



***The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center***

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Part C and Section 619 Coordinators, ICC Chairs and Staff

FROM: Lynne Kahn, Director  
Joan Danaher, Associate Director  
Martha Diefendorf, Associate Director  
Christina Kasprzak, Associate Director

DATE: October 14, 2011

RE: UPDATE on NECTAC TA

We are very pleased to inform you that that NECTAC has been extended through September 2012.

**Workscope**

We are excited to continue supporting your work, and specifically we have been funded to conduct the following activities during FY 2012:

- (a) Develop products and services to respond to State's needs prioritized on the basis of results of current needs analyses and syntheses;
- (b) Provide coordinated individualized and multi-State technical assistance services to address high priority needs;
- (c) Support State-specific technical assistance efforts specified by the Office of Special Education Programs;
- (d) Coordinate with other relevant national and State-level technical assistance efforts;
- (e) Disseminate documents to a wide audience, including State and local directors of special education; and,
- (f) Maintain the NECTAC website.

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## **Highlights from FY2011**

NECTAC has just completed a very busy year! In addition to ongoing TA, some highlights of our valuable experiences working with and learning from you last year include:

- Section 619 Think Tank– strategies for funding inclusive learning environments
- The Eleventh National Early Childhood Inclusion Institute– ideas and resources to promote and improve the quality of inclusive opportunities for young children with disabilities
- The annual Early Childhood Outcomes Conference– the newest strategies for measuring and improving child and family outcomes
- Think Tank as well as TA– effective and efficient strategies for integrating outcomes data collection and use into the IFSP/IEP process
- Part C Finance Think Tank– synthesis and strategies to address the critical funding issues facing Part C
- Expanding Opportunities Interagency Inclusion Initiative– collaborative approaches to promoting inclusion

These joint efforts have resulted in generating new information and resources that have expanded the knowledge base on current issues and challenges, and will help keep our TA on-target and forward-thinking.

## **New Context and Directions**

The federal context provides new opportunities to improve state systems of early childhood services for all young children. We want to acknowledge the importance, relevance, and capacity of Part C and Section 619 to be key contributors to state Early Learning Advisory Councils, state Pre-K programs, and RTT-ELG efforts. You can find information about them on our Early Care and Development:

National/Federal Initiatives and State Policies webpage located at the following URL:

*<http://www.nectac.org/topics/ecpractices/ecpractices.asp>*

## **Opportunities for Contracting for More Intensive Assistance**

In addition to providing TA through our cooperative agreement with OSEP, our staff has enjoyed working with several states that contracted for more intensive assistance. While we are very pleased to have been extended for one year, our budget necessitates a more limited capacity to absorb all the costs of intensive long-term TA that we have been able to offer in the past. Based on state needs we will work with you and other TA partners to maximize the use of all available resources. Ways to do this include the strategic use of staff time and resources, sharing the cost of travel and other expenses with you, or exploring other contractual arrangements with you through the FPG Child Development Institute at UNC for more intensive services that would be beyond the NECTAC federal workscope. Examples of contracted services we have negotiated with states include: conducting local training for multiple local sites; writing new state policy guidance documents or parent handbooks; preparing training materials; providing intensive TA for developing and implementing an outcome measurement system or systems change effort; and, conducting evaluation projects.

## **Thank You**

In closing, NECTAC is committed to providing you with high quality responsive TA services. We will draw upon our rich and dynamic knowledge base to address and fulfill your needs and requests. And we will strive to coordinate our activities and pool resources with states, other OSEP TA & Dissemination projects, and other EC TA providers in order to improve results that affect the lives of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities and their families. NECTAC thanks you for the support and trust you have placed in us. We look forward to working with you all for a successful future.