



Alliance for the Betterment of
Citizens with Disabilities

Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies

EARLY INTERVENTION PROVIDER ASSOCIATION

Increase Reimbursement Rates by No Less than a modest 5.5% in the FY 2024 State Budget¹

Continue to Ensure a Sustainable Early Intervention System

Due to the commitment, hard work, and talent of the Murphy Administration, the New Jersey Legislature, and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), Early Intervention providers received an increase of 5% on July 1, 2021, and an additional 2.5% on January 1, 2022, their first increase in 16 years.

A recurrent theme for social service agencies, like those that provide Early Intervention (EI) services, is the expectation that they will do more and more with less and less. EI provider agencies take on one of society's most important endeavors, preventing and minimizing permanent disability by providing life changing services to all eligible infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities. But we jeopardize their existence and their ability to fulfill their mission when we fail to acknowledge that they are business organizations. And since EI provider agencies are rate takers and not rate makers, they are forced into a “make do and do without culture” – a culture that slowly starves them until the inconsistent intervention of government.

The recent increases have helped prevent further erosion in our system, but our “No Practitioner Available” waiting list, historically at less than 100 infants and children, has since May of 2022 remained above 650 infants and toddlers waiting over 30 days for services. This is not a reflection on the 6000+ practitioners working in the EI system or the 53+ provider agencies across our 21 counties. But rather, an acknowledgement of the severe competition for practitioners across a number of industries and the complex employment relationships and preferences that practitioners have with these private and non-profit organizations. In addition, the impact of the “Great Resignation” during COVID and our reverberating economy has resulted in a strain on our personnel resources and deterioration of our organizational infrastructure. Clearly, it will take an ongoing investment in the form of rates which continuously cover all costs to transform an eroded system moving forward into the future.

Therefore, to create a more sustainable Early Intervention system, the providers of ABCD Early Intervention Provider Association (EIPA) respectfully request no less than a modest 5.5% rate increase in the FY 2024 State Budget. In addition, the NJDOH should index the fee structure as a permeant solution to addressing the annual cost of living changes.

¹ NJDOH has not released its completed EI rate study from which it is anticipated a proposed increase will be derived.

The ABCD EIPA has been in existence since 2006 and has been a tireless advocate for improving the Early Intervention System (EIS) and making recommendations to the NJDOH that foster provider sustainability in a competitive and changing environment. The fourteen member organizations of ABCD EIPA operate independent of one another and collectively provide services to more than 60% of the total number of children served in the State of New Jersey.

The ABCD EIPA offers itself as a resource to NJDOH and to members of the Legislature in the advocacy, resolution, data collection and piloting of any of the above topics and debates that attempt to improve the Early Intervention model in the State of New Jersey.

Please contact us at (609) 581-8375.

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November 18, 2022