

The North Dakota Department of Human Services is soliciting comments regarding the Federal Fiscal Year 2012 Part C Application. Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act addresses services for children birth through two years of age with developmental disabilities or delays and their families. Comments are also being requested regarding: the definition of Potentially Eligible for children who transition from Part C services to Part B (children with disabilities ages 3-21) services, at the age of 3; a proposed Opt-Out policy, which allows parents to "opt-out" of the referral to Part B; the Memorandum of Understanding between Part C and Part B; and fiscal certification. To allow for the opportunity for the public to present comments, two public hearings are being held.

A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2012, from 1:30pm-2:30pm at Prairie Hills Plaza, 1237 W Divide Ave, Bismarck. Participants wishing to attend in person are asked to enter the building through the North doors. Staff from the department's Developmental Disabilities Division will be present to provide information and answer questions. This hearing will be broadcast over the statewide videoconferencing system and can be attended at any of the regional Human Service Centers. Representatives from the regional Human Service Center Developmental Disability Units will be on hand at each location.

A second hearing is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2012, from 6:30pm-7:30pm at the Southeast Human Service Center, 2624 9th Ave SW, Fargo. Participants wishing to attend in person are asked to enter the building through the North doors. Staff from the department's Developmental Disabilities Division will be present to provide information and answer questions. This hearing will be broadcast over the statewide videoconferencing system and can be attended at any of the regional Human Service Centers. Representatives from the regional Human Service Center Developmental Disability Units will be on hand at each location.

Comments will also be accepted via mail, email or phone, for those that are unable to attend the hearings. Comments via mail can be sent to Amanda Carlson, Part C Coordinator, 1237 W Divide Ave, Suite 1A, Bismarck ND 58501. To submit a comment via email, please send to arcarlson@nd.gov. To relay a comment by phone, you can do so by calling 1-800-755-8529. Comments will be taken until March, 15th, 2012.

The [application](#), along with the [Potentially Eligible definition](#), [Opt-Out Policy](#), [Memorandum of Understanding](#), and [fiscal certification](#), are all available at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/disabilities/earlyintervention/>. If you'd like a paper copy of the documents, you can request them by calling 1-800-755-8529.