

*This newsletter will keep you informed about how the work is progressing.
A new issue will be released every four to six weeks.*

What is the SSIP?

Vermont's Part C Early Intervention services are known as Children's Integrated Services-Early Intervention (CIS-EI) services. Vermont CIS-EI supports families with young children who have developmental delays, or who are at risk of having developmental delays due to a medical condition, by providing services in accordance with Part C of the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA). CIS-EI does this in collaboration with a variety of partners. Knowing parents are their children's first and most important teachers, CIS-EI partners with families in their homes and community settings to provide services to support children's development.

To enhance Vermont CIS-EI's work, the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is requiring every state's Early Intervention program to develop a five-year plan. The state plan, known as the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), identifies a State Identified Measurable Result (SIMR) that will improve outcomes and the quality of life for infants and toddlers receiving CIS-EI services. Vermont CIS-EI, in collaboration with families and other partners, seeks to do this by supporting families to help their children develop and improve their social and emotional skills.

Supporting social and emotional development fosters positive relationships for children within their families, school and broader community. Doing this will help children now and in the future. Through the SSIP, CIS-EI will implement strategies that directly and positively impact families' ability to support their children's healthy social and emotional development. CIS-EI's goal is to increase infant and toddler's social and/or emotional functional skills.

Four Main Interconnected Strategies:

Targeted Supports: The Bennington, Brattleboro and Hartford regional teams are receiving targeted supports aimed at improving Child and Family Outcomes. These regions, with the State, met in person at the end of September and reviewed their regional root cause analysis. Assessments, prematurity and toxic stress were the common themes that arose. Their next steps will focus on identifying one or two improvement and evaluation strategies they may pursue to improve children's social and or emotional development. The next face to face meeting is scheduled for December with National Technical Assistance to refine evaluation methods.

Comprehensive System of Professional Development (CSPD): CIS will develop and promulgate a Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) with intensive technical assistance from the Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC). The first meeting was held the second week of October with the goal to identify the necessary stakeholders needed to complete this work.

Infrastructure Alignment: Through a collaboration with the Agency of Education and the Placement Stability Project through the Family Services Division, ten early interventions will attend a train-the-trainer ASQ-SE event. As a result, please be on the look-out for ASQ-SE trainings offered in your area in 2016!

Family Connections: Recruitment is underway to hire a Family Engagement coordinator. The CIS State team is also partnering with the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Promise Communities initiative to bring Robin Higgs to Vermont to deliver a "Parent Community Café" training. These cafés are meant to create a place for community discussions run by and for families. Once hired, one of the primary duties of the Family Engagement Coordinator will be to provide supports to families in the field who wish to host these cafes. Please visit our blog at <http://tinyurl.com/nhcjgld> to view the Family Engagement Coordinator posting, or at <http://tinyurl.com/p4a9wgp> for more information about the Parent Community Café.

SSIP in Action: A Regional Spotlight The CIS-EI staff in Bennington, in partnership with BBF, hosts a playgroup every Monday from 10:30-12:00 at the Bennington Free Library that is open to the public. This playgroup is staffed by CIS-EI professionals who engage in meaningful activities with the children and their families.

Estimated State Systemic Improvement Plan Schedule of Projects



For questions related to the SSIP, please contact Danielle Howes, Part C Coordinator at Danielle.Howes@vermont.gov