

Policy Hot Topic #1

4/6/2020

The Interim IFSP

a “temporary IFSP”

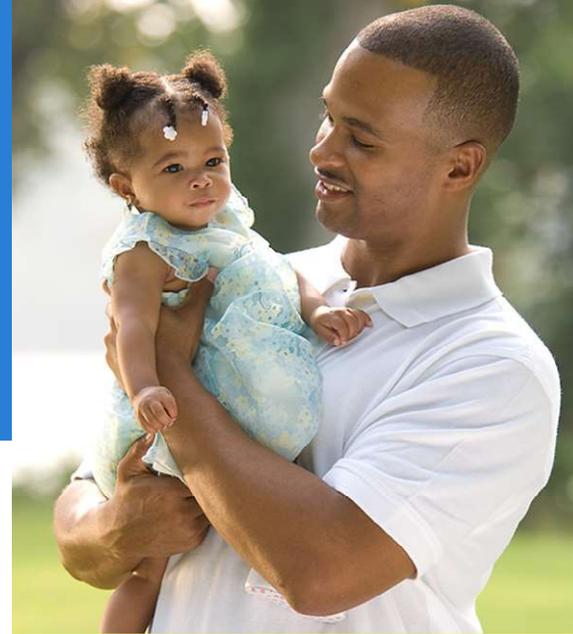
Interim IFSPs are not the same thing as a the “interim review” in CDS where a service coordinator can conduct an IFSP review between quarterly reviews (or re-enter an IFSP to correct a mistake or to make a needed change such as switching to the family’s second choice provider).

An Interim IFSP is used when a newly referred infant/toddler meets Part C Program eligibility, and there is a child/family need for support while waiting for the DT evaluation that is required for every child entering a Part C program. The assessment of strengths/needs in all five areas of development is an IDEA, Part C requirement.

Normally, using an Interim IFSP doesn’t “buy time” because the 45-day timeline from referral to initial IFSP still stands, so the Interim IFSP is rarely used unless the child/family has an urgent need while waiting for the DT evaluation to be completed. However, during the current public health emergency, an Interim IFSP can be used to support newly referred infants/toddlers and their families when the child meets Part C Program eligibility and the developmental evaluation cannot be completed via tele-intervention (teletherapy).

For an Interim IFSP meeting, there must be three roles. When no evaluation has been completed, there is not an evaluator/eval interp, so the three roles are: parent/SC/potential service provider. A service coordinator may use a therapist from the discipline in the area of the family’s main concern participate as the 3rd person by review / consultation / or written report who consults with or assists the service coordinator in developing the Interim IFSP with the parent around family-identified needs, priorities, and concerns.

NOTE: Some services will not be able to be provided without an evaluation (Speech, PT, OT) if Medicaid is the funding source. An Interim IFSP can offer developmental therapy to the family to support them in helping the child learn and develop while waiting for necessary evaluations.



When do I develop an Interim IFSP?

Supporting program-eligible children

The SC can develop an interim IFSP when:

- The child has a diagnosed (documented) condition and is eligible in the MD category
- The child has a recent evaluation (not a DT eval) showing a qualifying percent delay in one area (eligible in the DD category)
- The child/family moved here and has a current IFSP from another State’s Part C program* (eligible ICO only based on record review and child and family assessment)

*NOTE: the child may not meet First Connections program eligibility because eligibility requirements vary from state to state and some states serve “at risk” children, but Arkansas does not).