



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 2019

Dear Parent:

The New York State Department of Health Bureau of Early Intervention (NYS DOH BEI) and the Family Initiative Coordination Services Project at Just Kids Early Childhood Learning Center are sponsoring an *Early Intervention Partners Training Project* in the Western region this summer. The *Early Intervention Partners Training Project* is for parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities currently receiving early intervention services. The training is also for parent members of the Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council (LEICC) and its committees.

The *Early Intervention Partners Training Project* helps parents of young children with disabilities become involved in Early Intervention Program leadership activities. The training sessions provide information, resources, and skill-building activities designed to increase parent advocacy and leadership skills. Parents are encouraged to form working partnerships with early intervention professionals and policymakers.

The training sessions will help parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities gain a better understanding of the Early Intervention Program. Parents who are accepted to attend will receive information about early intervention laws and regulations, Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) development, family assessment, natural environments, the history of the disability movement, individual leadership goals, clinical practice guidelines, parent rights, information regarding State and local Early Intervention Coordinating Councils (EICC), and the process of transitioning out of the Early Intervention Program. In addition, parents who are accepted to attend will also learn more about opportunities for parent involvement within New York State's Early Intervention Program.

We are inviting you to apply to participate in this training program. The training program is *free of charge*, and all meals, training materials, and overnight accommodations are provided at no cost. A very limited amount of funding is available to assist parents in need of support for child care and travel expenses. Prior approval by the Family Initiative Coordinator is required for those needing assistance.

Session I is a Web-based training, presented as an interactive webinar titled, ***IFSP Functional Outcomes***, to be viewed from a personal computer or mobile device.

Session II meets for a two-day, in person, training and includes an optional overnight stay at the Courtyard by Marriott - Buffalo Amherst/University 4100 Sheridan Drive, Buffalo, New York 14221.

Please see the next page for information on the dates and times of sessions.



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Session	Day	Date	Time	Meals
Session I Webinar (viewed on your personal computer or mobile device)	Saturday	June 15, 2019	9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	N/A
Session II In person at: Courtyard by Marriott - Buffalo Amherst/University 4100 Sheridan Drive, Buffalo, New York 14221	Friday	July 26, 2019	3:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.	Dinner
	Saturday	July 27, 2019	8:45 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	Breakfast/Lunch

Applicants must commit to participate in Session I and attend *both* days of Session II. This commitment is a requirement for acceptance to the *Early Intervention Partners Training Project*. In addition, parents who wish to attend with a partner or another family member must submit a joint application.

If you are interested in attending, you must complete and return the enclosed application. You can also download a copy of the application at <http://www.eifamilies.com>.

Applications are due by Friday, May 17, 2019.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Angela M. Furci, Family Initiative Coordinator:

- E-mail: angelamfurci@justkidsecl.org
- Phone: (877) 205-0502 (toll-free)
- Web: <http://www.eifamilies.com>

We thank you for your interest and commitment to this project, and for your cooperation by responding in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Constance L. Donohue

Constance L. Donohue
Director
Bureau of Early Intervention

Angela M. Furci

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Coordinator
Family Initiative Coordination Services Project