

THE POLICY

PAGES Responses to Questions as Received by Part H

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Q: What is the proper way to handle the situation in which a child and family arrive from another state with a completed IFSP?

A: The federal regulations governing early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, consider Part H to be a state program. Based upon these federal regulations, each state has developed its own policies and procedures for its Part H program (including its own definition of eligibility). Therefore, when a child moves into Virginia from another state and is referred to Virginia's Part H system, that referral is the same as any other new referral (even if that child comes with an IFSP from the other state).

Since each state has developed its own Part H eligibility criteria, a child eligible for Part H services in one state may not be eligible in another. When a child and family arrive in Virginia with a completed IFSP from another state, the goal is to minimize the disruption of early intervention services for those children who will be eligible under Virginia's definition and to refer to other needed services those who do not meet Virginia's Part H eligibility requirements. As with any child and family referred to the local Part H system, a temporary service coordinator must be assigned immediately. The next step is to determine whether the child meets Virginia's definition of eligibility. In most cases, if the child's early intervention record is available, it will not be necessary to complete any new evaluations or assessments in order to determine eligibility. Virginia's policies and procedures related to evaluation and assessment state that:

"...with the permission of the parent(s) or guardian(s), any evaluation data less than six months old must be reviewed to determine if they are appropriate for inclusion in determining eligibility in order to prevent children and families from undergoing unnecessary

evaluation and duplication of already existing evaluation information. However, given the rapid changes in growth and development in infancy, evaluation teams need to ensure that all information used to determine eligibility accurately reflects a child's current status."

Children for whom there is documentation of eligibility in another state based upon a diagnosed disabling condition listed in Virginia's definition of eligibility would be among those who would not require any additional evaluations in order to determine that they are eligible under Virginia's Part H definition as well.

Once eligibility under Virginia's definition is determined, the team proceeds with development of an IFSP. Please note that localities are strongly encouraged to move as quickly as possible through the process of determining eligibility and developing an IFSP. In most cases, the availability of evaluation, assessment and IFSP information from the previous state should facilitate the ability of the team to accomplish these tasks in well under the 45-day time line.

Please note that the only time an interim IFSP would be used for a child moving from another state would be when that child had a diagnosed disabling condition listed in Virginia's definition of eligibility and when exceptional circumstances made it necessary to begin Part H services prior to completion of needed evaluation and assessments. This will be rare since most children in this situation will have complete evaluation and assessment information from the state in which they previously lived.

Additional questions regarding evaluation, IFSP development and Part H services for children who move to Virginia with an IFSP from another state should be directed to your Regional Early Intervention Technical Assistance Broker.