

AR Part C

FFY2014 State Performance Plan / Annual Performance Report

Introduction to the State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR)

Executive Summary:

The Arkansas Department of Human Services (ADHS) is the lead agency for the implementation and planning of the federal Part C grant. Within the ADHS, the Division of Developmental Disability Services, Children Services is responsible for the management of activities related to the administration of the Part C program. First Connection is the official program name for the Arkansas Part C program.

The First Connections program has five uniquely formed units responsible for major system development. Units are as following: Fiscal Management, Data Management, Comprehensive System of Professional Development Management, Program Management and Quality Assurance/ Monitoring, Licensure and Certification Management. Staff within each unit develop, analyze, coordinate and review all aspects of the system to ensure that Early Intervention Service(EIS) providers and staff comply with federal regulations and state policy/procedures.

ADHS has Voucher Agreements with independent programs to provide supports and services on behalf of the Part C program. The work of the First Connection program is guided by a general supervision system that assist EIS providers by providing training and technical assistance and programmatic administrative oversight to ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

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General Supervision System:

The systems that are in place to ensure that IDEA Part C requirements are met, e.g., monitoring systems, dispute resolution systems.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disability Services is responsible for the administration of the Part C statewide comprehensive program, formally known as First Connections. Arkansas' General Supervision System is comprised of policies and procedures that line up with Part C requirements to ensure that Early Intervention Service(EIS) programs are meeting federal and state requirements. First Connections has a Program and Quality Assurance/Monitoring Unit to oversee local program compliance with policies and procedures as stipulated in the monitoring manual.

During the 2015 reporting period, Arkansas' Part C program received full approval of the revised First Connections Policy Manual. Agency staff, distributed the approved policy to all EIS programs outlining the changes for guidance and clarification. Throughout the year, the monitoring staff use the Comprehensive Data System (CDS) to examine child records to ensure compliance with timelines and other program requirements. As part of the monitoring process, all EIS providers received an onsite record review on a three year monitoring cycle, however, programs who have ongoing concerns may receive visits at any time. Monitoring data described in the APR were acquired through the CDS and from desk audits, as well as, from interviews with local program staff as required.

Administrative staff developed additional tools to assist the monitoring staff in performing a thorough assessment of the EIS programs records. Also, the monitoring unit has other items available to ensure that local programs are provided the most up to date information to improve overall program performance.

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Technical Assistance System:

The mechanisms that the State has in place to ensure the timely delivery of high quality, evidenced based technical assistance and support to early intervention service (EIS) programs.

Arkansas Part C staff from multiple units, i.e. Professional Development, Monitoring, Data, and Fiscal management work collaboratively to provide ongoing Technical Assistance to state service coordinators and EIS providers. Team members from respective units carefully examine program data on an continual basis to identify strengths and weakness, to assist in creating quality action plans and assigning follow up as needed.

Administrative staff systematically reference the philosophy and guiding principles of Early Intervention and provide clarification for best practices. Agency staff also educate EIS providers regarding state and federal requirements as additional guidance. The Lead Agency provides technical assistance through various mechanisms that includes, but is not limited to any combination of the following: Informal discussion with providers, clarification on requested record review, written policy briefs or clarifications, conference calls and webinars, in-service training, provider meetings or onsite assistance. EIS providers are also given technical assistance in response to questions and requests for assistance. Arkansas has assigned staff that addresses program related calls, letters, emails and request for assistance. State staff review the request and determines who would be the most appropriate person to assist with clarification. Based on the scope of the request, there might be a need to refer the matter to the Policy Manager and/ or the Part C Coordinator.

First Connections maintains effective partnerships throughout the state to increase the capacity of the delivery of supports and services to infants and toddlers birth to three. Arkansas Part C continues to receive high quality technical assistance and valuable resources from our national partners: Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA Center), IDEA Data Center (IDC), National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI), and from the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSY). Throughout the reporting period, Lead Agency staff has taken advantage of conference calls, webinars, and other professional development opportunities made available through OSEP and OSEP national technical assistance programs. Lead Agency staff attended national conferences and other Part C related meetings to ensure appropriate program administration.

Attachments

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Professional Development System:

The mechanisms the State has in place to ensure that service providers are effectively providing services that improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

The Arkansas Professional Development System involves many organized elements that include: face to face trainings, onsite coaching, formal assessment of program needs, webinars, technical assistance, evaluation of presentations and follow-up.

Statewide training and the use of targeted materials, that with providing clarity to ensure effective implementation of the requirements under Part C and First Connection policy. First Connections' ultimate goal of training activities, is to ensure accountability and promote recommended and evidence-based practices in meeting the needs of infants and toddlers and their families.

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Stakeholder Involvement: apply this to all Part C results indicators

FFY 2014 Part C State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR)

The mechanism for soliciting broad stakeholder input on targets in the SPP, including revisions to targets.

Arkansas' State Interagency Coordinating Council serves as the primary stakeholder group for First Connections, providing ongoing guidance and input into the program development. Multiple opportunities for input are made available throughout the year. Part C program information and updates are provided regularly via email and routinely at each quarterly ICC meeting . The ICC has provided guidance on the SPP/APR, SIPP, data requirements, training activities and improvements and local Early Intervention Service Program status.

During the 2014-2015 reporting period, Arkansas' Part C program also collaborated with various stakeholders within the state, such as: Arkansas Department of Education, Arkansas Medicaid, Arkansas Head Start Association, Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas School for the Deaf, local Early Intervention Providers, Zero to Three the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Division of Children and Family Services , Arkansas Disability Coalition and Division of Developmental Disabilities Services Administrative Personnel .

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Reporting to the Public:

How and where the State reported to the public on the FFY 2013 performance of each EIS Program or Provider located in the State on the targets in the SPP/APR as soon as practicable, but no later than 120 days following the State's submission of its FFY 2013 APR, as required by 34 CFR §300.602(b)(1)(i)(A); and a description of where, on its Web site, a complete copy of the State's SPP, including any revision if the State has revised the SPP that it submitted with its FFY 2013 APR in 2015, is available.

A complete copy of the SPP/APR can be found on the Arkansas First Connections website at www.arkansas.gov/dhs/ddds/FirstConn . Also as required, the Lead Agency reported to the public on the state's website the performance of each local early intervention program status in meeting the states targets. Arkansas' Part C Administrative staff completed program determinations for all First Connections providers in the required areas as instructed in OSEP guidance documents.

Attachments

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Actions required in FFY 2013 response

None

OSEP Response

Required Actions

Indicator 1: Timely provision of services

Monitoring Priority: Early Intervention Services In Natural Environments

Compliance indicator: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who receive the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A) and 1442)

Historical Data

Baseline Data: 2005

| FFY | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Target | | | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Data | | 94.90% | 77.00% | 88.40% | 82.00% | 95.00% | 90.00% | 91.00% | 91.00% | 88.52% |

Key:  Gray – Data Prior to Baseline  Yellow – Baseline

FFY 2014 - FFY 2018 Targets

| FFY | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Target | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

FFY 2014 SPP/APR Data

| Number of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who receive the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner | Total number of infants and toddlers with IFSPs | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|---|---|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 318 | 370 | 88.52% | 100% | 100% |

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of documented delays attributable to exceptional family circumstances (this number will be added to the Number of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who receive their early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner) | 52 |
|---|----|

What is the source of the data provided for this indicator?

- State monitoring
- State database

Provide the time period in which the data were collected (e.g., September through December, fourth quarter, selection from the full reporting period).

The Arkansas Part C program carefully chose the time period of February 1- April 30, 2015 to collect data to represent reporting for the full fiscal year. (2014)

Describe how the data accurately reflect data for infants and toddlers with IFSPs for the full reporting period.

Program data for this indicator is collected from the state's Comprehensive Data System (CDS). The First Connections Data Unit staff uses the inquiry process to validate the information gathered in the states data system. Data is collected from state service coordinators and local service providers. EIS providers use the CDS to report data on the infants and toddlers within their program. Also, providers and staff use the system to create an electronic record for each First Connections infants and toddlers.

The CDS was designed to capture and display data that accurately indicates the status of the infant and toddlers record at any given period of time. Part C staff are allowed direct

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access to the EIS providers electronic record and work together to address concerns connected to the children enrolled in their program. The data system allows for a direct flow of information from each user to the Lead Agency. Also, included in the system, as a part of the child's record, the start date of the IFSP, the first date of service that the child received as indicated on the IFSP.

For IFSP with dates starting a February 1- April 30, 2015, data was pulled and sent to each EIS provider for validation and submission back to the Data Unit . Since the program's move to the CDS, the data was chosen for this time period to ensure the quality of the data reported. Arkansas Part C selected the time period close to the end of the year to give new state staff and EIS providers additional time to improve their skill level as it relates to navigating the interrelated parts of the system. Also, to confirm the quality of the data; adequate time was needed for verification of the information submitted. Arkansas Data Manager examined data that was reported for this time period to data for the full year (FFY2014) and established that it is representative of a full year of the state's data because the data includes all areas of the state, all provider types and all categories of eligible children.

Actions required in FFY 2013 response

None

Correction of Findings of Noncompliance Identified in FFY 2013

| Findings of Noncompliance Identified | Findings of Noncompliance Verified as Corrected Within One Year | Findings of Noncompliance Subsequently Corrected | Findings Not Yet Verified as Corrected |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 |

FFY 2013 Findings of Noncompliance Verified as Corrected

Describe how the State verified that the source of noncompliance is correctly implementing the regulatory requirements

Upon the identification of noncompliance, the EIS provider issued a finding in writing and required to correct the noncompliance within 90 days of notification. As a part of subsequent examination, First Connections monitoring staff reviewed a percentage of provider records to ensure that all infants and toddlers receive services listed on the IFSP within 30 days of the parental consent for services.

Also, the Lead Agency's staff reviewed a percentage of updated records from each EIS provider to determine if providers are initiating services of subsequent infants and toddlers in the required time frame. Arkansas Part C staff conducted this procedure in accordance with guidance provided in OSEP Memorandum 09-02, dated October 17, 2008 (OSEP Memo 09-02). Administrative staff determined that each EIS provider for whom data formerly showed noncompliance has corrected the noncompliance and is correctly implementing the regulatory requirement for infants and toddlers with IFSPs to receive their services in the required time frame.

Describe how the State verified that each individual case of noncompliance was corrected

First Connections monitoring staff examined individual records of each infant or toddler for whom services were not started within 30 days of parent consent; to ensure that children were receiving services as written on their IFSP's. The review of records for FFY 2013 showed that children who had not received timely services were indeed receiving the services on the IFSP, even though later than the required.

OSEP Response

The State reported that it used data from a State database to report on this indicator. The State further reported that it did not use data for the full reporting period (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015). The State described how the time period in which the data were collected accurately reflects data for infants and toddlers with IFSPs for the full reporting period.

Required Actions

Indicator 2: Services in Natural Environments

Monitoring Priority: Early Intervention Services In Natural Environments

Results indicator: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or community-based settings.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A) and 1442)

Historical Data

Baseline Data: 2005

| FFY | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|----------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Target ≥ | | | 64.00% | 68.00% | 70.00% | 72.00% | 45.50% | 45.75% | 46.00% | 70.00% |
| Data | | 62.95% | 52.72% | 46.00% | 42.00% | 45.00% | 38.00% | 32.00% | 33.00% | 74.38% |

Key: Gray – Data Prior to Baseline Yellow – Baseline Blue – Data Update

FFY 2014 - FFY 2018 Targets

| FFY | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Target ≥ | 73.00% | 76.00% | 79.00% | 82.00% | 85.00% |

Key:

Targets: Description of Stakeholder Input - Please see the Stakeholder Involvement section of the [introduction](#).

Enter additional information about stakeholder involvement

Information and updates are provided to the ICC during quarterly ICC meetings regarding the states progress in achieving set targets. Lead Agency staff continued to work in collaboration with other partners to: deliver services to infants and toddlers in the natural environment, to provide supports to families to help them support their children's development and to develop resources to support programs. Throughout the year, Lead Agency staff provided updates to the ICC including revising and/or updating improvement strategies and reviewing program data as needed.

Prepopulated Data

| Source | Date | Description | Data | Overwrite Data |
|--|----------|---|-------|----------------|
| SY 2014-15 Child Count/Educational Environment Data Groups | 7/2/2015 | Number of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or community-based settings | 852 | |
| SY 2014-15 Child Count/Educational Environment Data Groups | 7/2/2015 | Total number of infants and toddlers with IFSPs | 1,144 | |

FFY 2014 SPP/APR Data

| Number of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or community-based settings | Total number of infants and toddlers with IFSPs | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|---|---|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 852 | 1,144 | 74.38% | 73.00% | 74.48% |

Actions required in FFY 2013 response

None

OSEP Response

Required Actions

Indicator 3: Early Childhood Outcomes

Monitoring Priority: Early Intervention Services In Natural Environments

Results indicator: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved:

- A. Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships);
- B. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/ communication); and
- C. Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A) and 1442)

Does your State's Part C eligibility criteria include infants and toddlers who are at risk of having substantial developmental delays (or "at-risk infants and toddlers") under IDEA section 632(5)(B)(i)? No

Historical Data

| | Baseline Year | FFY | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|----|---------------|----------|------|------|------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| A1 | 2008 | Target ≥ | | | | | | 56.50% | 56.75% | 56.00% | 56.25% | 60.00% |
| | | Data | | | | | 56.00% | 67.00% | 66.00% | 70.00% | 59.00% | 68.13% |
| A2 | 2008 | Target ≥ | | | | | | 24.50% | 24.75% | 25.00% | 25.25% | 30.00% |
| | | Data | | | | | 24.00% | 23.00% | 25.00% | 41.00% | 22.00% | 32.49% |
| B1 | 2008 | Target ≥ | | | | | | 52.50% | 52.75% | 53.00% | 53.25% | 63.00% |
| | | Data | | | | | 53.00% | 65.00% | 64.00% | 69.00% | 60.00% | 68.52% |
| B2 | 2008 | Target ≥ | | | | | | 20.50% | 20.75% | 21.00% | 21.25% | 28.00% |
| | | Data | | | | | 20.00% | 23.00% | 25.00% | 39.00% | 21.00% | 34.32% |
| C1 | 2008 | Target ≥ | | | | | | 56.25% | 56.50% | 56.75% | 57.00% | 60.00% |
| | | Data | | | | | 56.00% | 65.00% | 64.00% | 69.00% | 58.00% | 66.28% |
| C2 | 2008 | Target ≥ | | | | | | 22.50% | 22.75% | 23.00% | 23.25% | 28.00% |
| | | Data | | | | | 22.00% | 21.00% | 26.00% | 41.00% | 23.00% | 34.50% |

Key: Gray – Data Prior to Baseline Yellow – Baseline Blue – Data Update

FFY 2014 - FFY 2018 Targets

| FFY | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Target A1 ≥ | 61.00% | 62.00% | 63.00% | 64.00% | 65.00% |
| Target A2 ≥ | 31.00% | 31.25% | 31.50% | 31.75% | 32.00% |
| Target B1 ≥ | 62.00% | 62.50% | 62.75% | 62.75% | 63.00% |
| Target B2 ≥ | 30.00% | 31.00% | 33.00% | 33.00% | 34.00% |
| Target C1 ≥ | 61.00% | 62.75% | 63.00% | 63.00% | 63.25% |
| Target C2 ≥ | 30.00% | 32.00% | 33.00% | 33.00% | 34.00% |

Key:

Explanation of Changes

In response to OSEP's notice of the pre-population error, I am updating the targets to what they should be for Summary Statement A2.

Targets: Description of Stakeholder Input - Please see the Stakeholder Involvement section of the [introduction](#).

Enter additional information about stakeholder involvement

The First Connection program continues to maintain partnerships with stakeholders throughout the course of the 2014 reporting period. Quarterly program updates at the ICC meetings provide the members and guest an opportunity to better understand the APR performance indicators and the state's performance in each area. Member feedback and suggestions provided on an ongoing basis allows the First Connection program to set priorities and targets, and identify strategies to improve results for children and families.

FFY 2014 SPP/APR Data

| | |
|---|--------|
| Number of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed | 615.00 |
|---|--------|

Outcome A: Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships)

| | Number of Children | Percentage of Children |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|
| a. Infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning | 16.00 | 2.60% |
| b. Infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers | 74.00 | 12.03% |
| c. Infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it | 236.00 | 38.37% |
| d. Infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers | 172.00 | 27.97% |
| e. Infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers | 117.00 | 19.02% |

| | Numerator | Denominator | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|--|-----------|-------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| A1. Of those children who entered or exited the program below age expectations in Outcome A, the percent who substantially increased their rate of growth by the time they turned 3 years of age or exited the program $(c+d)/(a+b+c+d)$. | 408.00 | 498.00 | 68.13% | 61.00% | 81.93% |
| A2. The percent of infants and toddlers who were functioning within age expectations in Outcome A by the time they turned 3 years of age or exited the program $(d+e)/(a+b+c+d+e)$. | 289.00 | 615.00 | 32.49% | 31.00% | 46.99% |

Outcome B. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/ communication)

| | Number of Children | Percentage of Children |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|
| a. Infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning | 34.00 | 5.53% |
| b. Infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers | 111.00 | 18.05% |
| c. Infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it | 225.00 | 36.59% |
| d. Infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers | 144.00 | 23.41% |
| e. Infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers | 101.00 | 16.42% |

| | Numerator | Denominator | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|--|-----------|-------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| B1. Of those children who entered or exited the program below age expectations in Outcome B, the percent who substantially increased their rate of growth by the time they turned 3 years of age or exited the program $(c+d)/(a+b+c+d)$. | 369.00 | 514.00 | 68.52% | 62.00% | 71.79% |
| B2. The percent of infants and toddlers who were functioning within age expectations in Outcome B by the time they turned 3 years of age or exited the program $(d+e)/(a+b+c+d+e)$. | 245.00 | 615.00 | 34.32% | 30.00% | 39.84% |

Outcome C: Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs

| | Number of Children | Percentage of Children |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|
| a. Infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning | 30.00 | 4.88% |
| b. Infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers | 80.00 | 13.01% |
| c. Infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it | 250.00 | 40.65% |
| d. Infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers | 164.00 | 26.67% |
| e. Infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers | 91.00 | 14.80% |

| | Numerator | Denominator | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|--|-----------|-------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| C1. Of those children who entered or exited the program below age expectations in Outcome C, the percent who substantially increased their rate of growth by the time they turned 3 years of age or exited the program $(c+d)/(a+b+c+d)$. | 414.00 | 524.00 | 66.28% | 61.00% | 79.01% |
| C2. The percent of infants and toddlers who were functioning within age expectations in Outcome C by the time they turned 3 years of age or exited the program $(d+e)/(a+b+c+d+e)$. | 255.00 | 615.00 | 34.50% | 30.00% | 41.46% |

Was sampling used? No

Did you use the Early Childhood Outcomes Center (ECO) Child Outcomes Summary Form (COSF)? Yes

Actions required in FFY 2013 response

None

OSEP Response

Required Actions

Indicator 4: Family Involvement

Monitoring Priority: Early Intervention Services In Natural Environments

Results indicator: Percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family:

- A. Know their rights;
- B. Effectively communicate their children's needs; and
- C. Help their children develop and learn.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A) and 1442)

Historical Data

| | Baseline Year | FFY | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|---|---------------|----------|------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| A | 2006 | Target ≥ | | | | | 77.00% | 78.00% | 80.00% | 80.25% | 80.25% | 80.00% |
| | | Data | | | 59.00% | 62.00% | 65.10% | 65.00% | 67.90% | 64.20% | 68.00% | 75.00% |
| B | 2006 | Target ≥ | | | | | 67.00% | 68.00% | 70.00% | 70.25% | 70.25% | 80.00% |
| | | Data | | | 70.00% | 67.50% | 70.30% | 69.00% | 71.30% | 67.90% | 71.00% | 81.00% |
| C | 2006 | Target ≥ | | | | | 84.00% | 85.00% | 87.00% | 87.25% | 87.25% | 80.00% |
| | | Data | | | 71.00% | 70.80% | 72.80% | 73.00% | 75.90% | 73.20% | 75.00% | 80.00% |

Key: Gray – Data Prior to Baseline Yellow – Baseline Blue – Data Update

FFY 2014 - FFY 2018 Targets

| FFY | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Target A ≥ | 82.00% | 84.00% | 86.00% | 88.00% | 90.00% |
| Target B ≥ | 82.00% | 84.00% | 86.00% | 88.00% | 90.00% |
| Target C ≥ | 82.00% | 84.00% | 86.00% | 88.00% | 90.00% |

Key:

Targets: Description of Stakeholder Input - Please see the Stakeholder Involvement section of the [introduction](#).

Enter additional information about stakeholder involvement

The Lead Agency program continue to work in partnership with the state ICC, program stakeholders and technical assistance agencies to review family outcomes data and the process the state has in place to gather the information from families. During the past several years the state has had concerns regarding the number of survey responses, and an analysis of the data for family outcomes led the program to implementing changes that included a revision of the family survey, provision of additional supports to staff and EIS providers and increase awareness regarding family outcomes. First Connections staff reviewed family outcomes data with the Interagency Coordination Council and consulted on new targets as needed.

FFY 2014 SPP/APR Data

| | |
|---|--------|
| Number of respondent families participating in Part C | 405.00 |
| A1. Number of respondent families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family know their rights | 319.00 |
| A2. Number of responses to the question of whether early intervention services have helped the family know their rights | 404.00 |
| B1. Number of respondent families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family effectively communicate their children's needs | 329.00 |

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| | |
|--|--------|
| B2. Number of responses to the question of whether early intervention services have helped the family effectively communicate their children's needs | 402.00 |
| C1. Number of respondent families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family help their children develop and learn | 354.00 |
| C2. Number of responses to the question of whether early intervention services have helped the family help their children develop and learn | 403.00 |

| | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|--|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| A. Percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family know their rights | 75.00% | 82.00% | 78.96% |
| B. Percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family effectively communicate their children's needs | 81.00% | 82.00% | 81.84% |
| C. Percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family help their children develop and learn | 80.00% | 82.00% | 87.84% |

Describe how the State has ensured that any response data are valid and reliable, including how the data represent the demographics of the State.

During the course of the 2014 reporting period the Arkansas Data Unit mailed out 1200 surveys to parents of infants and toddlers who had an active IFSP. Part C families were provided numerous ways to reply to the survey, hard copy via mail, telephone and the Lead Agency website. The following demographics were collected from all respondents : county of residence, child's race and ethnicity and child's EIS provider. As requested, Arkansas families completed and returned surveys . The Lead Agency received survey responses from all 75 counties in the state showing representation of all areas of the state and by race and ethnicity categories of the population of families in Arkansas Part C program.

Was sampling used? No

Was a collection tool used? No

Actions required in FFY 2013 response

None

OSEP Response

Required Actions

Indicator 5: Child Find (Birth to One)

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Child Find

Results indicator: Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs compared to national data.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Historical Data

Baseline Data: 2005

| FFY | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|----------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Target ≥ | | | 0.42% | 0.45% | 0.66% | 0.55% | 0.55% | 0.57% | 0.58% | 0.45% |
| Data | | 0.39% | 1.02% | 0.72% | 0.66% | 0.61% | 0.96% | 0.85% | 1.01% | 0.44% |

Key: Gray – Data Prior to Baseline Yellow – Baseline Blue – Data Update

FFY 2014 - FFY 2018 Targets

| FFY | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Target ≥ | 0.45% | 0.47% | 0.48% | 0.49% | 0.50% |

Key:

Targets: Description of Stakeholder Input - Please see the Stakeholder Involvement section of the [introduction](#).

Enter additional information about stakeholder involvement

Throughout the reporting period, Arkansas' Part C program collaborated with various stakeholders within the state. The Lead Agency collaborated with different partners to ensure development and implementation of child find activities for infant's birth to one. First Connections staff and agency associates collaborated with Pediatricians offices, child care providers, and family members to design pamphlets, brochures and other promotional items to assist in reaching parents, child care providers, physicians, and other referral sources. Part C staff conducted a review of Arkansas' birth to one, child find data with the states Interagency Coordinating Council to discuss current activities and establish new targets. The review process consists of agency staff, guiding council members through an examination of current data and procedures. This process leads the Part C program in setting targets and strategies.

Prepopulated Data

| Source | Date | Description | Data | Overwrite Data |
|--|----------|--|--------|----------------|
| SY 2014-15 Child Count/Educational Environment Data Groups | 7/2/2015 | Number of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs | 137 | null |
| U.S. Census Annual State Resident Population Estimates April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013 | 4/3/2014 | Population of infants and toddlers birth to 1 | 37,936 | null |

FFY 2014 SPP/APR Data

| Number of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs | Population of infants and toddlers birth to 1 | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|--|---|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 137 | 37,936 | 0.44% | 0.45% | 0.36% |

Actions required in FFY 2013 response

None

OSEP Response

Required Actions

Indicator 6: Child Find (Birth to Three)

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Child Find

Results indicator: Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs compared to national data.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Historical Data

Baseline Data: 2005

| FFY | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|----------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Target ≥ | | | 2.25% | 2.78% | 2.30% | 2.35% | 2.37% | 2.37% | 2.37% | 1.20% |
| Data | | 2.25% | 2.75% | 2.34% | 2.33% | 2.19% | 2.75% | 2.73% | 2.72% | 1.19% |

Key: Gray – Data Prior to Baseline Yellow – Baseline Blue – Data Update

FFY 2014 - FFY 2018 Targets

| FFY | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Target ≥ | 1.30% | 1.40% | 1.50% | 1.80% | 1.90% |

Key:

Targets: Description of Stakeholder Input - Please see the Stakeholder Involvement section of the [introduction](#).

Enter additional information about stakeholder involvement

During the course of the APR period, First Connections program engaged in joint effects with several stakeholders within the state. Arkansas collaborated with different partners to develop and implement child find activities for infants and toddlers birth to three. First Connections Professional Development team members and other agency partners designed brochures, pamphlets, and other promotional items to assist in reaching parents, physicians, child care providers, and other referral sources. Also, Lead Agency staff completed a review of First Connections birth to three child find data with the Interagency Coordinating Council. The overview is guided by agency staff and assist council members through an analysis of current data and procedures. This process assists the Lead Agency in establishing program targets and strategies. First Connections staff and agency associates collaborated with pediatricians offices, child care providers, and family members to design pamphlets, brochures and other promotional items to assist in reaching parents, child care providers, physicians, and other referral sources. Part C staff reviewed Arkansas birth to three child find data with the states Interagency Coordinating Council to discuss current activities and establish new targets.

Prepopulated Data

| Source | Date | Description | Data | Overwrite Data |
|--|----------|--|---------|----------------|
| SY 2014-15 Child Count/Educational Environment Data Groups | 7/2/2015 | Number of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs | 1,144 | |
| U.S. Census Annual State Resident Population Estimates April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014 | 7/2/2015 | Population of infants and toddlers birth to 3 | 114,914 | |

FFY 2014 SPP/APR Data

| Number of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs | Population of infants and toddlers birth to 3 | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|--|---|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1,144 | 114,914 | 1.19% | 1.30% | 1.00% |

Explanation of Slippage

FFY 2014 Part C State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR)

For many of years, First Connections included children who received services in center-based programs designed to treat children with disabilities known as Developmental Day Treatment Centers (DDTCS). These centers pre-dated Part H and are not, by definition, considered natural environments. In July of 2013, Arkansas Part C underwent a massive reorganization process that enabled the DDTCS to cease providing services under Part C. In accordance with that change, as anticipated, the child count numbers declined. Since the reorganization, Arkansas First Connections has continued its work to implement strategies to improve and increase the percentage of infants and toddlers birth to three with IFSP's compared to national data. We believe that a number of activities outlined in the State Systemic Improvement Plan will help us to identify more children. In addition, we're aligning Lead Agency efforts with other programs and initiatives to increase and support child find.

Actions required in FFY 2013 response

None

OSEP Response

Required Actions

Indicator 7: 45-day timeline

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Child Find

Compliance indicator: Percent of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an initial evaluation and initial assessment and an initial IFSP meeting were conducted within Part C's 45-day timeline.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Historical Data

Baseline Data: 2005

| FFY | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Target | | | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Data | | 75.80% | 84.00% | 88.00% | 82.00% | 99.00% | 94.00% | 92.00% | 93.00% | 88.11% |

Key: Gray – Data Prior to Baseline Yellow – Baseline

FFY 2014 - FFY 2018 Targets

| FFY | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Target | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

FFY 2014 SPP/APR Data

| Number of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an initial evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting was conducted within Part C's 45-day timeline | Number of eligible infants and toddlers evaluated and assessed for whom an initial IFSP meeting was required to be conducted | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|--|--|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 137 | 241 | 88.11% | 100% | 87.97% |

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of documented delays attributable to exceptional family circumstances (this number will be added to the Number of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an initial evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting was conducted within Part C's 45-day timeline) | 75 |
|--|----|

What is the source of the data provided for this indicator?

- State monitoring
- State database

Provide the time period in which the data were collected (e.g., September through December, fourth quarter, selection from the full reporting period).

Arkansas Part C selected the time period from January 1- March 30, 2015, to collect data to represent reporting for the full fiscal year. (2014)

Describe how the data accurately reflect data for infants and toddlers with IFSPs for the full reporting period.

The Lead Agency's Data Unit, used information gathered from the Comprehensive Data System to precisely report the percentage of infants and toddlers receiving evaluations, assessments and IFSP meetings within the required time frame. Arkansas' data system is used by EIS providers to report data on the infants and toddlers receiving provide supports and services. The CDS was developed to capture and display data that reflects the status of the infant and toddlers early intervention record.

FFY 2014 Part C State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR)

In the CDS, each child's file includes the following items ; start date of the IFSP and the first date of service as indicated on the child's IFSP. During the course of the reporting period, Part C staff are given access to the EIS providers electronic record work together to assist in finding a solution to address concerns surrounding the children they serve. This information is collected from Independent Service providers, state service coordinators and License Community Programs. Data was pulled for IFSP, with dates starting January 1- March 30, 2015 and sent to each EIS provider for verification and returned. Part C, with extreme care selected this time period in order to capture the same children as reported in Indicator 1 .

With guidance from the Data Manager, staff examined if the children who received their services in a timely manner also had an evaluation and assessment and IFSP developed in 45 days. In order to ensure the accuracy of the data; adequate time was given for verification of program data. A final analysis of all information was provided by the Data Manager regarding data that was reported for this time period to data for the full year (FFY2015) and determined that it is reflective of a full year of data.

Actions required in FFY 2013 response

None

Correction of Findings of Noncompliance Identified in FFY 2013

| Findings of Noncompliance Identified | Findings of Noncompliance Verified as Corrected Within One Year | Findings of Noncompliance Subsequently Corrected | Findings Not Yet Verified as Corrected |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| null | null | null | 0 |

OSEP Response

The State reported that it used data from a State database to report on this indicator. The State further reported that it did not use data for the full reporting period (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015). The State described how the time period in which the data were collected accurately reflects data for infants and toddlers with IFSPs for the full reporting period.

Because the State reported less than 100% compliance for FFY 2014, the State must report on the status of correction of noncompliance identified in FFY 2014 for this indicator. When reporting on the correction of noncompliance, the State must report, in the FFY 2015 SPP/APR, that it has verified that each EIS program or provider with noncompliance identified in FFY 2014 for this indicator: (1) is correctly implementing the specific regulatory requirements (i.e., achieved 100% compliance) based on a review of updated data such as data subsequently collected through on-site monitoring or a State data system; and (2) has corrected each individual case of noncompliance, unless the child is no longer within the jurisdiction of the EIS program or provider, consistent with OSEP Memo 09-02.

In the FFY 2015 SPP/APR, the State must describe the specific actions that were taken to verify the correction.

If the State did not identify any findings of noncompliance in FFY 2014, although its FFY 2014 data reflect less than 100% compliance, provide an explanation of why the State did not identify any findings of noncompliance in FFY 2014.

Required Actions

Indicator 8A: Early Childhood Transition

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Effective Transition

Compliance indicator: The percentage of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C with timely transition planning for whom the Lead Agency has:

- A. Developed an IFSP with transition steps and services at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months, prior to the toddler's third birthday;
- B. Notified (consistent with any opt-out policy adopted by the State) the SEA and the LEA where the toddler resides at least 90 days prior to the toddler's third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B preschool services; and
- C. Conducted the transition conference held with the approval of the family at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months, prior to the toddler's third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B preschool services.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Historical Data

Baseline Data: 2005

| FFY | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Target | | | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Data | | 54.00% | 99.00% | 55.00% | 88.00% | 96.00% | 91.00% | 90.00% | 96.00% | 85.14% |

Key: Gray – Data Prior to Baseline Yellow – Baseline

FFY 2014 - FFY 2018 Targets

| FFY | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Target | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

FFY 2014 SPP/APR Data

Data include only those toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C with timely transition planning for whom the Lead Agency has developed an IFSP with transition steps and services at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months, prior to the toddler's third birthday.

- Yes
- No

| Number of children exiting Part C who have an IFSP with transition steps and services | Number of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|---|---|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 242 | 263 | 85.14% | 100% | 92.02% |

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of documented delays attributable to exceptional family circumstances (this number will be added to the Number of children exiting Part C who have an IFSP with transition steps and services) | 0 |
|---|---|

What is the source of the data provided for this indicator?

- State monitoring



Provide the time period in which the data were collected (e.g., September through December, fourth quarter, selection from the full reporting period).

The time period for which the data were collected is July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 (the full reporting period).

Describe how the data accurately reflect data for infants and toddlers with IFSPs for the full reporting period.

The data for indicator 8 was acquired from the Comprehensive Data System (CDS). Data Unit staff uses the inquiry process to validate the information collected in the Part C database. Information is gathered from each provider types within the state. CDS is used by EIS providers to report data on the infants and toddlers within their program. The database is also used to generate an electronic record for each infant and toddler. The Lead Agency developed the data system to capture and display data that reflects the status of the infant and toddlers file. In order to assist in resolving data issues, Part C staff are given direct access to the EIS providers electronic file. As a part of the child's record, the system includes , steps and services listed on the child's IFSP. Starting July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015 data was pulled from IFSP's and forwarded to each EIS provider for verification and returned back to the data unit. Data was selected for this time period to ensure that staff had proper time understand the requirements surrounding implementation of data into the CDS. First Connections selected the period of time close the end of the year to give the state staff and EIS providers additional time to master the system. Also, to confirm the accurateness of the information; appropriate time was necessary for verification. Upon completion of the analysis, the Data Manager reviewed data that was reported for this period of time to data for the full year (FFY2014) and determined that it is representative of a full year.

Actions required in FFY 2013 response

None

Correction of Findings of Noncompliance Identified in FFY 2013

| Findings of Noncompliance Identified | Findings of Noncompliance Verified as Corrected Within One Year | Findings of Noncompliance Subsequently Corrected | Findings Not Yet Verified as Corrected |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |

FFY 2013 Findings of Noncompliance Verified as Corrected

Describe how the State verified that the source of noncompliance is correctly implementing the regulatory requirements

Arkansas Part C Quality Assurance staff issued official notification letters to EIS providers advising them of their non-compliance. The letter informed local providers of their scores in connection to transition steps. EIS provider notification letters cited the federal regulations and informed them that they have to ensure that all children receive timely transition planning and that they must correct all noncompliance. Procedures outlined in the Arkansas' monitoring manual gives the providers 90 days to correct identified noncompliance, however, correction must be made no later than one year from the date of notification.

Part C staff also verified that each program previously cited for noncompliance is correctly implementing the specific regulatory requirements based on the staff review of updated data from the Comprehensive Data System indicating continued compliance with this indicator.

Describe how the State verified that each individual case of noncompliance was corrected

As a part of First Connections verification process, monitoring staff conducts the process of verifying correction of noncompliance for each provider that is cited for noncompliance. The process involves an analysis of files for toddlers who did not receive timely transition planning and were not in compliance with requirements to verify that the children received transition services (steps) although late, unless that child is no longer within the jurisdiction of the program. Part C staff verified that all noncompliance was corrected within one year of notification.

OSEP Response

Because the State reported less than 100% compliance for FFY 2014, the State must report on the status of correction of noncompliance identified in FFY 2014 for this indicator. When reporting on the correction of noncompliance, the State must report, in the FFY 2015 SPP/APR, that it has verified that each EIS program or provider with noncompliance identified in FFY 2014 for this indicator: (1) is correctly implementing the specific regulatory requirements (i.e., achieved 100% compliance) based on a review of updated data such as data subsequently collected through on-site monitoring or a State data system; and (2) has corrected each individual case of noncompliance, unless the child is no longer within the jurisdiction of the EIS program or provider, consistent with OSEP Memo 09-02.

In the FFY 2015 SPP/APR, the State must describe the specific actions that were taken to verify the correction.

FFY 2014 Part C State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR)

If the State did not identify any findings of noncompliance in FFY 2014, although its FFY 2014 data reflect less than 100% compliance, provide an explanation of why the State did not identify any findings of noncompliance in FFY 2014.

Required Actions

Indicator 8B: Early Childhood Transition

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Effective Transition

Compliance indicator: The percentage of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C with timely transition planning for whom the Lead Agency has:

- A. Developed an IFSP with transition steps and services at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months, prior to the toddler's third birthday;
- B. Notified (consistent with any opt-out policy adopted by the State) the SEA and the LEA where the toddler resides at least 90 days prior to the toddler's third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B preschool services; and
- C. Conducted the transition conference held with the approval of the family at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months, prior to the toddler's third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B preschool services.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Historical Data

Baseline Data: 2005

| FFY | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Target | | | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Data | | 79.00% | 96.40% | 89.00% | 88.00% | 95.00% | 96.00% | 91.00% | 97.00% | 87.61% |

Key: Gray – Data Prior to Baseline Yellow – Baseline

FFY 2014 - FFY 2018 Targets

| FFY | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Target | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

FFY 2014 SPP/APR Data

Data include notification to both the SEA and LEA

- Yes
- No

| Number of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C where notification to the SEA and LEA occurred at least 90 days prior to their third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B preschool services | Number of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C who were potentially eligible for Part B | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|---|--|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 252 | 263 | 87.61% | 100% | 95.82% |

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of parents who opted out (this number will be subtracted from the number of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C who were potentially eligible for Part B when calculating the FFY 2014 Data) | 0 |
|---|---|

Describe the method used to collect these data

The state used the State Data System to collect this data. Part C selected the time period from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 to reflect reporting for the full fiscal year.

Do you have a written opt-out policy? No

What is the source of the data provided for this indicator?

- State monitoring
- State database

Provide the time period in which the data were collected (e.g., September through December, fourth quarter, selection from the full reporting period).

The time period this data were collected is July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 (the full reporting period.)

Describe how the data accurately reflect data for infants and toddlers with IFSPs for the full reporting period.

First Connections collected data for Indicator 8 from the Comprehensive Data System (CDS). Part C staff used the inquiry process to validate the information gathered in the states data system. Data for the annual report was collected from each provider type within the state. Local early intervention providers and state staff uses the system to enter data on the infants and toddlers that they serve and coordinate services for. Lead Agency staff designed the Comprehensive Data System to collect and display data that reflects the status of the infant and toddlers early intervention record. Arkansas' data staff are allowed access to the EIS providers electronic record that permits program staff to work closely with state staff and EIS provider to assist in providing clarification and support regarding data concerns. As part of the individual child record,the system includes, the date of the child's transition conference as required in the federal regulation. Report data was drawn from IFSP's with dates starting July 1, 2014- June 30 , 2015, and sent to EIS providers and state staff for certification and submission back to the Lead Agency. Since the agencies move to the CDS, the data was selected for this time period to certify the quality of the information submitted. First Connections carefully selected the time period close the end of the year to give the EIS providers and state staff additional time to master the interrelated parts of the system. In order to ensure the accuracy of the data; sufficient time was given to verify the data. Arkansas' data manager examined information that was reported for this time period to data for the full year (FFY2014) and determined that it is reflective of a full year.

Actions required in FFY 2013 response

None

Correction of Findings of Noncompliance Identified in FFY 2013

| Findings of Noncompliance Identified | Findings of Noncompliance Verified as Corrected Within One Year | Findings of Noncompliance Subsequently Corrected | Findings Not Yet Verified as Corrected |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |

FFY 2013 Findings of Noncompliance Verified as Corrected

Describe how the State verified that the source of noncompliance is correctly implementing the regulatory requirements

The states Quality Assurance staff issued letters of notification to local early intervention providers informing them of their non- compliance. Program letters informed EIS providers of their scores linked to SEA/LEA notifications. The provider notification stated the federal regulations and informed them that they must ensure that all children in their program receive timely transition planning and that they must correct all noncompliance. First Connections monitoring procedures allow EIS providers 90 days to correct identified noncompliance, however, correction must be made no later than one year from the date of notification to the local early intervention provider.

Part C staff also verified that each program previously cited for noncompliance is correctly implementing the specific regulatory requirements based on the staff review of updated data from the Comprehensive Data System indicating continued compliance with this indicator.

Describe how the State verified that each individual case of noncompliance was corrected

Arkansas' verification process regarding correction of noncompliance, included an analysis of records for toddlers who did not receive timely transition planning and were not in compliance with requirements to verify that the children received transition services (SEA/LEA notification) although late, unless that child is no longer within the jurisdiction. First Connection staff certified that all noncompliance was corrected within one year of notification for each EIS provider.

OSEP Response

Because the State reported less than 100% compliance for FFY 2014, the State must report on the status of correction of noncompliance identified in FFY 2014 for this indicator. When reporting on the correction of noncompliance, the State must report, in the FFY 2015 SPP/APR, that it has verified that each EIS program or provider with noncompliance identified in FFY 2014 for this indicator: (1) is correctly implementing the specific regulatory requirements (i.e., achieved 100% compliance) based on a review of updated data such as data subsequently collected through on-site monitoring or a State data system; and (2) has corrected each individual case of noncompliance, unless the child is no longer within the jurisdiction of the EIS program or provider, consistent with OSEP Memo 09-02.

In the FFY 2015 SPP/APR, the State must describe the specific actions that were taken to verify the correction.

If the State did not identify any findings of noncompliance in FFY 2014, although its FFY 2014 data reflect less than 100% compliance, provide an explanation of why the State did not identify any findings of noncompliance in FFY 2014.

Required Actions

Indicator 8C: Early Childhood Transition

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Effective Transition

Compliance indicator: The percentage of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C with timely transition planning for whom the Lead Agency has:

- A. Developed an IFSP with transition steps and services at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months, prior to the toddler's third birthday;
- B. Notified (consistent with any opt-out policy adopted by the State) the SEA and the LEA where the toddler resides at least 90 days prior to the toddler's third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B preschool services; and
- C. Conducted the transition conference held with the approval of the family at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months, prior to the toddler's third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B preschool services.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Historical Data

Baseline Data: 2005

| FFY | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Target | | | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Data | | 87.00% | 44.00% | 55.00% | 57.00% | 86.00% | 87.00% | 76.00% | 87.00% | 86.28% |

Key: Gray – Data Prior to Baseline Yellow – Baseline

FFY 2014 - FFY 2018 Targets

| FFY | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Target | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

FFY 2014 SPP/APR Data

Data reflect only those toddlers for whom the Lead Agency has conducted the transition conference held with the approval of the family at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months, prior to the toddler's third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B preschool services

- Yes
- No

| Number of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C where the transition conference occurred at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties at least nine months prior to the toddler's third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B | Number of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C who were potentially eligible for Part B | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|---|--|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 160 | 263 | 86.28% | 100% | 83.59% |

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of toddlers for whom the parent did not provide approval for the transition conference (this number will be subtracted from the number of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C who were potentially eligible for Part B when calculating the FFY 2014 Data) | 1 |
|---|---|

FFY 2014 Part C State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR)

Number of documented delays attributable to exceptional family circumstances (this number will be added to the Number of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C where the transition conference occurred at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties at least nine months prior to the toddler's third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B)

59

Explanation of Slippage

During the 2014 reporting period Arkansas Part C percentage of timely transition conferences declined slightly from 86.28% to 84.00% in the area of conducting transition conferences at least 90days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months, prior to the toddler's third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B preschool services. While the decrease is not significantly lower than the previous year, all Service Coordinators have been provided additional guidance and support to ensure that they understand the requirements regarding transition. Professional Development staff offers onsite and web based technical assistance to EIS providers and state staff that includes a detail review of tools and information to provide additional clarification. Arkansas will continue to analysis local program data to assist in determining appropriate strategies for program improvement.

What is the source of the data provided for this indicator?

- State monitoring
- State database

Provide the time period in which the data were collected (e.g., September through December, fourth quarter, selection from the full reporting period).

Arkansas selected the period of time from June 2013-July 01,2015 to collect data to represent reporting for the full physical year 2014.

Describe how the data accurately reflect data for infants and toddlers with IFSPs for the full reporting period.

First Connections collected data for Indicator 8 from the Comprehensive Data System (CDS). Part C staff used the inquiry process to validate the information gathered in the states data system. Data for the annual report was collected from each provider type within the state. Local early intervention providers and state staff uses the system to enter data on the infants and toddlers that they serve and coordinate services for. Lead Agency staff designed the Comprehensive Data System to collect and display data that reflects the status of the infant and toddlers early intervention record. Arkansas' data staff are allowed access to the EIS providers electronic record that permits program staff to work closely with state staff and EIS provider to assist in providing clarification and support regarding data concerns. As part of the individual child record,the system includes, the date of the childs transition conference as required in the federal regulation. Report data was drawn from IFSP's with dates starting July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015, and sent to EIS providers and state staff for certification and submission back to the Lead Agency. Since the agencies move to the CDS, the data was selected for this time period to certify the quality of the information submitted. First Connections carefully selected the time period close the end of the year to give the EIS providers and state staff additional time to master the interrelated parts of the system. In order to ensure the accuracy of the data; sufficient time was given to verify the data. Arkansas' data manager examined information that was reported for this time period to data for the full year (FFY2014) and determined that it is reflective of a full year.

Actions required in FFY 2013 response

None

Correction of Findings of Noncompliance Identified in FFY 2013

| Findings of Noncompliance Identified | Findings of Noncompliance Verified as Corrected Within One Year | Findings of Noncompliance Subsequently Corrected | Findings Not Yet Verified as Corrected |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |

FFY 2013 Findings of Noncompliance Verified as Corrected

Describe how the State verified that the source of noncompliance is correctly implementing the regulatory requirements

Lead Agency monitoring staff sent notification letters to early intervention service providers informing them of their non- compliance. The notification letter advised them of their position as it relates to timely transition conferences. Notification letters cited the federal regulations and informed them that they have to ensure that all children receive timely transition planning and that they must correct all noncompliance. First Connections procedures give the providers 90 days to correct identified noncompliance, however, correction must be made no later than one year from the date of notification to the early intervention service provider.

Part C staff also verified that each program previously cited for noncompliance is correctly implementing the specific regulatory requirements based on the staff review of updated data from the Comprehensive Data System indicating continued compliance with this indicator.

Describe how the State verified that each individual case of noncompliance was corrected

The Part C process of verifying correction of noncompliance, involved an examination of files for toddlers who did not receive timely transition planning and were not in compliance with requirements to verify that the children received transition services (transition conference) although late, unless that child is no longer within the jurisdiction of the program. Quality Assurance staff confirmed that all noncompliance was corrected within one year of notification to the EIS provider.

OSEP Response

The State appropriately reported that, "Report data was drawn from IFSP's with dates starting July 1, 2014- June 30, 2015, and sent to EIS providers and state staff for certification and submission back to the Lead Agency." Under the heading, "Provide the time period in which the data were collected," the State reported that, "Arkansas selected the period of time from June 2013-July 01,2015 to collect data to represent reporting for the full physical year 2014." The State needs to confirm that the data it reported in the FFY 2014 SPP/APR are from FFY 2014 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015).

Because the State reported less than 100% compliance for FFY 2014, the State must report on the status of correction of noncompliance identified in FFY 2014 for this indicator. When reporting on the correction of noncompliance, the State must report, in the FFY 2015 SPP/APR, that it has verified that each EIS program or provider with noncompliance identified in FFY 2014 for this indicator: (1) is correctly implementing the specific regulatory requirements (i.e., achieved 100% compliance) based on a review of updated data such as data subsequently collected through on-site monitoring or a State data system; and (2) has corrected each individual case of noncompliance, unless the child is no longer within the jurisdiction of the EIS program or provider, consistent with OSEP Memo 09-02.

In the FFY 2015 SPP/APR, the State must describe the specific actions that were taken to verify the correction.

If the State did not identify any findings of noncompliance in FFY 2014, although its FFY 2014 data reflect less than 100% compliance, provide an explanation of why the State did not identify any findings of noncompliance in FFY 2014.

Required Actions

Indicator 9: Resolution Sessions

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision

Results indicator: Percent of hearing requests that went to resolution sessions that were resolved through resolution session settlement agreements (applicable if Part B due process procedures are adopted).

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Historical Data

Baseline Data:

| FFY | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Target ≥ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Data | | | | | | | | | | |

Key: Gray – Data Prior to Baseline Yellow – Baseline Blue – Data Update

FFY 2014 - FFY 2018 Targets

| FFY | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Target ≥ | | | | | |

Key:

Targets: Description of Stakeholder Input - Please see the Stakeholder Involvement section of the [introduction](#).

Enter additional information about stakeholder involvement

Prepopulated Data

| Source | Date | Description | Data | Overwrite Data |
|---|-----------|--|------|----------------|
| SY 2014-15 EMAPS IDEA Part C Dispute Resolution Survey; Section C: Due Process Complaints | 11/5/2015 | 3.1(a) Number resolution sessions resolved through settlement agreements | n | n |
| SY 2014-15 EMAPS IDEA Part C Dispute Resolution Survey; Section C: Due Process Complaints | 11/5/2015 | 3.1 Number of resolution sessions | n | n |

Explanation of Alternate Data

Arkansas did not conduct any hearings during the 2014 reporting period.

FFY 2014 SPP/APR Data

| 3.1(a) Number resolution sessions resolved through settlement agreements | 3.1 Number of resolution sessions | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 0 | 0 | | | |

Actions required in FFY 2013 response

None

OSEP Response

The State reported fewer than ten resolution sessions held in FFY 2014. The State is not required to provide targets until any fiscal year in which ten or more resolution sessions were held.

Required Actions

Indicator 10: Mediation

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision

Results indicator: Percent of mediations held that resulted in mediation agreements.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Historical Data

Baseline Data: 2005

| FFY | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Target ≥ | | | | 100% | | | | | | 100% |
| Data | | | | | | | | 100% | | |

Key: Gray – Data Prior to Baseline Yellow – Baseline Blue – Data Update

FFY 2014 - FFY 2018 Targets

| FFY | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Target ≥ | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Key:

Targets: Description of Stakeholder Input - Please see the Stakeholder Involvement section of the [introduction](#).

Enter additional information about stakeholder involvement

Prepopulated Data

| Source | Date | Description | Data | Overwrite Data |
|---|-----------|---|------|----------------|
| SY 2014-15 EMAPS IDEA Part C Dispute Resolution Survey; Section B: Mediation Requests | 11/5/2015 | 2.1.a.i Mediations agreements related to due process complaints | n | null |
| SY 2014-15 EMAPS IDEA Part C Dispute Resolution Survey; Section B: Mediation Requests | 11/5/2015 | 2.1.b.i Mediations agreements not related to due process complaints | n | null |
| SY 2014-15 EMAPS IDEA Part C Dispute Resolution Survey; Section B: Mediation Requests | 11/5/2015 | 2.1 Mediations held | n | null |

FFY 2014 SPP/APR Data

| 2.1.a.i Mediations agreements related to due process complaints | 2.1.b.i Mediations agreements not related to due process complaints | 2.1 Mediations held | FFY 2013 Data* | FFY 2014 Target* | FFY 2014 Data |
|---|---|---------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | | 100.00% | |

Actions required in FFY 2013 response

None

OSEP Response

The State reported fewer than ten mediations held in FFY 2014. The State is not required to meet its targets until any fiscal year in which ten or more mediations were held.

Required Actions

Indicator 11: State Systemic Improvement Plan

Monitoring Priority: General Supervision

Results indicator: The State's SPP/APR includes a State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) that meets the requirements set forth for this indicator.

Reported Data

Baseline Data:

| FFY | 2013 | 2014 |
|--------|------|------|
| Target | | |
| Data | | |

Key: Gray – Data Prior to Baseline Yellow – Baseline
Blue – Data Update

FFY 2015 - FFY 2018 Targets

| FFY | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|
| Target | | | | |

Key:

Description of Measure

Please see attachment below.

Targets: Description of Stakeholder Input - Please see the Stakeholder Involvement section of the [introduction](#).

Enter additional information about stakeholder involvement

Please see attachment below.

Overview

Please see attachment below.

Data Analysis

A description of how the State identified and analyzed key data, including data from SPP/APR indicators, 618 data collections, and other available data as applicable, to: (1) select the State-identified Measurable Result(s) for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families, and (2) identify root causes contributing to low performance. The description must include information about how the data were disaggregated by multiple variables (e.g., EIS program and/or EIS provider, geographic region, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, etc.) As part of its data analysis, the State should also consider compliance data and whether those data present potential barriers to improvement. In addition, if the State identifies any concerns about the quality of the data, the description must include how the State will address these concerns. Finally, if additional data are needed, the description should include the methods and timelines to collect and analyze the additional data.

Analysis of State Infrastructure to Support Improvement and Build Capacity

A description of how the State analyzed the capacity of its current infrastructure to support improvement and build capacity in EIS programs and/or EIS providers to implement, scale up, and sustain the use of evidence-based practices to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. State systems that make up its infrastructure include, at a minimum: governance, fiscal, quality standards, professional development, data, technical assistance, and accountability/monitoring. The description must include current strengths of the systems, the extent the systems are coordinated, and areas for improvement of functioning within and across the systems. The State must also identify current State-level improvement plans and other early learning initiatives, such as Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge and the Home Visiting program and describe the extent that these new initiatives are aligned, and how they are, or could be, integrated with, the SSIP. Finally, the State should identify representatives (e.g., offices, agencies, positions, individuals, and other stakeholders) that were involved in developing Phase I of the SSIP and that will be involved in developing and implementing Phase II of the SSIP.

State-identified Measurable Result(s) for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families

A statement of the result(s) the State intends to achieve through the implementation of the SSIP. The State-identified Measurable Result(s) for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families must be aligned to an SPP/APR indicator or a component of an SPP/APR indicator. The State-identified Measurable Result(s) for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families must be clearly based on the Data and State Infrastructure Analyses and must be a child- or family-level outcome in contrast to a process outcome. The State may select a single result (e.g., increase the rate of growth in infants and toddlers demonstrating positive social-emotional skills) or a cluster of related results (e.g., increase the percentage reported under child outcome B under Indicator 3 of the SPP/APR (knowledge and skills) and increase the percentage trend reported for families under Indicator 4 (helping their child develop and learn)).

Statement

Description

Selection of Coherent Improvement Strategies

An explanation of how the improvement strategies were selected, and why they are sound, logical and aligned, and will lead to a measurable improvement in the State-identified Measurable Result(s) for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families. The improvement strategies should include the strategies, identified through the Data and State Infrastructure Analyses, that are needed to improve the State infrastructure and to support EIS program and/or EIS provider implementation of evidence-based practices to improve the State-identified result(s) for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The State must describe how implementation of the improvement strategies will address identified root causes for low performance and ultimately build EIS program and/or EIS provider capacity to achieve the State-identified Measurable Result(s) for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families.

Please see attachment.

Theory of Action

A graphic illustration that shows the rationale of how implementing the coherent set of improvement strategies selected will increase the State's capacity to lead meaningful change in EIS programs and/or EIS providers, and achieve improvement in the State-identified Measurable Result(s) for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families.

Submitted Theory of Action: No Theory of Action Submitted

 Provide a description of the provided graphic illustration (optional)

Infrastructure Development

- (a) Specify improvements that will be made to the State infrastructure to better support EIS programs and providers to implement and scale up EBPs to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.
- (b) Identify the steps the State will take to further align and leverage current improvement plans and other early learning initiatives and programs in the State, including Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge, Home Visiting Program, Early Head Start and others which impact infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.
- (c) Identify who will be in charge of implementing the changes to infrastructure, resources needed, expected outcomes, and timelines for completing improvement efforts.
- (d) Specify how the State will involve multiple offices within the State Lead Agency, as well as other State agencies and stakeholders in the improvement of its infrastructure.

Please see attachment

Support for EIS programs and providers Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices

- (a) Specify how the State will support EIS providers in implementing the evidence-based practices that will result in changes in Lead Agency, EIS program, and EIS provider practices to achieve the SIMR(s) for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.
- (b) Identify steps and specific activities needed to implement the coherent improvement strategies, including communication strategies and stakeholder involvement; how identified barriers will be addressed; who will be in charge of implementing; how the activities will be implemented with fidelity; the resources that will be used to implement them; and timelines for completion.
- (c) Specify how the State will involve multiple offices within the Lead Agency (and other State agencies such as the SEA) to support EIS providers in scaling up and sustaining the implementation of the evidence-based practices once they have been implemented with fidelity.

Please see attachment

Evaluation

- (a) Specify how the evaluation is aligned to the theory of action and other components of the SSIP and the extent to which it includes short-term and long-term objectives to measure implementation of the SSIP and its impact on achieving measurable improvement in SIMR(s) for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.
- (b) Specify how the evaluation includes stakeholders and how information from the evaluation will be disseminated to stakeholders.
- (c) Specify the methods that the State will use to collect and analyze data to evaluate implementation and outcomes of the SSIP and the progress toward achieving intended improvements in the SIMR(s).
- (d) Specify how the State will use the evaluation data to examine the effectiveness of the implementation; assess the State's progress toward achieving intended improvements; and to make modifications to the SSIP as necessary.

Please see attachment

Technical Assistance and Support

Describe the support the State needs to develop and implement an effective SSIP. Areas to consider include: Infrastructure development; Support for EIS programs and providers implementation of EBP; Evaluation; and Stakeholder involvement in Phase II.

Please see attachment

OSEP Response

Required Actions

Certify and Submit your SPP/APR

I certify that I am the Director of the State's Lead Agency under Part C of the IDEA, or his or her designee, and that the State's submission of its IDEA Part C State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report is accurate.

Selected: Designated by the Lead Agency Director to certify

Name and title of the individual certifying the accuracy of the State's submission of its IDEA Part C State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report.

Name: Tracy Turner

Title: Part C Coordinator

Email: tracy.turner@dhs.arkansas.gov

Phone: 501-682-8703