

# Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) Fast Facts 2019 – 2020

## The ESIT Mission

The purpose of the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program is to build upon family strengths by providing coordination, supports, resources, and services to enhance the development of children with developmental delays and disabilities through everyday learning opportunities.

## What's the purpose of IDEA Part C early intervention?

*“To enable young children to be active and successful participants during the early childhood years and in the future in a variety of settings — in their homes with their families, in child care, in preschool and in the community..”*

— Early Childhood Outcomes Center

## Early intervention service delivery in Washington, July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020:

- 9,900 infants, toddlers, and their families were served at any point in time, a 4.7% increase over prior year data (9,460)
- 19,647 eligible infants, toddlers, and their families received services
- 29% of toddlers exiting early intervention did not qualify for special education at age 3
- 88% of infants, toddlers, and families received services in the natural environment
- 81% of families surveyed reported receiving in home virtual services as the means of service delivery due to COVID-19
- 19% of families surveyed reported their service delivery by Other Means (Video Clips, Phone Consultations) due to COVID-19



## Primary early intervention services:

- Family resources coordination
- Developmental services (special education)
- Occupational or physical therapy
- Speech/language therapy

## What are the expected child outcomes?

Infants and toddlers who receive early intervention services will:

- Demonstrate positive social-emotional skills, including social relationships
- Acquire and use knowledge and skills including early language, communication, and early literacy
- Use appropriate behaviors to get their needs met

## What are the expected family outcomes?

Families involved in early intervention will:

- Know their rights
- Effectively communicate their child's needs
- Help their child develop and learn



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## ESIT Principles

1. Families are equal partners who bring to the team skills, experience, and knowledge about their child, and are the final decision makers as to what will work best for their family.
2. Early intervention recognizes that family relationships are the central focus in the life of an infant or toddler.
3. Infants and toddlers learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in familiar settings.
4. The early intervention process, from initial contact to transition, must be responsive, flexible, and individualized to reflect the child's and family's priorities, learning styles, and cultural beliefs.
5. All families, with the necessary supports and resources, can enhance their children's learning and development.
6. The role of the service provider is to work in a team to support Individualized Family Service Plan functional outcomes, based on child and family needs and priorities.
7. Early intervention practices must be based on the best available current evidence and research.

## How has COVID-19 impacted this program?

- A majority of services are being delivered through virtual and remote formats, primarily via videoconference, but also phone and non-synchronous video exchange between families and providers.
- Guidance from OSEP (10/21/2020) allows the pandemic to serve as the basis for documented exceptional family circumstances to delays in the required 45-day timeline between referral and enrollment with an IFSP.
- Qualitative reports from the field suggest any potential cost savings realized by a reduction in travel costs have been absorbed by expenses related to technology (e.g., staff and parent training, software licensing that supports secure video platforms and electronic signatures, tablets and hotspots).

## Contact:

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[www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/esit](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/esit)

## Who administers the local early intervention system?

There are 24 local lead agencies (LLA) around the state. Each LLA provides, subcontracts, or has agreements with local early intervention providers to provide direct services to children and families:

- One county health department
- Four county human services agencies
- One combined health and human services agency
- 14 nonprofit agencies
- Four educational service districts

## Funding Administered by DCYF

**State Early Legacy Trust Act Funds: \$2,000,000**

**Federal IDEA Part C Funds: \$10,161,998**

DCYF/State Lead Agency Program: \$2,951,078

DCYF/State Interagency Coordinating Council: \$35,000

Direct Services/Local Lead Agencies: \$6,145,800

Implementation & Technical Assistance Activities: \$1,030,120

## Funds Coordinated by DCYF

