



To: Service Providing Agencies, Service Coordinators and Core Team Members



Date: September 2024



Subject: House Bill 2137

Arizona Early Intervention Program Technical Assistance Bulletin

Federal Regulations

Sec. 303.34(b) Service coordination services

Service coordination services include coordinating the provision of early intervention services and other services (such as educational, social, and medical services that are not provided for diagnostic or evaluative purposes) that the child needs or is being provided;

Purpose

This bulletin is meant to provide awareness on implementation and compliance with House Bill 2137 for the following areas:

- Arizona Early Intervention (AzEIP) Community Resource Guide
- Family Rights

Sec 303.344(b) (e) Content of IFSP

With the concurrence of the family, the IFSP must include a statement of the family's resources, priorities, and concerns related to enhancing the development of the child as identified through the assessment of the family under §303.321(c)(2).

To the extent appropriate, the IFSP also must—

- (1) Identify medical and other services that the child or family needs or is receiving through other sources, but that are neither required nor funded under this part; and
- (2) If those services are not currently being provided, include a description of the steps the service coordinator or family may take to assist the child and family in securing those other services.

Sec 303.126 Early Services in Natural Environment

Each system must include policies and procedures to ensure, consistent with §§ 303.13(a)(8) (early intervention services), 303.26 (natural environments), and 303.344(d)(1)(ii) (content of an IFSP), that early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities are provided—

- (a) To the maximum extent appropriate, in natural environments; and
- (b) In settings other than the natural environment that are most appropriate, as determined by the parent and the IFSP Team, only when early intervention services cannot be achieved satisfactorily in a natural environment.

Sec. 303.26 "Natural environments" means settings that are natural or typical for a same-aged infant or toddler without a disability, may include the home or community settings, and must be consistent with the provisions of § 303.126.



State Regulations

Arizona House Bill 2137

- The Intergovernmental Agreements developed and implemented by the the Department pursuant to this section shall require that at the Initial Individualized Family Service Plan and every subsequent review of the Individualized Family Service Plan,
 - The Department must provide families information on the identified priorities, needs, and outcomes for the infant or toddler
 - Including additional community resources that do not qualify for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the regulations adopted pursuant to the act.
- At the Initial IFSP meeting the department must
 - Show families how to access the guide and
 - Have print copies available by request to families who cannot access the electronic guide.
- AzEIP will have a process by which a family that has been referred to Early Intervention Programs and services can request a different service coordinator for their Early Intervention Services.
- For an Infant or Toddler identified with a hearing impairment, A family may choose to engage an audiologist in the initial of subsequent Family Service Plan Meeting where the individualized family Services plan is established or discussed to provide professional and clinical information.
- To the maximum extent appropriate, parents to choose a natural environment for services in which infants and toddlers with disabilities participate including the home and community based settings in which children without disabilities participate.

AzEIP Policy

3.7.1 AzEIP partners with families to understand their unique resources, priorities, concerns, and interests related to their child's development and the activities and settings in which the child and family spend time. The child and family assessment guides and documents this discovery process and ensures that the role of early intervention in the life of each family is specifically tailored to meet the priorities of each family.

3.8.2 The IFSP team includes:

- A. the parent(s) of the child
- B. other family members, as requested by the parent, if feasible to do so
- C. an advocate or person outside of the family if the parent requests that the person participate
- D. the service coordinator (either from the AzEIP TBEIS contractor or DDD)
- E. at least one member of the multidisciplinary team member involved in the evaluation and/or assessment
- F. as appropriate, persons who will be providing early intervention services to the child and family.

3.8.6 Early intervention services must, to the maximum extent possible, be provided in the family's natural environment. Natural environments are those settings that are natural or typical for a same-aged infant or toddler without a disability. The determination of the appropriate setting for providing early intervention services for a child in AzEIP and his/her family, including any justification for not providing a particular early intervention service in the natural environment, must be:

- A. made by the IFSP Team (which includes the parent and other team members)
- B. consistent with the definition of natural environments as set out in 3.8.11
- C. based on the child's outcomes that are identified by the IFSP Team.

3.9.4 The service coordinator helps the family expand their resource network by helping the family to access community resources and assistance identified through the family assessment and IFSP process. These discussions may include, but are not limited to:

- A. Exploring community resources that the family may be interested in such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or WIC, and if they need further assistance.
- B. identifying new circumstances for the family, such as interest in the child's participation in swimming lessons or activities with other children in their neighborhood.

Arizona House Bill 2137 Expanded Guidance

Demonstrating to families how to access the electronic resource guide

Service Coordinators help the family expand their resource network by demonstrating how to utilize the [AzEIP Community Resource Guide](#).

Service Coordinators

- Ensure that all families referred to AzEIP have the ability to access the [AzEIP Community Resource Guide](#).
- Demonstrate how to access the [AzEIP Community Resource Guide](#) at the Initial Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting.
- Demonstrate to the family how to navigate the website to locate resources specific to the family's identified priorities and concerns.
- Submit a request for a print copy of the [AzEIP Community Resource Guide](#) if the family is unable to access the electronic guide.
 - Assist family in submitting a request for a print copy of the AzEIP Community Resource Guide utilizing the "Contact AzEIP" page on the AzDES/AzEIP website.



Informing families about supports and services to meet identified family priorities that may not be funded under IDEA Part C Services

Service Coordinators identify family priorities, concerns and interests at the Child and Family Assessment, IFSP meeting and update at each subsequent Periodic Review of the IFSP.

The Service Coordinator

- Supports the family in identifying areas of interest or need that may include services and supports not covered under IDEA Part C
- Documents on the "Areas of Interest" section of the [Individualized Family Service Plan GCI-1021A](#).

The Service Coordinator

- Identify the service or resource needed
- Identify the steps to be taken
- Identify the person responsible for completing the steps
- Documents on the "Other Services (in place or needed)" section of the [Individualized Family Service Plan GCI-1021A](#).

Arizona House Bill 2137 Expanded Guidance

Family Rights Addressed in HB 2137

- To request a different Service Coordinator for their Early Intervention Services.
 - Families can contact their assigned Service Providing Agency [Refer to AzEIP Policy 7.10.3] or
 - Submit a request utilizing the “Contact AzEIP” page on the ADES/AzEIP website.
- To engage an audiologist in the Initial IFSP or subsequent IFSP if infant or toddler has an identified hearing impairment. [Refer to AzEIP Policy 3.8.2]
 - The Service Coordinator can submit a request to the AzEIPQualityImprovement@azdes.gov for further assistance.
- To choose a natural environment for services in which infants and toddlers with disabilities participate.
 - AzEIP will continue to adhere to the definition and requirement of the natural environment as outlined in IDEA Part C 303.26.

Resources:

[Part 303 \(Part C\) — Early Intervention Program For Infants And Toddlers With Disabilities](#)

[House Bill 2137](#)

[Arizona Early Intervention Program Policy Manual](#)

[Individualized Family Service Plan - Packet GCI-1021A](#)



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