Supporting Families through the AzEIP process

Arizona Early Intervention Program
Our Mission
Part C early intervention builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance children’s learning and development through everyday learning opportunities.

www.azed.gov/azeip

Families Served

![Graph showing the number of families served from 2000 to 2014.]
What is AzEIP?

• Statewide system of early intervention services for families of infants and toddlers, birth to three years of age, with disabilities or significant developmental delays.

• Governed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - Part C

AzEIP Participating Agencies

• Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) *
  • Arizona Early Intervention Program
  • Division of Developmental Disabilities

• Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (ASDB)*

• Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)

• Arizona Department of Education (ADE)

• Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

  * AzEIP Service Providing Agencies

Funding

• Private Insurance
• Public Insurance
  – AHCCCS, CMDP, ALTCS
• State General Funds
  – AzEIP
  – DDD
  – ASDB
• Part C Funds
**AzEIP Eligibility**

A child birth to 36 months of age who has not reached 50% of the developmental milestones expected at his/her chronological age, in one or more of the following domains:

- Physical (fine and/or gross motor, sensory including vision and/or hearing)
- Cognitive
- Communication
- Social or emotional
- Adaptive

OR

A child with an established condition known to have a high probability of resulting in developmental delay

**AzEIP Established Conditions may include, but are not limited to:**

- Cerebral palsy
- Failure to thrive/pediatric under-nutrition
- Chromosomal abnormalities (e.g., Down syndrome)
- Severe attachment disorders
- Significant auditory or visual impairment
- Disorders reflecting disturbance of the nervous system (autism spectrum disorders, seizure disorders, born addicted to narcotics or alcohol)

**DDD Eligibility**

- Simultaneously Determined
- Diagnosed with one of the 4 DDs:
  - Epilepsy
  - Autism
  - Cerebral Palsy
  - Cognitive/Intellectual Disability
- “At Risk” for one of the 4
- Significant Delays in one or more of the 5 Domains
ASDB Eligibility

- Simultaneously Determined
- Hearing and/or Vision loss:
  - Bilateral
  - Permanent

ALTCS Eligibility

- ALTCS Services
  - Care in Nursing Facility
  - Home and Community Services
  - Medical Services
  - Behavioral Health
  - Preventative and Well Care
  - Hospice

- Determined for DDD Eligible Children:
  - In need Nursing Home level of care by AHCCCS
  - U.S. Citizen or Qualified Immigrant
  - Social Security Number
  - Arizona Resident
  - Apply for Cash Benefits
  - Financial Eligibility
  - Live in approved living arrangement

Every Family has a Team
Team Members

– Developmental Special Instructor
– Occupational Therapist
– Physical Therapist
– Speech Language Pathologist
– Service Coordinator
  • AzEIP TBEIS Contractor or Division for Developmental Disabilities (DDD)
– May include Hearing Specialist, Vision Specialist, Social Worker and/or Psychologist

AzEIP Teams

• Share caseload
• Meet Weekly
• Coach one another
• Work as a team
• Discuss each child and family at least quarterly

Service Coordination

May be provided by:
• AzEIP TBEIS staff
  – Initial process, AzEIP-only eligible, DDD eligible with private insurance
• DDD staff
  – DDD eligible with public insurance
Making A Referral

• Explain Consent
• Share Information
• Explain Early Intervention
• Ask for Updates
• Online is fastest!

Central Referral

• Gila, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal & Santa Cruz counties
• Algorithm assigns AzEIP provider
• Refer directly to AzEIP provider in other counties
• Screening Results?

Information Sharing

• Must have Consent
  – Protected under IDEA and FERPA
• Provide, with consent, Quarterly updates to community providers, physicians
• FERPA
What happens next

- Team Based Early Intervention Provider
- Service Coordinator
- Acknowledgement of Referral
- Initial Call to family
- Initial Visit with Family

Determining Eligibility

- Record Review
- Evaluation
- Informed Clinical Opinion
- “Simultaneously” determine ASDB and/or DDD eligibility

Child and Family Assessment

- Family-Directed
- Everyday Routines, Activities and Places
- Concerns, Priorities & Resources
- May include discipline-specific tools
The Plan

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP):
• Identifies Family Resources Priorities and Interests
• Outcomes
• Team identifies a Team Lead
• Team identifies services to support the outcomes

Home and Community Visits

• Review Joint Plan
• Explore successes & challenges
• Develop a new joint plan for what will happen between visits

F.A.B. Scheduling

Tina’s Schedule for the Current Month

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Tina’s Social Worker: [Name]
Tina’s Family: [Family Name]
Supporting families through the AzEIP Process

• Providing accurate info about eligibility
• Helping them to understand the timeline
• Can be present at evaluation if family would like

Supporting families through the AzEIP Process
If a child is NOT eligible

• Encourage families to ask further questions
  – Ask providers for strategies and how you can help child make progress
  – Ask what progress to look for
  – Ask when it will be appropriate to re-refer

Supporting families through the AzEIP Process
If a child IS eligible

• Attend the Child and Family Assessment/IFSP, if family would like
• Attend AzEIP sessions with family from time to time
• Get consent to communicate with the Team Lead about on going strategies and progress
Transition Planning

• Between 27 and 36 months
  – 27-30 months: IFSP Transition Planning meeting
  – 30 Months: PEA Notification sent
  – 30-33 Months: Preschool Transition Conference
  – 30-36 months: District Evaluation, Eligibility Review, and IEP
  – 36 months: Age out of AzEIP and IDEA part B begins

Before turning 3

Once Transition steps are complete, child continues to receive AzEIP services until the day BEFORE his/her third birthday

OR
until he/she begins preschool
(whichever happens first)

• Not all children will be eligible for preschool
• Team will discuss outside resources for all children prior to exit

Fact or Myth?

The truth revealed…
Questions?

AzEIP office contacts:
DES/AEIP (602) 532-2060
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