



Rowell Family Empowerment
of Northern California, Inc.

www.EmpowerYourFamily.org



Part C Collaborations Early Start

- ▶ Department of Developmental Services is the lead agency in California and is the funding source for Regional Centers. Regional Centers serve people with developmental disabilities throughout the lifespan.
- ▶ Department of Education, Special Education Division, is a partner to DDS and offers services to children ages birth–2.9, with solely low incidence disabilities.

State of Change



Budgets, Budgets, Budgets!

DDS has been charged with redesigning how they serve people with developmental disabilities and their families. Huge cuts.

Early Start no longer will include the category of “at risk” for infants and toddlers who have risk factors that could lead to developmental delays.



Parent Training Information Centers and Family Centers



There are 5 PTIs in CA.
DDS provides some funding for services to families of children birth-3. With the cuts the RCs are talking to PTI and Family Centers about how to collaborate.

Parent Training Information Centers and Family Centers

Participation on the ICC

- Parent Centers have a seat at the table
- Parent Centers send representatives to the ICC and they are on Committees
- Parent Centers are spreading the word about the ICC to encourage parents of young children to take leadership roles



CDE collaborations with Parent Centers

- With the passage of Assembly Bill 2780, in 1998, California hospitals are providing hearing screening to every newborn baby.
- CDE contracts with 3 Parent Centers to do outreach to these parents of babies identified with hearing loss.



The ultimate goal of Parent Links:

All infants identified with a hearing loss will be offered a parent-to-parent connection and begin receiving appropriate early intervention services before 6 months of age.

A final national resource for those working with young children and their families:



www.specialquest.org



"The time is always right to do what is right."

- Martin Luther King

Hilton/Early Head Start Training Program

