

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers April 2020



Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

April 15, 2020: EI Telehealth Survey Due!

Weekly EI Webinars: 3—4 pm on Tuesdays

- April 14
- April 21
- April 28



CANCELED: April 28, 2020, 10a—11a: Monthly EI Webinar



Welcome

Gabrielle Keegan, Program Director of South Bay Framingham

Please welcome Gabrielle Keegan as the new Program Director of South Bay Framingham. Gabrielle began her career in EI as a Social Worker at South Bay Community Services in Lowell and became a supervisor in 2017. In the fall of 2019, she transferred to the Framingham program and became their Program Director in March 2020. Please join us in welcoming Gabrielle!

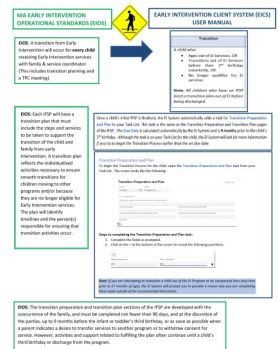


DPH Updates

EI Operational Standards Compared to the EI Client System

Have you ever wondered why transition is built into the client system the way it is? The [attached document](#) ([PDF of document](#)) walks through the transition policy in the EI Operational Standards compared to the EI Client System.

*Please note the SEA Notification to DESE may change based on public comment received through the Part C Hearings.



Professional Development for EI Providers Update

New Grab & Go

The “Building Bridges/PIWI Engaging Parents/Caregivers During Tele-intervention Session: The Parallel Process” grab and go module has been added to Training On Demand. This professional development resource will provide guidance on how telehealth aligns with Massachusetts Mission, Key Principles and Core Values. In addition, it will provide guidance on strategies to engage parents/caregivers during telehealth session by using a parallel process.



New podcasts will be featured in this section as they become available.

They are always available at <https://eionthefly.podbean.com/>.

[Episode 1: What is Functional Assessment and Why Does it Matter?](#)

[Episode 2: Intentional Observation](#)

[Episode 3: Asking Meaningful Questions \(Emily's personal favorite!\)](#)

[Episode 4: Active Listening](#)

[Episode 5: Implicit Bias](#)

[Episode 6: Functional Assessment and the Initial IFSP](#)

[Episode 7: Ongoing Functional Assessment](#)



Resources & Events

Information on the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) Program

RAFT provides short-term financial assistance to low income families who are currently homeless or at risk for homelessness. The assistance can help with a family's particular needs (moving costs, rent or utilities arrears, utility bills, security deposits, etc.)

A family may qualify for up to \$4,000 in a 12 month period. A family can complete an intake at a Housing Consumer Education Center (HCEC) in their region. An assessment is made, and if approved, a RAFT application is completed.

For regional locations, contact 1-800-224-5124

For more details on how to qualify, and FAQs, click on the link below:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-residential-assistance-for-families-in-transition-raft>

MassHealth Provider Resource: Telephone and Internet Connectivity for Telehealth

Lifeline Program - Subsidized Phone and Internet Service

Lifeline is a federal program that provides no cost or low-cost phone service to low-income households.

Eligibility based on income and public benefits, including Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, etc. (All MassHealth members are eligible.)

The [guidance document](#) produced by MassHealth and the Dept. of Telecommunications provides details on the Lifeline Program as well as information from various phone and internet providers on their response to COVID-19.

COVID-19 Resources in Other Languages

This [website](#) has infographics on parenting during COVID-19. These infographics are available in multiple languages.

This [Google Drive](#) is an extensive library of resources compiled about COVID-19 in several languages, including those less common languages here in Massachusetts. This resource is quite comprehensive. Take a look if you are looking for information in a certain language. Some documents that could be helpful are *3-6* (an infographic for kids), *Book for kids*, *Tips*, as well as prevention, quarantining, and pregnancy and COVID-19.



Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

Patti Fougere

Patti.fougere@state.ma.us

617-624-5975