

Glossary of Terms

Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund- the fund is designed to act as a safety net for families who have excessive expenses related to a child's medical needs.

Due Process Rights- procedural safeguards that contain protection for families as well as allow for timely resolution of disputes.

EI Vendors- agencies or organizations contracted by the state to oversee Early Intervention program operations.

Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project- a statewide project that works toward a family-centered system by informing parents about opportunities within the EI system, involving families at all levels, and assisting families in lifelong learning and advocacy skills. The PLP publishes a statewide newsletter, maintains a website, and provides training to staff and parents to encourage family participation in EI.

Family Initiatives- programs that work together to provide families with up to date information and support so they can better meet the needs of their children. These programs also encourage parents to take an active role within the EI (Early intervention) system.

Family Ties of Massachusetts- a statewide information and support network for families of children with special needs.

ICC (Interagency Coordinating Council)- mandated part of Part C of IDEA, the ICC is an advisory board made up of parent and program representatives to assist in the planning, development and implementation of activities necessary to the statewide Early Intervention System.

IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)- Federal law that guarantees all children have the right to a public education. IDEA Part B refers to the education of children ages 3-22. IDEA Part C requires states to develop a system of services for infants and toddlers (birth to three) with developmental delays. In Massachusetts, this is referred to as the Early Intervention system.

LEA (Local Education Agency)- usually the community school system that takes over special education services when a child turns three years old.

Lead Agency- the agency within the state responsible for overseeing and coordinating the service system for birth to three.

OSEP (Office of Special Education)- office of the Department of Education that oversees Special Education programming for children ages birth-22.

Office of SSP (Specialty Service Providers)- providers who outreach to children requiring specialty services, including children who are blind or low-vision, deaf or hearing impaired, and children on the autism spectrum.

Pediatric Palliative Care- A network of hospice providers that serve the unmet physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of children with life-limiting illness.

Regional Consultation Programs- programs that provide support and assistance to families of children enrolled in Early Intervention who have multiple disabilities or complex medical needs.

UNHS (Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program)- a program designed to screen newborns for hearing loss in order to provide early access to appropriate services.