

EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION
FY 2011 GUIDELINES

Purpose:

The purpose of the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) Program for FY 2011 is to identify and address early childhood behavioral health needs in subsidized child care and Head Start settings in high risk, low-income communities. Funds appropriated for ECMHC will continue to be allocated to the ADAMH/CMH Boards.

Background:

ODMH implemented the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program in 2000. The primary goal of ECMHC is to increase knowledge, awareness, resources and skills necessary for communities to meet the behavioral health needs of young children and their families. The program's objectives are to build protective factors in young children, increase parents' skills and promote the competencies of early childhood providers, especially relating to children ages birth to six years who are at risk for abuse, neglect and poor social/emotional health. ECMHC aims to achieve healthy social and emotional development for all young children in Ohio to ensure they thrive and are ready for school.

Current Issues:

The Social and Emotional Workgroup of the Early Childhood Cabinet recommended that funding for FY 2010 be narrowed in focus to provide consultation services in low income and high risk areas and would include only subsidized child care and Head Start settings. Children identified as being at risk of expulsion from an early care setting will remain a priority. This will continue to be the focus for FY 2011.

ODJFS provided a list of all licensed child care centers in Ohio. This information was used to create a list of centers that would be eligible to receive services in FY 2010. All ODJFS and ODE licensed Head Start programs are eligible as are all ODJFS licensed child care centers serving at least 10 infants, toddlers and/or preschool children who are receiving some government subsidy. Providers are expected to use this information to prioritize the settings to be offered the consultation services.

Program funds should be focused on universal prevention and intervention and are intended to drive classroom change. Quality of services, rather than mere quantity, is important. Written agreements between the service provider and the center receiving services are required and must be shared with the funding Board.

Services and activities must be targeted to identified eligible programs. Services and activities to be funded include the following:

- ECMH consultation to identified centers, including mentoring, coaching, and classroom observation
- Training and educational sessions, **as part of the consultation process**, including problem identification, referral processes, classroom management strategies, the impact of maternal depression, substance abuse, domestic violence, and other stressors on young children's well being
- Work with families of children who have been identified as being at-risk of removal from their early childhood setting due to behavioral issues, to enhance the families' ability to

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create strong, nurturing environments for and relationships with their young children in partnership with the early childhood setting

Funding

For FYs 2010 and 2011, ODJFS has dedicated \$2,150,000 per year from federal Quality Child Care funds for the ECMHC Program. For FYs 2010 and 2011, ODMH will add program funding of \$200,000 per year, for a total ECMHC Program funding amount of \$2,350,000 per year.

All 50 ADAMH/CMH Boards are eligible to receive funding.

Allocations for FY 2011 will remain the same as FY 2010.

The targeted number of centers required to be served for the fiscal year is determined by the total FY 2011 allocation divided by 3875.

Guidelines:

- ODMH will provide a list of centers determined eligible to receive ECMHC services to each Board. It will be the responsibility of the provider, with the assistance of the Board, as needed, to prioritize the centers that will be offered services.
- The board and/or provider may request that a center be added to the list of eligible centers. All requests for additions and changes must be made no later than December 31, 2010.
- For multi-county Board areas, at least one center in each county must receive services.
- Technical Assistance will be offered to all Boards, as requested for:
 - General TA needs
 - For those Boards with fewer than 8 centers on their list, TA to develop a list of additional centers that may be served
 - For those Boards unable to obtain agreements with the required targeted number of centers from the provided list, TA to develop and execute such agreements
- Each Board must have at least 8 centers identified as receiving services by December 31, 2010 or funding will be reduced by \$3875 for each center less than 8 being served. Any unallocated funding will be reallocated based on reported numbers of centers being served by Boards serving more than the target number.
- Documentation of all centers declining services on the Board list must be submitted with required interim and final reports. Those centers will be removed from future lists.
- Children identified at risk of removal from a child care setting due to behavioral issues may be served regardless of whether the center where the child is located is on the eligible center list.
- All providers must submit data and reports as required at least quarterly. Compliance with data submission and reporting may influence future allocations. (see ECMHC Guidelines for Data Collection)
- Interim and final program and fiscal reports are required and must be submitted in the prescribed format. Reports are due to ODMH no later than January 31, 2011 and August 1, 2011. Continued allocation funds are contingent on filing complete and timely reports.

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- Performance and compliance data for FY 2010 and FY 2011 will be used to inform future allocations.
- All provider agencies will support staff participation in training sessions and regional and state meetings, as appropriate.
- Funds may be utilized only by agencies certified by ODMH to provide mental health services.
- The allocation is to be used to fund activities associated with the ECMHC process and may not be used for any other purpose without prior written authorization from ODMH.
- All ECMHC consultants must register with the Ohio Early Childhood Professional Development Network to become an approved trainer.
- It is suggested that the Board and provider agencies discuss the option of contracting with the Head Start programs for funds that are designated by Head Start for required mental health services.

Funds may be drawn down in accordance with the FY 2011 Allocation Guidelines.

Funds may be used for:

- Salaries, Wages and fringe benefits (for those providing direct services)
- Travel: Mileage/Lodging/Per Diem (subject to the limitations set forth in OAC 126-1-02)
- Curriculum development and training materials for training and education sessions conducted for parents and early childhood staff as part of the ECMHC process
- Purchase of e-DECA license and administration costs to support use of the DECA program
- Administrative costs, not to exceed 5% of the total amount of the allocation, including indirect costs and fiscal accounting

Unallowable Costs – Funds may NOT be used for

- purchase of equipment,
- Rent, utilities, etc.
- Construction, renovation
- Public awareness
- Professional development expenses

Forms and additional information may be found on the ODMH website at:

<http://mentalhealth.ohio.gov/what-we-do/provide/children-youth-and-families/early-childhood/index.shtml>

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