

Developing and Measuring Part C and 619 Child Outcomes in Utah Program Abstract for CFDA 84.326X

This project will focus on Priority Focus Areas 1 and 2: Developing or enhancing Part B and C State outcome indicators and methods to collect and analyze Part B and Part C outcome indicator data. Specifically, Focus 1(a), “These indicators will provide information on the impact of Part B preschool services (age 3-5) on children with disabilities at the State and LEA level” and also Focus 2(a), “the impact of Part C services on infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families at the State and local level”.

Goals and Activities

Goal #1: Defining and Measuring Outcome Indicators. Using a Participatory Action Research (PAR) model, this project will develop Part C and Part B 619 preschool outcome indicators, measurement methodology, and evaluation tools that take into account critical demographic and program service variables for measuring the progress of and adapting the services for our infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities.

Goal #2: Validate Part C Data Collection Systems. In order to validate the Part C data collection and tracking procedures, this project will also assist Part C in verifying the program outcome data that providers enter into their new data management information system, *Baby and Toddler Online Tracking System (BTOTS)*. The verification system will also gather evidence from document reviews, interviews, and parent surveys as to whether Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP) include family-centered outcomes, whether those family centered services are being delivered as planned, and whether the lives of our infants and toddlers and their families are improving.

Goal #3: Improve the Tracking and Services of Transitioning Children. Finally, this project will focus on improving system outcomes for children who transition from Part C to Part B Section 619 services. Currently, we cannot account for 14% of the children who leave Part C services at the age of 3. To address this problem, we will explore using a new Child Health Advanced Records Management (CHARM) web-based data integration system developed by the Utah Department of Health to locate children lost to follow up. We expect that this effort will improve our Early Childhood Transition and Child Find system outcomes in both Part C and Part B Section 619.

Expected Outcomes

1. Individuals who will use the *Outcome Indicator Systems* and be impacted by them will be involved in the development and decision-making process.
2. The Outcome Indicator System measurement design and evaluation tools will be easy to use.
3. USOE and UDOH will consider and approve the outcome indicators and evaluation tools.
4. Outcome indicators will contribute to improving results for children with disabilities.
5. Program Outcomes and Indicators will be used a framework for verifying, analyzing and reporting data.
6. Validation Reports will be helpful in terms of assessing impact of services.
7. Early Childhood Transition and Child Find system outcomes will operate more efficiently and effectively.