**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 top oversee Early Intervention program operations.

**Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project (EIPLP)**- 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 social media, 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 thus 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 to provide early access to appropriate services.