

NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.
Acting Commissioner of Health

Sue Kelly
Executive Deputy Commissioner

June 2014

Dear Parent:

The NYS Department of Health’s Bureau of Early Intervention and the Family Initiative Coordination Services Project at The Just Kids Early Childhood Learning Center are sponsoring an *Early Intervention Partners Training Project* in the Downstate Region this fall. The *Early Intervention Partners Training Project* is for parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities currently receiving early intervention services in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties, or in the five counties of New York City (Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond).

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.

We are inviting you to apply to participate in this training program. We will select parents from Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties, or in the five counties of New York City (Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond) to attend. 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, with an interactive webinar to be viewed at your computer. Sessions II and III meet for two, two day face to face sessions and include an optional overnight stay.

Session	Day	Date	Time
Session I Webinar: IFSP Functional Outcomes	Saturday	September 20, 2014	9:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Sessions II and III will be held at the **Radisson Hotel New Rochelle, One Radisson Plaza New Rochelle, New York**, on the following dates:

Session	Day	Date	Time	Meals
Session II:	Friday	October 17, 2014	4:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.	Dinner
	Saturday	October 18, 2014	9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.	Breakfast/Lunch
Session III:	Friday	November 14, 2014	4:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.	Dinner
	Saturday	November 15, 2014	9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.	Breakfast/Lunch

Applicants must commit to participate in Session I and attend *both* days of Sessions II and III. 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.

Space is limited. If you are interested in attending, you must complete and return the enclosed application. You can also download extra copies, or complete the application online at: <http://www.eifamilies.com>. Applications are due by Wednesday, **August 20, 2014**. Notification of acceptance will be mailed on Friday, **August 22, 2014**.

These 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 development, family assessment, natural environments, transition, funding, record keeping and confidentiality, clinical practice guidelines, and parent rights. 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.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Margaret Sampson, Family Initiative Coordinator:

- E-mail: msamp@ficsp.com
- 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,



Brenda Knudson Chouffi
Co-Director
Bureau of Early Intervention



Margaret Sampson
Coordinator
Family Initiative Coordination Services Project

Enclosure