

## Service Coordination

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Who is responsible: Intake Coordinators and Service Coordinators

### Overview

Each eligible child and family will be provided with a Service Coordinator who is responsible for coordinating all services across agencies and serving as a single point of contact in helping parents obtain the services and assistance they need. This service is offered at no cost to families. Service coordination should occur and be documented in the child's record at least one time per month for each family.

### Qualifications of Service Coordinators

The Service Coordinator must:

- Meet state personnel standards.
- Complete applicable training as required by the lead agency.
- Obtain and maintain the IDEA/Part C Credential.

### Knowledge and Skills of Service Coordinators

The Service Coordinator should be knowledgeable about the following as it relates to the IDEA/Part C System:

- South Carolina's Part C eligibility requirements.
- Federal and state laws and regulations.
- The nature and scope of services available and the system of payments for services in South Carolina.
- Procedures regarding evaluation and assessment, developing the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), service guidelines, and transition from IDEA/Part C to community programs or preschool special education.
- Federal, state, and local resources that are available to families and young children.

### Assignment of the Intake Coordinator

When a child is referred to IDEA/Part C, an Intake Coordinator from the office closest to the child is assigned. The Intake Coordinator completes an orientation, intake, and the evaluation to determine eligibility. The Intake Coordinator reviews the results with the family, and if the child is eligible, gives the family information about Early Intervention Service (EIS) providers available in their area. If the child is not eligible, the Intake Coordinator informs the family about other community resources which may be of interest to the family.

### Assignment of Service Coordinator for Development, Implementation, and Review of the IFSP

The choice of provider for service coordination must be made after determination of IDEA/Part C eligibility, but prior to assessments and development of the initial IFSP. The Intake Coordinator will explain the purpose of service coordination to the family using the Family Guide. The Intake Coordinator is responsible for transmitting all information to the chosen or assigned Service Coordinator.

- Unless otherwise specified, eligible children with an established risk condition(s) or who have documentation of developmental delay that meets state criteria, will receive service coordination by qualified EIS providers.

- Eligible children with established risk conditions for sensory impairments (i.e., hearing and/or vision), will receive service coordination from qualified EIS providers with the Division of Outreach Services of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB).

### **Responsibilities of Intake Coordinator in Selection or Assignment of a Service Coordinator**

The Intake Coordinator will:

- Discuss if the family has selected a Service Coordination provider from the list provided by Intake Coordinator.
- If the family does not have a preference, the local service coordination provider matrix will be used.
- E-mail the supervisor of the family's first choice for immediate transfer of Service Coordinator.
- If the provider(s) chosen by the family is not available, does not respond to the referral within 1 business day, the Intake Coordinator will automatically make the referral to the family's next choice and continue these steps until the referral is accepted.

Once the Service Coordinator has accepted the referral, the Intake Coordinator will document the following in the BRIDGES electronic record:

- Change the name of the Intake Coordinator to the appropriate IDEA/Part C Eligibility Office.
- Enter the name of the Service Coordination Supervisor as the temporary Service Coordinator.
- Document the date of transfer to Service Coordinator.
- Scan and securely e-mail the record to the Service Coordination supervisor.
- Document transfer of Service Coordinator and of records.

### **Responsibilities of Service Coordinator Supervisor in Assignment/Selection of Service Coordinator**

The receiving service coordination agency (Service Coordinator and/or Supervisor based on agency protocol) will complete the following activities and document in service notes:

- Confirm the transfer and receipt of records with the IDEA/Part C Eligibility Office supervisor by SC Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) approved secure transfer method (secure e-mail or file transfer).
- Add the Service Coordinator and Service Coordinator Supervisor to planned services in the IDEA/Part C electronic record.
- Change the name of the Service Coordinator from the supervisor to the assigned Service Coordinator in the demographics section of the record.

The Service Coordinator will contact the family within two working days to introduce themselves and arrange a time for the family assessment and child assessment to be completed prior to development of the initial IFSP.

## **Responsibilities of Service Coordinators**

Service Coordination responsibilities include:

- Coordinating evaluations, assessments of the family, and assessments of the child.
- Facilitating and participating in the development, review, and evaluation of IFSPs.
- Assisting parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities in obtaining access to needed Early Intervention Services (EIS) and other services identified in the IFSP, including making referrals to providers for needed EIS and other services and scheduling appointments for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.
- Coordinating the provision of EIS and other services (such as educational, social, and medical services that are not provided for diagnostic or evaluative purposes) that the child needs or is being provided.
- Conducting referral and other activities to assist families in identifying available EIS providers.

- Coordinating, facilitating, and monitoring the delivery of EIS required under IDEA/Part C to ensure that the EIS are provided in a timely manner.
- Conducting follow-up activities to determine that appropriate EIS are being provided.
- Informing families of their rights and protections under IDEA/Part C.
- Ensuring all procedural safeguards are met.
- Coordinating funding for EIS and other services across all sources.
- Notifying families of children who enroll in hospice that their child cannot be enrolled in both IDEA Part C and hospice.
- Facilitating the development of a transition plan to preschool, school, or, if appropriate, to other services.
- Assisting the family with parent-to-parent support, if requested.
- Submitting all service coordination documentation and data in an accurate and timely manner.

Service Coordinators are expected to document all service coordination activities that take place during and outside of early intervention visits in the child’s IDEA/Part C electronic record in BRIDGES. These could include phone contacts, visits with the family, notes from face-to-face meetings with the family or other providers, email or text. All service coordination notes must be dated and signed.

## Service Coordination Transfers

### Service Coordination Transfers

From time to time there may be a need to change Service Coordinator providers. Instances may include:

- A request by the family.
- Relocation of the family.
- The resignation of a Service Coordinator.

### Steps for Transfer, No Change in District

The Service Coordinator initiating the transfer will discuss the need for change in Service Coordinator agency with the family. If the need for a transfer is confirmed, the Service Coordinator will advise the family of their options and follow the same referral procedures as documented for an initial referral to service coordination.

Once the transfer is confirmed, the current Service Coordinator will:

- Send Prior Written Notice to the family to notify them of change in Service Coordinator provider. Refer to procedures for IFSP reviews to determine if Administrative Change Review or Formal Change Review is required.
- Inform all EIS Providers working with the family of the change in Service Coordinator Provider and new IFSP team member.
- Complete the following activities in the IDEA/Part C electronic record:
  - o Ensure IFSP is current and finalized.
  - o Change the name of the current Service Coordinator to the supervisor of the receiving Service Coordinator.
  - o Document the date of transfer to Service Coordinator.
  - o Scan and securely e-mail the record to the Service Coordinator supervisor.

### Steps for Transfer with Change in District

For approved transfers that result in a child receiving services in a new region, the process for transferring the child is as follows:

Once the transfer is confirmed, the current Service Coordinator will take the following actions and document completion in the IDEA/Part C electronic record:

- Send Prior Written Notice to the family to notify them of change in Service Coordinator provider, and the proposed date for a Formal Change Review of the IFSP. Ensure IFSP is current and finalized prior to transfer, and the family has provided written consent to transfer the record to the new Service Coordinator provider.
- Inform all EIS Providers of the family's relocation and the date services end.
- Once the transfer is confirmed, the current Service Coordinator will complete the following activities in the IDEA/Part C electronic record:
  - o Document the date of transfer to the receiving Service Coordinator.
  - o Scan and securely e-mail the hard record to the receiving Service Coordinator supervisor.
  - o Document transfer of Service Coordinator provider and records.

Provide the BRIDGES identification number and the name and agency of the receiving Service Coordinator to the Regional Coordinator to request a BRIDGES transfer to the receiving IDEA/Part C district. Upon completion, the Regional Coordinator will notify the sending and receiving Service Coordinator Supervisors of the BRIDGES transfer. Regional Coordinator will document the date that BRIDGES transfer was completed in the Communication Log.

**Responsibilities of Receiving Service Coordinator Agency in all Service Coordinator Transfers**

The receiving Service Coordinator agency (Service Coordinator and/or Supervisor) will complete the following activities:

- Review information sent by referring Service Coordinator provider.
- Notify the sending Service Coordinator provider that the transfer is complete.
- Initiate contact with family within two working days to arrange a time for a change review of the IFSP.
- Follow procedures for completing the IFSP Change Review.