



# **Comprehensive ChildFind System Policy Including Central Directory and Public Awareness**

(As required by 34 CFR 303)

**The Nebraska Early Development Network Co-Lead Agencies  
(IDEA Part C)**

**Nebraska Department of Education (NDE)**

**Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS)**

## **I. Purpose:**

- A. The Legislature declares that it shall be policy of the State of Nebraska to promote the development of a statewide system of comprehensive, coordinated, family-centered, community-based, and culturally competent services for children and families to assure that serviced help build strong families and provide appropriate environments prenatally and for children from birth through the early years in program and services which are: (1) Family-centered; (2) Comprehensive; (3) Coordinated; (4) Quality; (5) Inclusive; and (6) Equitable. (43-2502.03)

## **II. Public Awareness**

- A. Nebraska Co-Lead Agencies and the Interagency Planning Region Teams across the state have in place a public awareness program focusing on early identification of infants and toddlers with disabilities who may be eligible to receive early intervention services. This includes the dissemination of materials prepared by the Co-Lead Agency to all primary referral sources, especially hospitals and physicians.

- B. This information to be given to parents, especially those with premature infants or infants with other physical risk factors associated with learning or developmental complications, regarding the availability of early intervention services under IDEA-Part C and services under Section 619. The public awareness program includes procedures for assisting primary referral sources to disseminate such information to parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities.

### **III. ChildFind**

- A. A comprehensive coordinated ChildFind system, consistent with Part B, exists in the state of Nebraska that includes procedures for making referrals for a child under three to the agency responsible for providing services coordination within the local Planning Region as soon as possible but in no case later than seven (7) days after becoming aware that the child may be eligible for early intervention services.

### **IV. Referral**

- A. It is the policy of the Nebraska Early Development Network Co-Lead State Agencies, Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, that all infants and toddlers across the state of Nebraska, including:
  - 1. Indian infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families residing on a reservation or settlement geographically located in the State;
  - 2. Infants and toddlers with disabilities who are homeless children and their families; and
  - 3. infants and toddlers with disabilities who are wards of the State,
- B. Who are eligible for services under Part C are identified, located and evaluated to determine their eligibility for Early Intervention Services.

### **V. Substantiated Cases of Substance Abuse or Neglect (CAPTA)**

- A. Referral to Early Development Network is required for children under the age of three who are involved in a substantiated case of abuse or neglect or identifies as affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure.
- B. Nebraska Co-Lead Agencies have procedures in place for identifying these children, ensuring their referral to Early Development Network.

### **VI. Identification**

- A. Nebraska Co-Lead Agencies ensure rigorous standards for appropriately identifying infants and toddlers with disabilities for services under Part C that will reduce the need for future services.

### **VII. Role of the Local Interagency Planning Region Teams (PRT)**

- A. Specific functions to be performed by the local interagency Planning Region Teams include coordinating public awareness activities and coordinating the

comprehensive early identification (ChildFind) of eligible children and their families, including targeted outreach to traditionally under-represented populations across all geographic regions of the state.

### **VIII. Central Directory of Resources**

- A. Nebraska's public awareness and ChildFind system includes the dissemination of information about the State's central directory of resources (single point of entry for the statewide Early Development Network) to all primary referral sources including
  1. Hospitals including prenatal and postnatal care facilities;
  2. Physicians;
  3. Parents, including parents of infants and toddlers;
  4. Child programs and early learning programs;
  5. LEAs and schools;
  6. Public health facilities;
  7. Other public health or social service agencies;
  8. Other clinics and health care providers;
  9. Public agencies and staff in child welfare systems, including child protective service and foster care;
  10. Homeless family shelters and
  11. Domestic violence shelters and agencies.