

Project Abstract

**New York State Department of Health – Early Intervention Program
IDEA General Supervision Enhancement Grant Application (CFDA 84.326X) –
Focus 2
Enhancing Part C Outcome Indicators & Methods to Collect & Analyze Part C
Outcomes**

National child count data for 2002 indicate that New York State (NYS) provides Part C early intervention services to more children with developmental needs (excluding at-risk children) than any other state in the nation. Enhancing New York State's capacity to assess, collect, and analyze data on Part C outcomes will significantly contribute not only to the State's, but also the nation's, collective knowledge of the value of these services for young children with developmental needs and their families.

The NYS Department of Health, as Part C Lead Agency, proposes a three-phase project to develop an NYSEIP outcomes system to meet Federal, State, and local information needs on Part C child and family outcomes. Phase I builds on our success in developing evidence-based clinical guidelines on assessment and intervention with young children in early intervention systems. An expert panel will be convened from among the 20 parents and 62 professionals who participated on guideline consensus panels, to develop proposed child and family outcomes, outcome indicators, and measurements using concept-mapping methodology (Trochim, 1989a). Concept mapping methodology will also be used to obtain key constituent (families, providers, and municipalities) opinions on child and family outcomes, outcome indicators, and measurements, particularly with respect to the dimensions of importance and feasibility; and, to assist in project evaluation. In Phase II, a field test will be conducted to collect and analyze child and family outcome data in three municipalities. Phase III will employ pattern matching

methodology to determine the extent to which the results obtained through field testing are consistent with the expectations of the expert panelists and key constituents. Phase III will include a final meeting with the entire project team (NYSDOH, national consultants, contractors, expert group, and key constituents) to yield final recommendations to the NYSDOH on implementation of a statewide outcomes system and will serve to evaluate the success of this project.