

Early Intervention Colorado Upcoming Changes as a Result of COVID 19 Budget Implications Frequently Asked Questions

The EI program is acting on several cost-savings strategies in order to reduce program expenditures by 10% (\$4.9 million) and in an effort to explain how these changes will impact the EI Program, this Frequently Asked Questions document was developed to support local EI programs in implementing these changes.

Q: What changes are effective July 1, 2020?

A: EI Colorado will no longer be funding one unit of family education for children enrolled in Medicaid or private insurance. EI Colorado will no longer be paying the \$10 per visit fee for any service provided through Telehealth for any service on or after July 1, 2020.

Q. Can I bill the family education unit, and the telehealth fee for services provided up until, and including, June 30, 2020?

A: Yes

Q: Does the eligibility process for initial evaluations go into effect on Friday the 10th or Monday the 13th?

A: Any activity that happens on July 10th through the 12th will follow the previous definitions and process for determining eligibility and for providing ongoing services at Annual Reviews. Activities that happen starting Monday, July 13th will follow the new definition of atypical development and the process of annual assessment to determine the need for ongoing EI Services.

Q: Will the initial evaluation process change?

A: No. The evaluation process will stay the same. The CCB is still responsible for determining eligibility based upon a 33% or greater delay in one or more areas.

Q: At an Annual IFSP meeting, does a child need to still have at least a 33% delay in order to continue receiving EI services?

A: No. If a child is exhibiting a delay at an Annual IFSP meeting the IFSP team can proceed with the development of an IFSP to address the concerns and priorities of the family. When a child is determined to be functioning at age-expected levels when compared with chronological age, and the IFSP team determines that continuing services is not needed to continue progress, the child will be exited from services.

Q: How is this different from the previous process?

A: Previously if a child was at age-expected levels, and if the family/IFSP team still had concerns about the child's development, the child could remain enrolled in the Early Intervention Program. Now, the child and family will exit from the program if the child is at age expected levels. This is something that service coordinators and providers should start discussing with the Initial IFSP and ongoing.

Q: What should service coordinators and providers be doing differently at periodic reviews to prepare families for this change?

A: Consideration should be given at periodic reviews to the level of service or services families need to meet IFSP outcomes. This conversation and consideration will help to prepare the child and family for exiting the program when they are at age expected levels, and no longer need services.

Q: Prior to the Annual IFSP meeting, does the child need to have a full Multidisciplinary team Evaluation?

A: No, only for the initial eligibility determination does the CCB need to follow rules for evaluation. In order to determine the need for continuing EI services annually, the child needs to be assessed in all areas of development to determine if they are functioning at age-expected levels. This assessment happens before the annual IFSP meeting, during regular services, and can occur with one or more providers. Be sure to document under each area of development on the IFSP the supporting evidence, range of delay, and minimum and maximum ages to support the need for ongoing EI services.

Q: If at an Annual IFSP meeting a child is at age-expected skills in the area of development they were initially showing a delay in, but now demonstrates a delay (even if it is less than 33%) in a different area of development, are they still eligible for early intervention services?

A: Yes, as long as a child is not functioning at age-expected levels when compared with same aged peers in all areas of development, they are eligible to continue to receive services.

Q: Does informed clinical opinion/informed opinion of delay apply for evaluating the need for ongoing services at the Annual Review?

A: No.

Q: If at an Annual Review, it is determined a child is at age-expected levels and no longer needs EI services to make progress, do we still create an “Annual Review” in the data system?

A: Yes. Users will create an Annual review, document present levels of development, and if needed, enter Exit Global Outcomes Ratings if a child has been in services over 6 months and initial ratings were entered.

Q: If a child has a less than 33% delay initially and is not eligible to receive early intervention services, what types of resources can be provided to the family?

A: [Community-based Resources for Children and Families](#)