

# Child Find in Michigan

Child find is the component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that requires all states to locate, identify, and evaluate as early as possible all infants, toddlers, children, and youth residing in the state who may be eligible for early intervention and/or special education services.

## Early On<sup>®</sup> Public Awareness

[www.1800EarlyOn.org](http://www.1800EarlyOn.org)

For infants and toddlers in Michigan, **birth to three years of age**, the federally-funded system of early intervention services under Part C of IDEA is *Early On*<sup>®</sup> Michigan. *Early On*<sup>®</sup> Public Awareness (EOPA) is responsible for child find activities for *Early On*<sup>®</sup> Michigan. EOPA is funded by Part C of IDEA through a grant from the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services, to Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects.

Call 1-800-EarlyOn (327-5966).



## Project Find

[www.ProjectFindMichigan.org](http://www.ProjectFindMichigan.org)

For children and youth in Michigan, **three to 26 years of age**, Special Education provides support and resources so that students may better participate and learn in classroom settings. Special Education follows regulations and policy under Part B of IDEA and Michigan's Administrative Rules for Special Education. Project Find is responsible for child find activities for Special Education in Michigan. Project Find is funded by Part B of IDEA through a grant from the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, to Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects.

Call 1-800-252-0052.

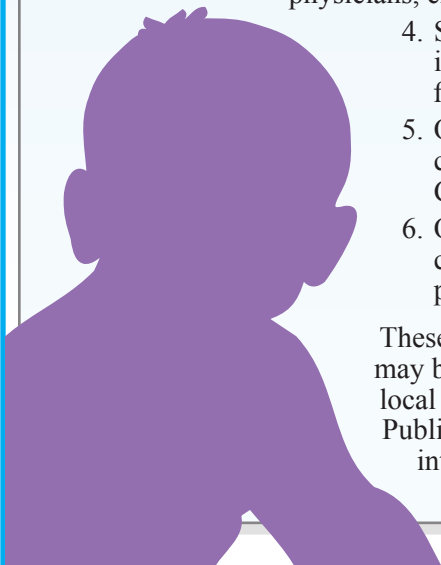


## The Process

*Early On*<sup>®</sup> Public Awareness and Project Find encourage referral of children and youth who may be eligible for *Early On* or Special Education to central toll-free numbers or to intermediate school districts through multiple strategies, including:

1. Strategic implementation of statewide media campaigns, utilizing billboards, radio, television, and other advertising;
2. Development and dissemination of materials which describe how to make a referral, including brochures, posters, information on child development, and the federally-required central directory, "*Early On*<sup>®</sup> Michigan Resources for Infants and Toddlers" in collaboration with the Center for Educational Networking.
3. Outreach to primary referral sources by presenting and displaying at professional conferences, especially those for physicians, child care providers, health care workers, and parents;
4. Support to intermediate school district personnel who must carry out responsibilities, including: appointment of Child Find Coordinators, development of ISD plans for child find, and the location, identification, and evaluation of eligible children and youth.
5. Other support to local child find efforts through loaner display boards for use at local community events, graphic design assistance, and convening of Michigan Child Find Coordinators for technical assistance and policy updates;
6. Operation of 1-800-EARLYON and 1-800-252-0052 by qualified personnel who listen to callers, collect information about the child, and send referrals, as appropriate, to intake personnel at local service areas and intermediate school districts.

These strategies target parents and professionals who work with children and youth who may be eligible for services. Referral personnel advise callers that they should hear from a local agency within 10 days. After processing referrals, through weekly reports, *Early On* Public Awareness and Project Find verify that referrals are received. Local service areas and intermediate school districts evaluate children and youth to determine eligibility for early intervention and special education services.



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## Child Find Requirements under IDEA

### Part C *Early On*<sup>®</sup> Public Awareness

- Mandated outreach to: infants and toddlers with suspected developmental delays and/or disabilities, migrant children, parents with premature infants, children who are homeless, and those who are wards of the State.
- Primary referral sources include parents, pediatricians, hospitals, Neo-Natal Intensive Care Units, staff in the child welfare system including Child Protective Services staff, foster care agencies, homeless shelters, and child care providers.
- Agency partners include the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Department of Humans Services including the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act partner.
- *Early On*<sup>®</sup> Michigan State Performance Plan Indicators addressed by *Early On* Public Awareness:
  - #5 Child Find Birth to 1
  - #6 Child Find Birth to 3

### Part B Project Find

- Mandated outreach to: children and youth from 3-26 years of age with a suspected disability as well as highly mobile children (migrant and homeless), Native American children, those advancing from grade to grade with a suspected disability, wards of the State, children with disabilities attending private schools, and high school drop outs.
  - Referral sources include parents, pediatricians, hospitals, and schools.
  - Agency partners include the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Department of Humans Services.
  - Special Education State Performance Plan Indicators addressed by Project Find:
    - #9 Disproportionality
    - #11 Part B Child Find
    - #2 Drop Outs (indirect impact)



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