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National Center on
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning


October 25, 2022

**Partnering with IDEA Providers to Support Inclusion:
Part 1**

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October 25, 2022
Partnering with IDEA Providers to Support Inclusion: Part 1

Viewer's Guide

This viewer's guide will help you capture your ideas for coverage with the webinar content. During this webinar, we will focus on the importance of collaboration, partnerships, and how strong partnerships with IDEA partners can improve identification and services for children with disabilities and support their learning, growth, and inclusion in the broader community of programs.


Partnerships for Effective Inclusion

Being collaborative relationships are the foundation of high-quality inclusive services. Effective collaborations ensure children and families receive best practices.

As disability service providers (DSPs), you must become flexible with partners to sharing resources. This includes knowing who our partners are, what they have and how they are using their time, and the formal structure, including what responsibilities of organizations (MOUs), that support effective partnership.

Head Start and Early Head Start programs are designed to establish an MOU with the local agencies that provide services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In 2019, a document that guides how programs provide disabilities services to children and families (MOU) are required for programs and IDEA agencies to ensure all children with disabilities receive the best possible outcomes.

The people responsible for leading and giving the MOU will vary from program to program, but IDEA has an important role in ensuring that each MOU supports the program's commitment to children with disabilities and their families. However, it is an MOU that is a legal agreement. It is not an official state contract. It is a contract between you and your state and your agency.



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Webinar Features

The diagram illustrates the following features:

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Presenters

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Learning Objectives

1. Describe the importance of collaborating with IDEA partners to create strong partnership agreements
2. Identify strategies to build strong, collaborative relationships with IDEA partners
3. Discuss key components of partnership agreements


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What Brings You Here?

- I am new to my position and need help understanding partnership agreements and MOUs
- I am not new, but effective partnerships are difficult to maintain
- Effective partnerships are a strength, and I would like to share my knowledge with others





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Why Are Partnerships Important?



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Regulations & Requirements




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Best Practice




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Positive Outcomes



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How Do I Build Relationships?




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What makes you feel heard?



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Program Perspective:
Importance of Communication




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What Should Be In
a Partnership
Agreement?



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"Each time a partner leaves, I feel like we have to start over. This is why the MOU has to be really clear and explicit.
At least with a strong MOU, you are probably starting from Step 2 rather than Step 1." – RIV DSC

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Who?




To support productive agreements:

- Ensure representation across agencies
- Consider diverse perspectives and experiences
- Include people with decision-making authority

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Why?




Collaborate to create a shared understanding:

- Benefits of formalized agreement
- Shared values
- Collective purpose

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Program Perspective:
Finding Your "Why" as a Team



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Program Perspective:
Meeting Community Needs



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What?



Describe each agency's role to address key IDEA activities:

- Child find
- Eligibility evaluation
- IFSP or IEP process
- Child and family outcomes
- Placement
- Service delivery
- Collaboration
- Transitions

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Common MOU Components



- Purpose
- Program Overviews
- Shared Philosophy
- Areas of collaboration
- Agency Roles/Responsibilities
- Confidentiality
- Dispute Resolution
- Review and Amendments
- Definitions
- Signatures
- Appendices

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When?



Ongoing activities should demonstrate dedication to keeping partnership strong:

- Ongoing, open dialogue
- Intentional collaboration
- Regular discussion of MOU implementation
- Conflict resolution
- Specific timelines for MOU review, revisions, and updates

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Questions and Answers



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How do you manage relationships with multiple partners, especially with so much turnover?



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Program Perspective:
Developing Relationships



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Thank You!

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Partnering with IDEA Providers to Support Inclusion: Part 2
February 28, 2023



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