



Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency

Office of Innovative Projects

Announcement of 2021 *Early On*® Faculty Grants

The *Early On*® Center for Higher Education, an Innovative Project of Clinton County RESA, invites applications for mini-grants to support research in the field of early intervention and its practical application in the State of Michigan. The *Early On*® Center for Higher Education is Michigan's pre-service initiative to support the development of highly qualified early intervention personnel to work with infants and toddlers, birth to three with disabilities and/or special needs, and their families. The Center is funded by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), through a grant from the Michigan Department of Education to Clinton County RESA.

Scope and Purpose of Faculty Grants:

All grant requests must address research questions related to early intervention and/or activities that **support the preparation of personnel who are likely to work in the field of early intervention**. Funded activities might include (but are not limited to):

- research of implementation and effectiveness of strategies that support teleintervention of evidence-based practices.
- a study on the efficacy of an evidence-based early intervention strategy or model with families of infants and toddlers who have been exposed to lead.
- examination of family use of technology and impact on all areas of development in infants and toddlers, birth to age 3;
- examination of credentials of current early intervention providers and impact on ability to serve effectively;
- examination of credentials of current early intervention providers and agency ability to capture Medicaid funds;
- examination and/or development of videos demonstrating evidence-based, effective home visiting in birth to three early intervention with a focus on coaching and family-centered practices;
- research colleges and universities in Michigan to locate academic departments and programs that offer certificates and degrees in Early Childhood Education and/or Early Childhood Special Education with a focus or concentration track of birth-to-three;



- development and/or implementation of early intervention content and skill-development focused on infants and toddler birth-to-three with disabilities and/or special needs and their family;
- research and examine careers in early intervention that are available in Michigan;
- an examination of early intervention service providers in Michigan and their professional preparation;
- research of models for providing interdisciplinary pre-service preparation for future early interventionists, including fields of social work, early childhood education, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, physical therapy;
- development and/or implementation of a mentoring program for current early interventionists in order to support appropriate supervision of students in practicum placements that focus on services to infants and toddlers, birth to three;
- a study of early intervention practices in Michigan correlated to the child outcomes data available for each service area;
- a study of former enrollees of the *Early On*® system and their success in elementary school;
- an examination of pre-service personnel preparation in Michigan compared with other state pre-service personnel preparation systems, such an examination could study the use of cross-disciplinary instruction and/or use of parents as co-instructors;
- other innovative work that would lead to support for the preparation of early intervention personnel in Michigan.

Who is eligible?

Eligible applicants include Michigan **faculty** at two-year colleges and Michigan **faculty** and **graduate students** at four-year colleges and universities. Applicants must be currently teaching courses that prepare early intervention personnel or engaged in research related to early intervention practices.

Deadline:

All applications must be received by **12:00 p.m.** on **March 5, 2021** via email. No fax applications will be accepted. Send **email/electronic application** to holmberg_k@ccresa.org.



Award:

The *Early On*® Center for Higher Education will award one or two grants whose sum is not more than \$7,000. Announcements of grant awards will be made April 6, 2021. Grantees will receive 75% of funds upon announcement of the award and the balance upon submission of the final report. *Early On*® Center for Higher Education does not permit indirect costs to be charged against the *Early On*® Faculty grants.

Criteria:

Applications for faculty grants will be judged on how closely they fit with the mission of the *Early On*® Center for Higher Education. Grants will be limited to projects that clarify aspects of the *Early On*® Michigan system and research that will enhance personnel preparation. Preference will be given to proposals that provide:

- Clearly stated goals and objectives;
- A specific, feasible plan of action to accomplish well-defined objectives;
- A plan that will result in new information that is relevant to the understanding or improvement of early intervention as it is implemented in Michigan;
- A plan that will result in practical information/models for use by colleges/universities/early intervention personnel preparation systems;
- A clear link to *Early On*® Michigan;
- A reasonable, appropriate, and specific budget;
- A demonstration of experience in conducting such research.

Requirements:

Applications/proposals may be **no longer than eight pages plus résumé/curriculum vitae**. For funded projects, a final report of outcomes and budget expenditures must be submitted to Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects at the conclusion of the grant period/project, June 30, 2022.



Questions:

For questions regarding the *Early On*® Faculty Grants, please contact Kari Holmberg at holmberg_k@ccresa.org, (866) 334-5437 or Christy Callahan at Callahan_c@ccresa.org, (866) 334-5437.



It is the policy of the Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) that no discriminatory practices based on gender, race, religion, color, age, national origin, disability, height, weight, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliations and beliefs, or any other status covered by federal, state or local law be allowed in providing instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment or in policies governing student conduct and attendance. Any person suspecting a discriminatory practice should contact the Associate Superintendent for Special Education, 1013 South US-27, St. Johns, MI 48879, or call 989-224-6831.