



**Department of  
Children & Youth**

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Help Me Grow Early Intervention

# **SYSTEM OF PAYMENTS**



The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA, requires that some Early Intervention (EI) activities and services are provided at no cost to parents. Child find, evaluation and assessment, development of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), procedural safeguards, and service coordination are publicly funded and provided at no cost to parents.

The need for additional EI services<sup>1</sup> is determined through the IFSP team process. As many as 100 units<sup>2</sup> of these additional EI services are provided each IFSP year<sup>3</sup> at no cost to parents for each eligible child. These services are funded through a mix of local, state and federal public funds, including parent and child insurance, given parent consent.

Before the first IFSP meeting, an EI Service Coordinator will explain Ohio's System of Payments rule ([ohioearlyintervention.org/federal-and-state-regulations](https://ohioearlyintervention.org/federal-and-state-regulations)) and, with you, determine if you will have financial responsibility for needed EI services that exceed 100 publicly funded units in the IFSP year.

You will not have any financial responsibility for EI services

- if you or your child are enrolled in WIC or Ohio Medicaid,
- if your family income is less than or equal to [Ohio Healthy Start](#)<sup>4</sup> eligibility for uninsured children,
- or if your family incurs extraordinary medical expenses during the IFSP year.

Your EI Service Coordinator will explain these categories. If you do not meet these financial qualifications or you choose not to share financial information, you will only pay for those additional EI services that exceed 100 units in the IFSP year. Your EI Service Coordinator will inform you how EI funding works and the choices you have as the IFSP is developed.

As part of your child's IFSP team, you will help to determine which services and how much of any service is needed to meet IFSP outcomes. Your EI Service Coordinator will work with you to coordinate needed services and funding as your IFSP is developed or changed.

1 Additional early intervention services include: audiology, assistive technology devices and services, special instruction, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech language therapy and others as needed to meet IFSP outcomes.

2 A unit is equal to one hour of service or \$100 in assistive technology device expense. Partial times or dollars may be used to equal a unit, as determined by the IFSP team.

3 The IFSP year means the year beginning on the date the initial or annual IFSP is signed, and ending the day before the signing of the next annual IFSP.

4 More information about Ohio Healthy Start is available at: <https://ohioearlyintervention.org/system-of-payments>



Mike DeWine, Governor  
State of Ohio

Kara B. Wente, Director  
Department of Children and Youth  
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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# PAYING FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE

Your Early Intervention (EI) Service Coordinator will explain Ohio's System of Payments rule ([ohioearlyintervention.org/federal-and-state-regulations](http://ohioearlyintervention.org/federal-and-state-regulations)) and will provide you with a copy at your request. The rule outlines your choices in paying for EI services and the parent consent that is required before services can be billed.

Your EI Service Coordinator will review which services are available to your child at no cost, and which services may have a cost to you. Your EI Service Coordinator will explain that your consent is needed before your private or public insurance can be billed to pay for EI services and your right to appeal eligibility and payment determinations.

## Using Private Insurance

Often offered through employers, trade unions or other groups, private insurance is any insurance that is not part of state or federal programs like Medicaid or Medicare.

You must give consent before your private insurance can be used to pay for EI services. Your EI Service Coordinator will explain the potential costs of using your private insurance to pay for EI services, including potential long-term costs or a loss of benefits should you exceed annual or lifetime coverage caps.

If you give consent, you will continue to pay your own insurance premiums but will not have to pay your co-pays or deductibles for the first 100 units of EI services.

If you have private insurance and it is determined that you have no financial responsibility for EI services, you will not have to pay any co-pays or deductibles.

Your EI Service Coordinator will ask you for consent again anytime there is increase in amount, duration, or scope of EI services on your IFSP.

## Using Public Insurance

Medicaid is a public insurance program. When an individual is enrolled in Medicaid, there is no cost for EI services, or premiums, co-pays or deductibles for EI services.

Using Medicaid, there is no risk of discontinuation of enrollment of regular Medicaid benefits or waiver services, nor risk of decrease in available lifetime coverage or any other insured benefit.

Your EI Service Coordinator will ask for your consent to share your child's name and Medicaid number with the Ohio Department of Medicaid for billing purposes. If you give consent, you may withdraw your consent.

## Public & Private Insurance

If you have both public and private insurance, you will have no financial responsibility for EI services.

Your EI Service Coordinator must ask for consent before accessing your public or private insurance when billing for EI services.

## Protections for You

EI services shall not be delayed or denied to an eligible child due to lack of:

- parental consent to use the private insurance of the child or parent to pay for EI services;
- the child's or parent's enrollment in public insurance programs; or
- parental consent to share the child's personally-identifiable information with public insurance programs.

The EI system shall not require a child or parent to enroll in public insurance programs as a condition of receiving EI services, but shall share information about the enrollment process for such programs. The EI system shall not enroll a child or parent in public insurance programs or use the public insurance of a child or parent to pay for EI services if the child or parent is not already enrolled in a public insurance program.

When using the public insurance of a child or parent to pay for EI services, the EI system:

- shall obtain initial, one-time parental consent for disclosure of the child's personally-identifiable information to the public insurance program for billing purposes;
- shall make available those EI services in the IFSP to which the parent has provided consent.

When the parent is determined unable to pay, the eligible child shall be provided all EI services identified as needed in the IFSP at no cost to the child or family, including those EI services that exceed 100 units in the IFSP year.

Parents able to pay shall be responsible for paying the cost of EI services that exceed 100 units, including private insurance co-payments and deductibles, needed to meet the outcomes in the IFSP, except for the no cost EI services.

A parent shall not be charged more than the actual cost of the EI services (factoring in any amount received from other sources for payment for those services).

A child or parent with private insurance or public insurance shall not be charged disproportionately more than a child or parent without public or private insurance.

EI services shall not be delayed or denied to an eligible child of a parent unable to pay for EI services.

# Parent Rights and Procedural Safeguards

If you disagree with the determination of your ability to pay or your parent cost participation, you have all of the rights outlined in the Early Intervention Parent Rights brochure.

This includes the right to file a written complaint with the Ohio Department of Children and Youth or to use a mediator or hearing officer to resolve your issue.

You may also request an informal review by asking your EI Service Coordinator for assistance or by submitting a written request for review within 30 days from the time you received notification of your ability to pay or parent cost participation to:

Ohio Early Intervention,  
Ohio Department of Children and Youth  
P.O. Box 183204  
Columbus, Ohio 43218

Include a statement of the reasons you believe the determination of your ability to pay or your cost participation is wrong and what you suggest as a solution. The department will issue a written decision to you within 20 calendar days of receiving your request for review.