

Early Intervention Transdisciplinary Methodology In Ohio

OUTCOME STATEMENT:

To assist Part C eligible children and their families to access and receive quality services from teams trained in evidence based EI transdisciplinary methodology.

SCOPE OF PROJECT AND COUNCIL INTENT:

“A transdisciplinary team involves two or more people including family members working together to better understand and more effectively and efficiently address the needs of the child and family. Through collaboration, consensus building, regular and open communication, and expanding roles across discipline boundaries, team members plan and provide integrated services for children and families.” (*LINK* definition: Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Recently policymakers in the State of Ohio made a decision to employ a transdisciplinary team model to provide core services for all Part C eligible children and families. Every child and family served through Ohio’s Part C early intervention system shall have access to evidence based early intervention services, using methodologies built upon the science of how young children naturally learn, and built upon trusting relationships between the caregivers and professionals.

These services should be designed to support parents to support their child’s development. These services should support outcomes that impact participation in everyday learning activities and opportunities (functional), rather than emphasize the acquisition of developmental milestones or discipline specific approaches. Principles of “transdisciplinary” teams (“team members commit to teach, learn, and work across disciplinary boundaries to plan and provide integrated interventions”) should be applied statewide.

Ohio draft policy language dictates the following: That a team of professionals will be available to serve children who are referred to/determined eligible for Part C services. From this team of professionals, a specific transdisciplinary team will be identified based on the unique needs of the child and family. The professionals available shall include:

- Service Coordinator
- Early Intervention Specialist/Developmental Specialist
- Physical Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech/Language Pathologist

It also states the transdisciplinary team members providing services to the child and family will be chosen from the core team through the family centered IFSP process. The unique needs of the child and family will determine the team members.

To this end, Council will fund a project to provide quality assurance to three transdisciplinary teams in the implementation stage. These teams should represent diverse areas throughout Ohio such as urban and rural and designated areas of poverty. The grantee will provide technical assistance and recommendations as to best practice including possible solutions to team coordination. The grantee will evaluate the effectiveness and overall satisfaction of the team members with special emphasis on functional family outcomes. Consumer satisfaction surveys and achievement of IFSP goals will be used to measure family satisfaction with services received and to determine that the outcomes of the Individual Family Service Plan were met.

A final report of findings including guidance will be published to assist all providers of Part C services in Ohio to better assist children and families to receive quality services. Additionally, the grantee will provide the Children's Issues Committee of ODDC with recommendations of changes needed to improve the transdisciplinary model of service being utilized to meet the needs of families and children receiving Part C services.

RESOURCES TO BE ALLOCATED:

Federal:	\$125,000
Matching Funds:	<u>41,667</u>
Total:	\$166,667

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE TARGETS:

Area of Emphasis: Education and Early Intervention

**Identification
Number**

ED02 Infants and young children have the services/supports needed to reach developmental goals through Council efforts.

Year 2010: 60 Year 2011: 60

ED06 Education programs/policies created/improved.

Year 2010: 3 Year 2011: 88

FUNDING METHOD:

Competitive Grant X