

Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Programs and Services

August 2009

Early Intervention / Individual Budget Policy

EI Services are a locally funded program provided by the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities (ECBDD). **Early Intervention Services** are limited and need to be **pre-authorized** by ECBDD. It is our hope that through the partnership of EI Services and a family's own resources, we will maximize the development and health of the child and family. Please know that not all requests can be approved. Funding will not cover immunizations, medical tests, or expenditures that are **typical** expenses for a family. The expenses covered through EI funding are to address supports and services specific to a child's development delay.

1.) **Therapy Funding** . (This funding is individualized and determined using a triage approach as clearly defined through developmental assessments).

- Therapy funding can be used for deductibles and/or co-pays related to therapy insurance costs and/or non-contracted therapists.
- Contracted therapy providers will receive no more than the contracted rate negotiated by the ECBDD. Any amount above this rate is not the responsibility of ECBDD.
- Therapy funding is prorated for the child that turns three years old during a plan year.
- ECBDD will be payer of last resort when possible.

Therapy Triage Levels

High Need (multi-sensory, multiple involvement, medically fragile) up to \$6000.00* for therapy.

Moderate Need (two or more areas of moderate delay) up to \$4000.00* for therapy.

Mild Need (one to two areas of mild delay) up to \$2500.00* for therapy.

2.) **Family Directed Resources** (funding is based on the number of eligible children per family unit (ranging from \$800.00 to a maximum of \$2000.00 per family)).

Family Directed Resources funding is prorated for the child that turns three years old during a plan year.

Family Directed Resources includes:

- **Respite:** to provide parents with the opportunity for assistance with caring for a child who is eligible for ECBDD services. Parents can choose from ECBDD providers or secure a provider of their own. Family secured providers must meet specific criteria which can be found in the parent handbook.
- **Adaptive Equipment Purchase or lease:** to further assist with accomplishing specific therapy goals. Within the \$800.00 Family Directed Resource funding, there is a limit of \$500.00 for equipment. Each piece of equipment must have a goal from a therapist.
- **Special diets:** as prescribed by a doctor or another medical professional.
- **Counseling, Training or Education:** to help a family through the many emotions faced with a diagnosis or other circumstances related to having a child with developmental delay or medical diagnosis. Counseling includes mental health, parenting, and behavior plans.
- **Home Modifications:** Inside and outside ramps, special railings, bathroom modifications, special fire equipment
- other modifications to meet unique needs of families.
- **Other:** Requests which do not meet the criteria outlined under any other category of service but meet the unique needs of the family. The request must be in line with goals of Family Directed Resources, related to the eligible child's documented delay or developmental disability and not be an expense typically incurred by a family.

Effective Date: August 20, 2009

Review Type: As necessary

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3) **Early Intervention Specialist Services (funding for these services available up to 30 visits per year.)**

Home visits: An Early Intervention Specialist, certified by the Ohio Dept. of Development Disabilities provides approximately 2 specialized education home visits per month supporting the family's participation with the child's development goals. The EI Specialist may also attend team meetings and activities related to transition to preschool.

Obtaining the EI Services:

A family may request EI services once eligibility for Board services has been established. The services and supports requested must be supported by the child's IFSP and be directly related to development needs established through assessments required by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the Bureau for Early Intervention Services (BEIS), and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

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