WA State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Brief Overview of Child Find
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What is "Child Find"?

- **Child find** is the system for identifying, screening, referring, evaluating, and tracking children who are potentially eligible for early intervention or early childhood special education.
  - Child find systems include all the people and practices involved in locating potentially eligible children and families.
  - Both Part C and Part B 619 contain explicit requirements for states to actively identify children and determine their eligibility for services.
- **Child find data**
  - It's more than the child count that's reported to OSEP!

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Critical Connections

- Part C and Part B 619 state agencies, local programs, and LEAs

- Parent centers and family-serving organizations

- Community agencies and programs serving underserved and at-risk populations

- Medical professionals (e.g., pediatricians, NICUs, health departments)

- Childcare, Early Head Start, Head Start, PreK programs, Private or Charter Schools

- Tribal agencies

- Home visiting

- Child protection and child welfare programs, including foster care and CAPTA

Part C Programs

- *Coordinated* child find systems ensure all infants and toddlers are identified, located, and evaluated and include:

  - Referrals from primary referral sources, including families

  - **Post Referral Screening** (state option) with parental consent within 45-day timeline for IFSP meeting

  - **Eligibility** (state defined) includes (1) ***developmental delay*** (evaluation/assessment and informed clinical opinion), (2) ***diagnosed conditions***, and (3) ***at-risk conditions*** *(optional)*

- 45-day timeline from referral to IFSP

- State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC): Includes 619 Preschool, other cross-sector partners, including early childhood programs and families

Eligibility Categories

Part C:

- Developmental delay:
  - States can have multiple criteria in their developmental delay definition and may include, as an example, atypical development
  - Some states use only one criteria for developmental delay
- Diagnosed conditions:
  - Some states use the regulatory language
  - Others offer more detail (including states that include some at-risk conditions)
- Option to define and serve at-risk
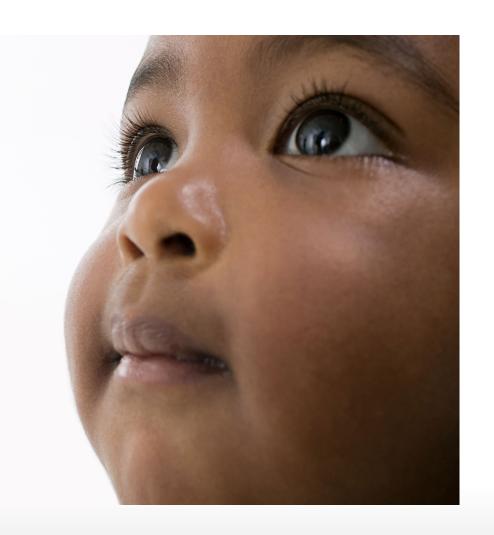 - 6 states and 1 territory serve at risk

Part B Section 619:

- Developmental delay
  - States define age range and criteria for child with a developmental delay
  - Age 3 – 9 or any subset of the age range, including 3 – 5
  - State Preschool survey - 31 of 49 respondents use standard scores.
- Child with a disability: intellectual disability, hearing impairment (including deafness), speech or language impairment, visual impairment (including blindness), serious emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairment, deaf-blindness, or multiple disabilities, <u>and who needs special education and related services</u>

Why Focus on Child Find Data?

- Promote earlier identification

- Reach underserved communities

- Identify areas of ineffective / inequitable implementation of child find practices

- Contribute to program planning

- Improve outcomes

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Opportunities to Strengthen Child Find

Develop systems to better improve earlier identification.

Close gaps in integrating early identification systems within States and local communities.

Reduce gaps in data that track from concerns to referral, evaluation, and services.

Combine developmental monitoring and screening systems to increase earlier identification and more timely, more appropriate referrals

Find out more at **dasycenter.org** and **ectacenter.org**