



The Michigan Division for Early Childhood (MiDEC)

Your Michigan source for information, resources, and guidance related to young children with special needs and their families.

Statement of Support October 31, 2017

MiDEC supports state funding for *Early On*® services to infants and toddlers with disabilities.

Early On® is Michigan's system of early intervention services for families with children birth to age three who have a developmental delay or a diagnosed health condition that could lead to such delay, as required by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. *Early On*® provides services to families of infants and toddlers that are not developing at the same rate as other children in many areas including physical, cognitive, communication, adaptive, and social-emotional development.

Michigan receives federal funding for *Early On*®, but is the only state that does not invest in its own early intervention system with a statewide allocation. Nationally, over half of the funds used for the required activities of Part C come from state level Part C appropriations and state general funds. With only federal dollars specifically targeted to serve this population, services to Michigan's infants and toddlers with delays and disabilities are inadequately funded. The lack of investment in early intervention, which research supports has the best opportunity for long-term impact, is a missed opportunity that is costly to children, families and the state system of education.

MiDEC fully supports the attached *Early On*® Michigan Foundation's October 6, 2017 Recommendation for State Allocation of Funding – Initial Allocation and Rationale for State Allocation of Funding statements.

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