



# STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SSIP) NEWSLETTER

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## November 2015 to April 2016 Activities

The past several months have included collaborating with stakeholders and working extensively with our national technical assistance centers to develop the components needed for the SSIP Phase II. This work involved narrowing the strategies and activities, identifying outcomes, and developing a timeline for implementation. The Evaluation Plan was the final component developed. The SSIP Phase II was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in March 2016. This means we are now ready to start Phase III!

## Collecting Feedback

We have been working to identify which activities will result in the greatest impact on the State-identified Measureable Result (SiMR), which is to improve social-emotional outcomes for infants and toddlers. Most importantly, we are learning from what we have done in the past and how we can do things better in order to make this a manageable change for our program.

Central Office has been busy collecting information from regional staff and contractors for both the Mentor Cohorts I and II, and the SSIP. The SSIP has provided us with valuable tools and processes to help guide this type of data collection and analysis, which is going to help the program implement and sustain new initiatives over time.

Thanks to the extensive feedback we have collected through surveys, interviews, on-site visits, video observations, and hub leadership teams, we feel that we have a good understanding of each hub’s qualities, needs, and the direction of the program. We want to say a big thank you for your participation in these activities, and to let you know that this information is vital for the program to make sustainable improvements.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SSIP FINAL STRATEGIES.....	2
WHAT’S NEXT.....	3
HOW TO STAY INFORMED.....	3
SSIP STATE TEAM MEMBERS.....	3
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.....	3



## SSIP Workgroup

The SSIP Workgroup had meetings in November 2015, and February 2016. Members of the workgroup have been instrumental in assisting the ITP with developing a feasible plan for the SSIP. Central Office has gained new knowledge and resources because of this workgroup, and has been able to develop an implementation plan that leverages other program initiatives and is reflective of regional needs.

The SSIP Workgroup will continue to convene as we move into the implementation phase of the SSIP. Priorities will include modifying the ECO process, developing training, and identifying social-emotional evidence-based practices.

The minutes and activities from the SSIP Workgroup meeting are located on the SharePoint site, SSIP page.

# SSIP Final Strategies

## Theory of Action

We modified the Theory of Action into three strategies, and reorganized it in order of priority. After spending time with the Demonstration Sites, we figured out that the Early Childhood Outcome (ECO) process is not as meaningful to staff or families as we would like them to be. Therefore, this will be the first priority for the SSIP.

### Strands of Action

**Early Childhood Outcome (ECO) Practices**

**Monitoring and Accountability**

**Professional Development**

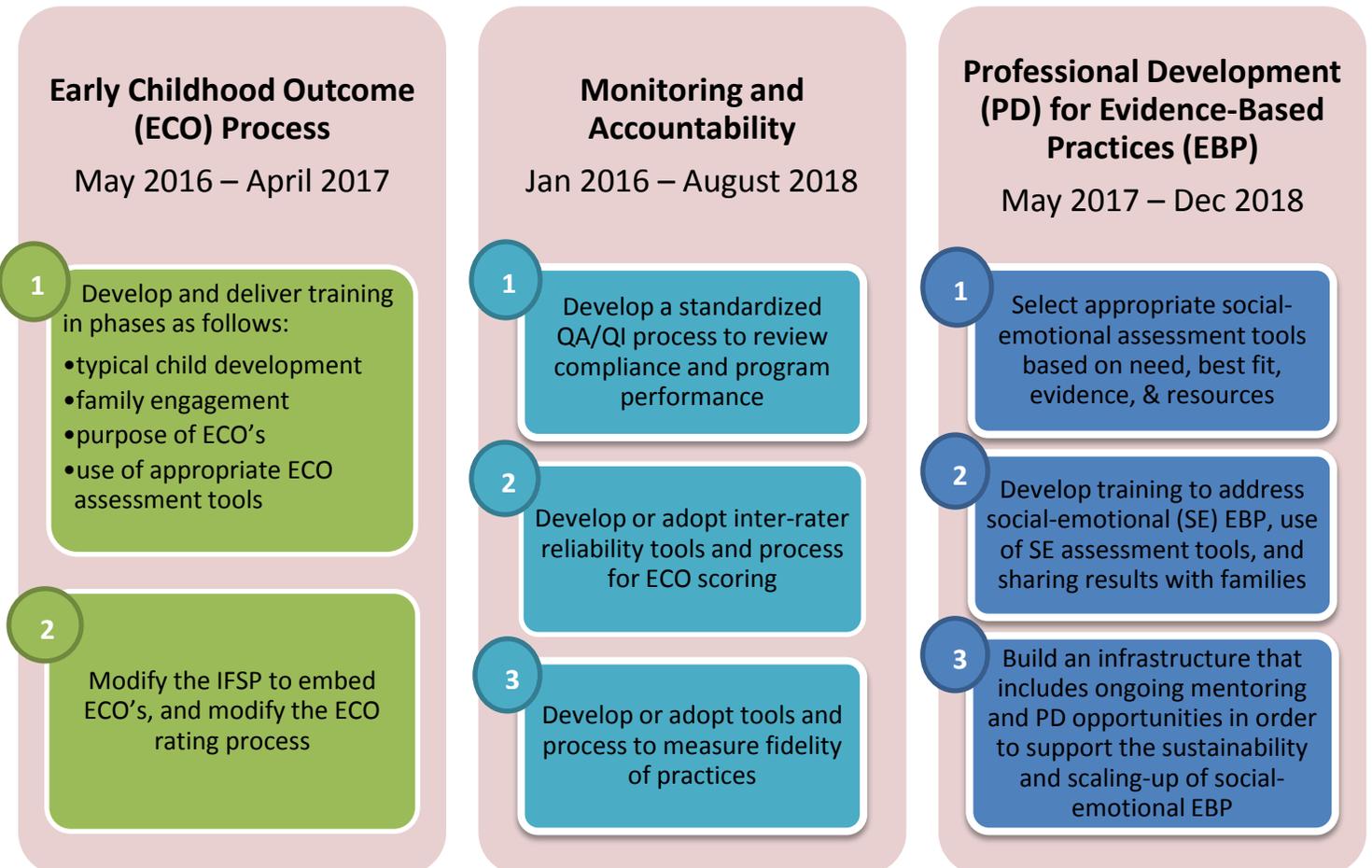
### If ITP...

...modifies the early childhood outcomes process for ITP staff, contractors, and families

...establishes a statewide quality improvement and assurance system that reviews, monitors, and enhances early intervention evidence-based practices and COS ratings

...develops a statewide structure that supports the implementation of a standardized, sustainable professional development system for evidence-based practices for ITP staff and contractors

The following chart provides a high-level summary of the activities and timeline planned for the SSIP over the next several years (refer to the SSIP SharePoint Site, or ask your supervisor if you would like detailed information):



# What's Next?

We have learned a few key things during Phase II that will help guide us through implementing the SSIP activities:

- 1) **Training needs to align with adult learning theory** – We received input that all-day training is not as effective. Future training will involve shorter sessions, multiple learning modes such as podcasts, webinars, reading assignments, in-person, etc, and time for discussion and reflection.
- 2) **Mentor Cohort II activities will merge with the SSIP regarding the professional development system for evidence-based practices** – The SSIP timeline aligns with the Cohort II activities in order to ensure cohesive implementation of quality evidence-based practices.

We envision that the Cohort II mentor and team trainings will be refined based on feedback from participants of the training. Cohort II activities are scheduled to be completed in September 2016.

We hope to have the opportunity to survey and interview teams and mentors similar to Cohort I, and finalize a sustainability plan by 2017. Once the mentor structure is established, then we will explore how to embed specific social-emotional practices within the Primary Service Provider approach.

But the first priority for SSIP Phase III is to modify the Early Childhood Outcome (ECO) process. The State Team and SSIP workgroup will develop training to address foundational knowledge, and then work on embedding the ECO's into the IFSP. The ECO training will most likely occur in 2016, and the new IFSP ECO and rating process training will most likely occur in 2017.

The State Team will also start meeting with the Demonstration Sites to begin planning at the regional level. A big component of the SSIP is evaluating implementation and intended outcomes, which will be important activities completed by the Demonstration Sites with Central Office. We look forward to this collaboration!

# How to Stay Informed

Visit the Infant Toddler Program SharePoint Site, State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) page for up-to-date information regarding the project at <http://sharepoint/sites/facs/itp/ssip/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

If you do not have access to SharePoint, notify your supervisor and they can share the information with you.

In addition, families and stakeholders can visit the Infant Toddler Program Website to read this "Quarterly SSIP Newsletter" at [www.infanttoddler.idaho.gov](http://www.infanttoddler.idaho.gov).

# SSIP State Team Members

Lauren Ertz, ITP Policy Specialist; SSIP Lead  
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For questions or additional information, contact Donna McNearney at [McNearnD@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:McNearnD@dhw.idaho.gov) or 208-334-4965.

## Additional Resources

The Family, Infant, and Preschool Program (FIPP): <http://fipp.org>

