

Section 2: Public Awareness/Comprehensive Identification Procedures

Introduction The Iowa Department of Education, as Lead Agency, ensures that potentially eligible infants and toddlers are identified and evaluated by qualified personnel [281 – 120.27(4)].

Child Find for Early ACCESS and the identification of eligible infants and toddlers are year-round commitments by the Area Education Agencies (Regional Grantees), Signatory Agencies, and community partners.

Collaborative partnerships needed In addition, each Area Education Agency collaborates with community partners to ensure that the child find system is coordinated with agencies responsible for administering various education, health, social service programs and tribes/tribal organizations that receive funds under Part C, including the following:

- Child Find authorized under Part B of the Act (Special Education);
 - Maternal and Child Health agencies under Title V;
 - Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program (EPSDT);
 - Medicaid;
 - Head Start;
 - Early Head Start;
 - Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, administered by the Department of Human Services; and
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program.
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Child Find system components The Early ACCESS Child Find system in Iowa is based on

- public access to awareness materials;
- a central directory of services; and
- comprehensive identification procedures.

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Public awareness materials

Public awareness materials are available to inform the public of the Early ACCESS system. Materials are provided to agencies and organizations having a direct interest in early intervention to help locate and refer potentially eligible infants and toddlers from birth to three years of age [(281-120.24(2)]. Materials distributed include information about:

- child development;
- the referral process;
- the Iowa central point of contact; and
- the central directory.

Materials produced by the Lead Agency are available from and distributed by AEAs, Signatory Agencies, Early ACCESS Iowa (central point of contact), and community partners.

Public awareness materials - electronic access

Other methods available to inform the public of Early ACCESS include electronic access to resources available on AEA websites.

Area Education Agency	Website
AEA 1	www.aea1.k12.ia.us
AEA 267	www.aea267.k12.ia.us
AEA 8	www.aea8.k12.ia.us
AEA 9	www.aea9.k12.ia.us
AEA 10	www.aea10.k12.ia.us
AEA 11	www.aea11.k12.ia.us
AEA 12	www.nwaea.k12.ia.us
AEA 13	www.ghaea.org
AEA 15	www.gpaea.k12.ia.us

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Central directory of services

A central point of contact and directory was developed for ease of public access to Early ACCESS information and services (281-120.24).

The central point of contact, Early ACCESS Iowa, provides a toll-free number that is available to link callers or interested persons to inquire about Early ACCESS services.

The *State Resource Directory* is available to address the typical development and/or specialized needs of infants and toddlers and their families. The directory provides information regarding:

- public and private early intervention services;
- resources; and
- personnel available statewide.

Resource	Access
Central point of contact	Toll free: 1-888-IAKIDS1 (1-888-425-4371)
Central directory	Website: www.EarlyACCESSIowa.org

AEA staff and other agencies contribute updates to keep the directory current. AEA Early ACCESS Regional Liaisons are responsible for forwarding suggestions and updates to EarlyACCESSIowa.org.
