.
- Once the state-approved assessment tool is completed:
  - o If results of the assessment do not meet IDEA/Part C's eligibility criteria, all sources of documentation, observation, and interview information should be considered as part of the informed clinical opinion (ICO) process.
  - o Share the eligibility evaluation results with the parent.
  - o If parents are not satisfied with the results, the assessor should discuss the case with their supervisor for further guidance.

Results of the Annual Eligibility Evaluation

For children who continue to be eligible for IDEA/Part C, the Service Coordinator will proceed with all activities required for the annual review of the IFSP.

If for any reason the child is ineligible for IDEA/Part C, the Service Coordinator must provide PWN of the annual eligibility results, and of the parent's right to appeal or re-refer at any time before age three. The Service Coordinator will assist the family with referral for any services or supports the family thinks may still be needed. In all instances of exit from IDEA/Part C, the Service Coordinator, the parent, and all EIS providers serving the child are responsible for completion of an exit review of the IFSP, and the exit rating and new skills review for the Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO).

The Service Coordinator is responsible for entering the following in BRIDGES within 14 calendar days of exit from IDEA/Part C services:
- The ECO exit rating and new skills data.
- The appropriate exit reason.
- The exit date.

Special Considerations

The annual eligibility evaluation must be conducted in the native language(s) of the child in accordance with the definition of native language, and every effort should be made to do so unless it is not developmentally appropriate for the child. There may be instances when conducting the ongoing eligibility evaluation in the

native language of the child is not possible because, for example, interpreters for a particular language cannot be located. The Service Coordinator should refer to the IDEA/Part C provider list for an approved interpreter.

Appendix A:

Appendix B:

Appendix C:

Appendix D:

Appendix E:

Appendix F:

Appendix G:

Appendix H:

Appendix I: