



Early On® Center for Higher Education
An Innovative Project of Clinton County RESA

EARLY ON FACULTY GRANT CRITERIA
2009

Each grant application should be assessed on its benefit to early intervention in Michigan and its potential to contribute to theory, knowledge and practice in service delivery.

A range of methodologies is appropriate. Each will depend on the purpose of the research and the nature of the research question. These include:

- Quantitative methods that can allow generalization and the testing of hypotheses;
- Qualitative methods that can provide interpretation of meaning and dynamic processes which can serve exploratory purposes and provide deep knowledge.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (10 points)

1. The problem/research question/hypothesis is clearly stated
2. The goals and objectives evidence extensive knowledge of the subject matter
3. Goals are feasible, focused and clearly stated.
4. The project deals with an important question for early intervention in the state of Michigan.
5. The goals are sufficiently specific to allow them to be reasonably addressed in the time frame of the project.

RATIONALE/NEEDS ASSESSMENT (10 points)

1. The proposal shows an awareness and understanding of and builds on what is already known.
2. The specific way(s) in which the research will contribute to existing knowledge on the issue is explained.
3. Relevant research is adequately cited.
4. The rationale addresses a well-formulated problem.
5. The proposal explains clearly what work will be done, what results are expected and how they will be evaluated.

SIGNIFICANCE/POTENTIAL IMPACT TO THE FIELD (45 points)

1. The potential value or impact of the project addresses the value of the research to individuals, groups or systems and the potential to benefit participants through increased collaboration and accessibility.
2. Limitations of the project are identified and stated and unwarranted generalizations are avoided.
3. The value of the project is stated in terms of its findings being likely to produce educational value for early interventionists.
4. Findings are transferable to the field.

5. The outcome of the project will have useful effects.
6. The proposal elucidates a plan that assures that the applicant has a strong foundational knowledge of *Early On*, the ability to implement a timely project to address all goals outlined for the initiative, and thus having a significant impact on the quality of Michigan's *Early On* and special education system.

PROJECT DESIGN (15 points)

1. Theoretical and methodological robustness (Robustness requires adequate consideration of relevant methodological, conceptual and theoretical issues)
2. The links between the project aims, conceptual framework, strategies, project results and the broader purposes to which it contributes are explicit and well matched.
3. Choice of the project strategy and data collection method(s) are adequately justified.
4. The incorporation and application of ethical and legal principles in the design are essential including respect for participants and their rights, and informed consent. It also involves reasonable anticipation of possible impacts on participants of engaging in the project and the effects of reporting its results.
5. Timelines are realistic.
6. The project directors have a good track record, both for doing good research and of publishing it.
7. The project includes a description of appropriate activities and timelines to achieve project objectives and incorporates the goals identified in the announcement.

EXPECTED RESULTS (10 points)

1. To provide confidence in the findings, the methods for analyzing the data are clearly stated, systematic and appropriate to the nature of the data.
2. A well designed, systematic approach minimizes the possibility of unacknowledged or unrecognized influences on the findings and discourages the selective interpretation of evidence.

PROCESS OF SHARING RESULTS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND/OR FIELD (10 points)

1. Progress and results are reported in a timely manner, by suitable means and in a format appropriate to the relevant audience(s) for the project.
2. Dissemination strategies for the findings of the project are included and appropriate